

# 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 29<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2010 AT 7.00pm

### **Present:**

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

**Apologies:** Councillors, M Chapman, D Chapman, J Humphreys, B Walker, & E Wragg

### **G82 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Regeneration and General Purposes Committee held on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2010 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **G83 Urgent Business**

#### **Strand works**

Attention was drawn to the access issues that people with disabilities had encountered since the commencement of the Strand enhancement work. It was suggested that this could be overcome with temporary ramps were needed from the indoor market across to Rolle Street and the barrier outside the Powder Monkey being widened for wheelchair access. Other suggestions included the bollards at the mini roundabout were preventing good visibility for low level cars and loose gravel on the Strand highway needed to be swept more regularly.

**RESOLVED that the issues be passed on to Devon County Council**

### **G84 Exclusion of the Public and Press**

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

### **G85 Flooding and Drainage Working Party**

Notes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2010 were received and the actions arising **NOTED**.

### **G86 Annual Town Meeting**

The minutes of the Annual Town meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2010 were received.

Matters arising:-

**(1) Tourist Information Centre**

Reference was made to the business plan that was being prepared by the Chamber of Trade and Commerce in preparation for a bid to re-site the TIC in the new Strand Development. Councillors wished to be apprised of the Business Plan.

**RESOLVED that the Town Clerk would be requested to take this to the forthcoming TIC Management Committee meeting.**

**(2) Old Lifeboat Station**

Exmouth Rowing Club had asked for support from Exmouth Town Council to assist with securing of new premises. The rowing club had asked RNLI Beach Rescue if they could share the Old Lifeboat Station. It was suggested that beach huts were to be removed from Exmouth seafront which could provide a space for a water sports building that could contain boat storage, showers and toilet facilities, particularly needed for visiting rowing teams.

**RESOLVED that a letter be sent to EDDC that highlighted the issues suggesting that a masterplan for Exmouth seafront was needed which would tie in with the study of access by water sport users to water.**

**(3) Rights of Way Working Party**

The Rights of Way Working Party had recently met and would be looking at the feasibility of seeking adoption of the footpath that ran at the back of the new bowling alley as a public footpath. Cllr. M Mitchell would link with Cllr. B Taylor who had previous correspondence that could support the application.

**G87 Empty or Closed Shops in Exmouth**

A report by Cllr. S Gazzard on empty closed shops in Exmouth had been previously circulated to the Committee. An improvement in the amount of empty shops had taken place since the last report and landlords were to be approached to encourage them to clean up empty shop fronts. Exmouth was below the National Average for empty retail premises. Action needed to be taken to try and do more to unlock the problem of empty shops. A suggestion was made that the Job Centre could use a small retail unit a few days a week to provide a service to residents who sought re-employment.

Cllr. M Williamson reported that he had undertaken a survey to ask what two changes people would like to see happen to encourage them to shop in Exmouth. Three results were predominant, cover the Magnolia Centre, M & S store and free parking provision.

Through Town Management could available empty shops be promoted on the Chamber of Trade website as seller's contact details were not always available on the shop front.

A proposal was put forward that once the General Election had taken place, in conjunction with the Town Manager a questionnaire would be compiled to find out in more detail what Exmouthians and visitors would like to change to improve the shopping environment in Exmouth.

## **RESOLVED**

- (a) that a survey take place in the Magnolia Centre on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2010 (all councillors invited to carry this out) to gather information and that an item be placed on the agenda of the Regeneration and General Purposes Committee on the 12<sup>th</sup> July 2010 for further discussion on the results.
- (b) that the Town Manager to assist with compiling a questionnaire for the purpose.

### **G88 Allotment Association Rules**

The committee had before them proposed changes to rules 14 & 17 of the Exmouth and District Allotment Association Rules.

**RESOLVED that the changes to the Exmouth and District Allotment Association Rules 14 & 17 be approved and adopted.**

### **G89 Exmouth Action Group**

A report from Cllr. S Gazzard was received (previously circulated) which followed his attendance at the Exmouth Action Group meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2010.

### **G90 Exmouth Project Regeneration Board**

A progress report was given on items that had been discussed at the Exmouth Project Regeneration Board meeting held on the 19<sup>th</sup> March 2010. A Masterplan leaflet produced by LDA would be distributed at the main Tesco store on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2010 from 2.00pm until 7.00pm. Ongoing discussions would take place on the possibility of a cycle hire office to be sited along the Estuary. A £3,000 grant had been given to Teignbridge Council to carry out a survey of slipways on Exmouth seafront. Tony Matthews had given an update on the Strand improvement work to date. Ian Broadfoot, former City Centre Manager for Edinburgh, had been appointed to the Project Manager position for the Visitor Centre. An update on the progress of Rolle College was reported to the Board.

### **G91 Community Organisations Liaison**

The notes of the meeting held on the 17<sup>th</sup> March 2010 had been previously circulated to members. COLP had asked EDDC for a Masterplan exercise to be carried out for Exmouth seafront. The draft 'Action Plan for Exmouth's Strategic Plan' had been accepted and would now be referred to LDA for Town Centre Master Planning Work and to EDDC for the LDF work. It would provide a base from which to work towards a Community Plan, a longer term piece of work.

**RESOLVED that the Action Plan be endorsed subject to suitable public transport provision and priority being given to completion of the Dinan Way link.**

**Note:** Cllr. M Hardy had sent her apology for the last meeting.

### **G92 Rolle College Site (Min G54/11/09)**

It was reported that Exmouth Rolle College Board was being established as an Industrial and Provident plc. Tender documents would be published soon for the sale of Rolle College site and it would be important to save the Spicer buildings for educational and community use. The University of Plymouth property's agents were aware of the importance of community need following a document that had been previously sent to them by the Rolle College Starter Group. A letter written by the Town Clerk which

contained information requesting tenderers to contact the Town Clerk would be included in the tendering pack.

The Rolle Exmouth Project Promotion Group would meet on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2010.

Cllr. C Channon would be attending an EDDC Overview Committee where the use of Rolle College would be discussed. Rolle Board had been invited and members of the public would be able to attend and speak.

The Meeting ended at 8.40 pm

Signed ..... Dated .....

Chairman