

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL REGENERATION & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, EXMOUTH ON MONDAY 20th SEPTEMBER 2010 AT 7.00pm

Present:

Councillors: P Stott (Chairman)
T Cope V Duval-Steer
S Gazzard P Graham
M Hardy J Humphreys
J Mitchell D Nicholas
R Turner M Williamson
E Wragg S Wragg

Apologies: Councillors D Chapman, M Chapman, S Sutton, B Taylor, B Walker & J Whipps

Observer: Councillor M Mitchell

Speaker: Councillor Stuart Barker, Adult and Community Services Portfolio Holder for Devon County Council

G23 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Regeneration and General Purposes Committee held on 12th July 2010 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

G24 Urgent Business

There was no urgent business.

G25 Exclusion of the Public and Press

There were no items to be dealt with necessitating exclusion of the Public and the Press.

G26 Devon County Councillor Stuart Barker, Adult and Community Services Portfolio Holder

Councillor Stuart Barker attended to speak on the work being carried out by DCC within his portfolio particularly how this would affect Exmouth. He explained that costs had to be reduced and services improved and this would be achieved by the amalgamation of service provision. A Masterplan had been drawn up which would facilitate the move of all community services onto one site. This could take the format of the provision of a new library that would become the new community hub and provide a range of services to meet the needs of the majority of the community. Disposal of two local DCC sites could be necessary as a means of raising funds to allow that to happen.

Day centre attendance had decreased within Devon and with the launch of personalised budgets in October resources would be redistributed to give people greater independence on how to spend their money and more personal choice to help improve their quality of life through being able to purchase a wider range of services. Memory cafes were opening for

people with dementia and intermediate care services undergoing changes. 150 extra care units would be provided in Exmouth.

[A] Specific points which Councillor Barker referred to were:-

- (1) Exmouth has been neglected in the past and for a Town its size deserves greater attention;
- (2) A modern library/Community Hub was needed in the Town Centre;
- (3) Current Day Services were funded based on the number of spaces available was reducing resulting in expensive provision in respect of which funds could be used more effectively giving greater individual choice;
- (4) NHS review would affect future decisions;
- (5) The forthcoming public spending areas cuts will also affect future decision and affect priority.

Councillor Barker was thanked for attending the meeting and explaining the current situation.

Note: Councillor P Stott declared a prejudicial interest as an employee of DCC Adult and Community Services and left the room.

G27 Development Proposal – St John’s Road, Exmouth

Members had before them a report from the Town Clerk that outlined agenda item No 6 that had been put before EDDC Executive Committee on 1st September 2010 which had raised concerns with local Councillors. EDDC had been approached by a developer who wished to buy land that had been identified as part of the Withycombe Valley Park under Local Policy LEX1 that would be used as an access lane to the development. The Resolution passed at EDDC Executive had agreed to EDDC’s Principle Estates Surveyor being given authorisation to enter negotiations to dispose of the land to either the Developer or to the Town Council. Councillors advised that the land had originally been sold by DCC to EDDC for the peppercorn sum of five pounds.

The matter raised a number of questions which required careful consultation.

RECOMMENDATION that

- (a) Members take part in a site visit to include the whole Withycombe Valley Park route through the old Hillcrest school site;**
- (b) Exmouth Town Council to investigate (without prejudice) the issues, options and cost in acquiring land identified in Local Policy LEX1 as Withycombe Valley Park.**

G28 Ice/Snow/Frost – Treatment Policy

A copy of DCC’s proposed winter service policy to keep highways open in severe weather and a report that had been presented to EDDC’s Overview and Scrutiny Committee together with a report from the Town Clerk had been circulated to members. In view of last year’s winter which had created impassable pavements consideration was given as to whether the Town Council wished to purchase strategically based grit bins which would allow residents to help themselves should the situation recur. Questions were raised as to responsibility and liability should accidents occur on the residue of grit once the snow and ice had melted. It was noted that DCC were running a ‘Winter Conference’ at the Met Office and that Councillors E Wragg (for DCC) and S Gazzard would be attending the conference.

RESOLVED that Councillor S Gazzard take questions that had been asked at Regeneration and General Purposes Committee to the Winter Conference and would report back.

G29 Parking, Cycle Hire, Mobility and the Transport Interchange

A paper produced by John Petty, for Cyclepath Exmouth, had been received which requested support from the Town Council to seek a change to local parking policy that would encourage residents and visitors to the town centre, support for a low cost solution for local cycle hire and parking at the Transport Interchange. John Petty was in attendance and was invited to speak by the Chairman. He stated that cycling had increased by 70% now that the cycle path had extended through to Exton. He made a request to Exmouth Town Council to speak to the EDDC's Portfolio Holder for Car Parks before next year's car parking charges were fixed to ask that charges should be more comparable across Exmouth's car parks.

This would continue representations already made to EDDC but which needed to be followed up.

RESOLVED that the Town Council send a letter to EDDC with a copy of the Cyclepath Exmouth report seeking changes to car parking policy in Exmouth.

G30 150th Anniversary of the Exeter/Exmouth Line now called The Avocet Line

The Town Council had received an invitation from ALRUG to take part in the 150th anniversary celebrations for the Avocet Line which would take place on 1st May 2011. It was hoped that the Town Council would provide a reception as part of the event.

RESOLVED that the 150th anniversary celebration of the Avocet Line be supported and a reception provided as part of the arrangements for the day.

G31 Booking Office at Mamhead Gardens – Stuart Line Cruises

A letter received from EDDC sought the view of members as to whether the lease of the Stuart Line Booking Office at Mamhead Gardens should be extended or a more permanent location be found. Stuart Line Cruises was an important business in the Town and brought in visitors and employed fifty staff.

RESOLVED that the Town Council supports an extension to the lease of the Stuart Line Booking Office at Mamhead Gardens.

Note: Councillor P Stott wished to declare a personal interest as a supplier to Stuart Line Cruises of party balloons associated with occasional bookings.

G32 Plough and Share – South West Pound Ltd

Consideration was given to a letter written by Maureen Loman which requested support for a Service Point for South West Pound Ltd to be created at the Open Door Centre in town. In the current economic climate this was a 'Credit Union' to promote safe lending and saving options.

RESOLVED that support be given for the provision of a service point in the Town for 'Plough and Share'.

G33 Tree Replacement Scheme – The Avenues

Deferred awaiting response from DCC.

G34 The Strand – Future Management

The Town Clerk advised that a report was being presented to the Chairman's Group.

G35 Exmouth Volunteering Internet Development Proposal

A proposal (copy previously circulated) by Vision ICT Ltd, website provider for the Town Council, was put forward. This was to provide interactive websites for Voluntary Organisations funded potentially through Lottery Grant Funding. This would help those organisations without a website and support the Exmouth Volunteer Service.

RESOLVED that support be given to Vision ICT Ltd for its proposal to create a community website partnership project at no cost to the Council.

G36 Exmouth Action Group

A report from the Cllr. Steve Gazzard was received (previously circulated) which followed his attendance at the Exmouth Action Group meeting held on 11th August 2010.

G37 New Guidance on Assessing Land for Designation as National Park or AONB

Members had received a copy and noted that guidance.

G38 Devon Home Choice - Policy Review

An invitation had been sent which invited Councillors to a presentation on proposed changes to policy given by Rupert Warren, Devon Home Choice Project Manager, on Tuesday 5th October 2010 at 5pm in the Council Chamber at The Knowle.

NOTED that Councillor P Stott already attending this meeting be asked to report back to Committee following attendance.

G39 NALC (National Association of Local Councils) – Powers of Local Councils

The draft submission by NALC in response to the Government paper on Legislative reforms was considered alongside NALC's policy consultation on the future of eligibility of Town and Parish Councils to apply for grant funding. It was pointed out that when charity was applying for Local Authority Services it would save time if e mail could be used for submission of preliminary documents subject to confirmation to follow. Applications often took longer as a result of traditional post methodology having to be dependent upon.

RESOLVED that the submission be supported.

G40 The Big Society Conference – 4th November 2010

No members wished to attend the Big Society Conference.

G41 Community Right to Build Power

The item was noted for information.

G42 Devon and Cornwall Police Authority

Police Authority Liaison Meetings would no longer take place due to the current economic and political climate and would be replaced by three conferences across Devon which would provide an opportunity for community members to debate key issues with Members of the Police Authority, senior officers from the Constabulary and representatives from their local authority. Exmouth Action Group would continue at present.

NOTED that Councillor S Gazzard would attend a conference if considered beneficial to do so.

G43 Shoppers Survey

This item was deferred as results had been delayed.

G44 Community Organisations Liaison Panel

Martin Rich for Devon Community Council had attended the COLP meeting last week to advice on Community Planning. The direction of COLP, its purpose of Community Planning would all be matters for the Council to consider in due course.

G45 Rolle College Site (Min G54/11/09)

Members of Rolle College Ltd reported on progress to date.

Note: Cllr. Mark Williamson and John Wokersien, Town Clerk, declared a personal interest as Directors of Rolle College Ltd.

The Meeting ended at 9.11 pm

Signed Dated

Chairman