

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 2nd NOVEMBER 2009 AT 7.30pm

Present:

Councillors: P Stott (Chairman)
M Chapman (Deputy Chairman)
D Chapman V Duval-Steer
S Gazzard P Graham
M Hardy J Humphries
J Mitchell D Nicholas
I Stewart S Sutton
R Turner B Walker
J Whipps M Williamson
S Wragg

Apologies: Councillors T Cope, B Taylor, B Walker & E Wragg

Speakers: EDDC Waste and Recycling Manager Paul Deakin & EDDC Portfolio Holder for Waste, Cllr. David Cox. Representatives from Low Carbons Towns, Jonathan Davis and Alex Chalkley.

G41 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Regeneration and General Purposes Committee held on 21st September 2009 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

G42 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

G43 Exclusion of the Public and Press

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

G44 Litter arising from Refuse

Paul Deakin, East Devon District Council Waste and Recycling Manager, gave an overview on the timescale for the rollout of a new refuse system for Exmouth Town. Once an overall survey had been completed Exmouth residents would be issued with an 180ltr wheelie bin and two waste containers to take place by Nov 2010. Gull proof sacks would be distributed to properties where no refuse space was available. A detailed leaflet would be sent to residents prior to the launch to specify collection dates and provide education on waste recycling. Informative road shows would also visit the Town. Wheelie bins would be collected fortnightly from the kerbside (the assisted collection scheme would still be available to the elderly and infirm) and waste and recycling weekly. Recycling had increased in East Devon from 26% last year to 31% currently with a target of 50% once the provision for the collection of plastic bottles was introduced. Cardboard would not be collected for recycling. The implementation of the new scheme had been problematic due to the delay in the supply of new bins from the manufacturers.

Problems with refuse in Exmouth town centre had been encountered since the collection days had been reduced from four days to one particularly where flats were sited over shops. Rubbish bags put out on Wednesday evening had been ravaged by seagulls during the night and Street Scene had had to conduct a major sweep once rubbish had been collected on Thursday morning. A large wheeled bin had now been placed in the Strand area to encourage residents to deposit black bags in. A request was made for gull sacks to be issued now but Paul Deakin stated that gull sacks would not be available prior to the launch date. Seaton and Sidmouth produced 25 tons of waste last year which equated to 1.8 kilogram per household and the gull problem had been significantly reduced in those areas.

Cllr. David Cox, EDDC Portfolio Holder for Waste, reported that WRAP (Waste Resource Action Programme) had seen an increase in waste and bottle recycling in Devon increase from 66% to 84% per household. Fines on excessive landfill deposits were costly and it was hoped that by 2013 Devon County Council would no longer pay those fines due to successful recycling of waste and educating of householders.

The question of covered bin storage area provision in new developments and conversions into multiple occupation was addressed with the Committee seeking reassurance from Cllr. Cox that there was a specific EDDC Planning Policy which addressed that issue.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk write to the Head of Planning and Countryside at East Devon for clarification of that policy.

G45 Item 10 of the Agenda – Littleham Public Conveniences

The public toilets in Littleham Village had for the past three years been sponsored by Bourne Leisure at Sandy Bay. This had now been withdrawn and a request had been made by EDDC for Exmouth Town Council to pay for them. This had implications for future budgets. No current information had been made available on the usage of the toilets. Should EDDC wish to devolve some of their assets this would require further debate. Cllr. Cox informed the Committee that three years ago EDDC had identified the toilets for closure and would not support re-opening next season. The site could be considered for affordable housing and the capital received could establish toilets elsewhere. A ward by ward analysis on public toilet provision, whether seasonal or year round would be undertaken and the information sent to Cllr. Cox.

It was proposed that:-

‘Exmouth Town Council requests that East Devon District Council to give positive consideration to its review of public toilet provision and to work with the Town Council to achieve a comprehensive, needs-led and cost effective solution to current inadequacies’.

RESOLVED

- (a) that the proposal be supported**
- (b) that the Town Clerk be requested to write to Mark Reilly from EDDC to inform him of the ward by ward analysis**

G46 Carbon Reduction Fund

Jonathan Davis and Alex Chalkley gave a presentation on the possibility of the submission of a £500,000 grant application for renewable energy to support Exmouth to become more self sufficient and sustainable by addressing carbon reduction. An idea was put forward of provision by TREK of a Renewable Energy Teaching Cabin to be sited at Exmouth Community College as a form of education for all Exmouth pupils. To enable that to

happen it would require a letter of support from Exmouth Town Council. The committee were keen to support the work.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk on behalf the Town Council write a letter of support for the submission of a grant from the Carbon Reduction Fund and to support the initiative being taken.

G47 Communities Organisations Liaison Panel

The Committee received the notes of the meetings held on 29th September and 13th October 2009.

G48 Meetings – Start Times

It was suggested that main Committee meetings currently scheduled to start at 7.30pm would as from the next meeting start at 7.00 pm for a trial period of six months.

RESOLVED that Council, Finance and Regeneration and General Purposes Committees would now commence at 7pm for a trial period of six months.

G49 Car Parking (R&GP – Min 38-9/09

The committee had before it an email from John Petty, an Exmouth car park schedule and an overview of the car park review. East Devon District Council was currently carrying out a review on car parking charges and it was unclear whether the views of the Chamber of Trade had been sought. There appeared to be a variance of charges throughout East Devon and a request was made by members for free car parking to accompany Exmouth events.

RESOLVED that the matter be deferred to the next meeting as an early item on the agenda.

G50 Allotments

The Allotment Association requested a revision of the Association's bonfires policy to allow all year round burning on restricted days of diseased material.

RESOLVED that the current guidelines would still apply and that allotment holders be reminded of these.

Note: Councillors P Graham and S Wragg declared a personal interest as allotment holders and left the room.

G51 Part Night Lighting Policy

Noted that Devon County Council would introduce a part-night lighting policy in residential areas across Devon.

G52 Exmouth Regeneration Programme Board

Feedback on the meeting of the Exmouth Regeneration Programme Board meeting held on the 16th October 2009 was NOTED.

G54 Rolle College Site

The Chairman read out a letter she had received that day from the Vice Chancellor of Plymouth University.

The Town Clerk gave an overview of his recent attendance at the two Scrutiny Committees held at County Hall. He would be attending the Cabinet meeting the next day and had prepared questions to present to Cabinet.

Several points were raised in relation to information that had been reported on future pupil projections for Exmouth Community College and the lack of time available to verify the information.

RESOLVED that the committee continue to support the case for Rolle site purchase and agree to the next steps to be taken:-

- **To continue to support all efforts to find a solution for the Rolle College Site which would be of benefit to the Community of Exmouth;**
- **The Town Clerk be supported in taking all necessary steps to secure a solution;**
- **That the Town Council agrees to be a co-signature to a complaint to the Ombudsman should this be required because of the poor processes followed by Devon County Council in dealing with the Rolle issue;**
- **That the Town Council agrees that if there is a case to be made to the Standards Board it will be prepared to support this providing there is a clear case to be made;**
- **That the possibility of the Town Council borrowing £500,000 towards purchase of the site or part of it for community use be kept open to assist with negotiations;**
- **That the Devon County Council be pressed to keep the discussion of options open at Cabinet on 3rd November.**

Note: Cllr. J Whipps declared a personal interest as she works for Exmouth Community College.

The Meeting ended at 9.33 pm

Signed Dated

Chairman