

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 7th FEBRUARY 2011 AT 7.10 pm

Present:

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

Apologies: Councillors B Taylor & J Whipps

Guest Speaker: Reverend John Graver Minister, Christ Church Exmouth, Centre Manager, Christians Against Poverty, Exmouth Centre and Tony Collins, Exmouth Town Manager

G71 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Regeneration and General Purposes Committee held on 13th December 2010 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

G72 Urgent Business

There were two items of urgent business.

1. Flower Bed Tendering

Tender information packs had been given to several interested parties but no tenders had been returned. A landscaping company had since been approached and had been asked to quote.

RESOLVED that Councillors P Graham, S Gazzard, P Stott and E Wragg be appointed to a working party with Mike Vine and Mark Pollard EDDC to consider a way forward.

2. Bus shelters in Exmouth

EDDC would no longer maintain EDDC owned bus shelters within Exmouth as part of a reduction process. DCC already have a contract with Fernbank, a company who in return for advertisement rights provide cleaned and maintained shelters. The Mayor and Town Manager had already had discussions with Fernbank to take over more of Exmouth's bus shelters.

RESOLVED that this suggestion be pursued and reported back to the next Council meeting.

G73 Exclusion of the Public and Press

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

G74 Presentation received by Reverend John Graver Minister, Christ Church Exmouth, Centre Manager, Christians Against Poverty, Exmouth Centre

Reverend John Graver a brief presentation about the free debt counselling service that was being provided in close connection with the Open Door Project. Christians Against Poverty was a registered charity who had over a period of two years supported over 120 people to work towards being debt free within a period of five years. Members were requested to assist with promoting the service within the town and leaflets were left for Councillors to distribute.

G75 Notes of Meeting of Clerk's and Chairmen

The notes of a meeting of Clerk's and Chairmen held on 13th January 2011 (already received). Reference was made to a meeting that would be held in the future between Exmouth Town and surrounding Parish Councils. Discussion took place on the recent difficulties that had occurred as a result of the heavy snow fall in December. Grit bins had been requested from Devon County Council by Councillor T Cope for St. Johns Road and Dinan Way, and Councillors S Gazzard and J Taylor would be attending a Snow Wardens course on 14th February.

G76 Planning and Localism in the South West

The Committee had before then the written reports (already received) of the Town Clerk and Councillor Steve Gazzard who had attended a seminar, 'Planning and Localism in the South West' on 26th January 2011. Feedback was given from those who attended, in particular the need for the provision of a local neighbourhood plans that would provide some focus on how Community Infrastructure funds could be utilised.

RESOLVED that a representative of Plymouth University be requested to give a presentation to all members of the Council inviting other Towns and Parishes to send representatives.

G77 Town Centre – Benchmarking Report

Tony Collins, Town Manager, gave an overview of the background behind the production of the pilot benchmarking exercise report. There had been initial difficulties with the software which had delayed the data. Results gathered from local data had shown that Exmouth was performing well and was an all year round Town; however the Town Council and business community could not be complacent. The Town Manager was thanked for his contribution to the Town's growth whilst he had been in post.

G78 Ice rink – Strand Gardens

The local businessman who had provided the ice rink to the town over the Christmas period had requested support in an approach to EDDC to waive charges for usage of ground on the Strand during the summer period. It was uneconomic on school days and he has suggested that a percentage of his daily takings would be a fair proposition. Exeter and Taunton had both offered him a pitch at no cost. This was then noted in the context of the next item.

G79 The Strand – Management Agreement

The Committee had before them a Heads of Terms draft agreement document which outlined allocation of responsibilities for improvement works and management of The Strand. The agreement in principle would be between parties named as East Devon

District Council, Devon County Council and Exmouth Town Council. Exmouth Town Council would be responsible for:-

- Managing pavement licences;
- Performance Stage Booking management and PAS;
- Provision of entertainment in the Strand;
- Entertainments licence for the Strand area.

Some detailed amendments were put forward to be incorporated as follows:-

The amendment proposed that it should read ‘The parties to this agreement are to be East Devon District Council (**EDDC**), Devon County Council (**DCC**) and Exmouth Town Council (**ETC**) **and shall be binding on any successor body.**

Para. 4 – line 3 should read (33% of the cost) not ‘to the cost’.

Obligations of the Town Council – Para. 2 remove ‘make is’ and either ‘shall’ or ‘to’

RESOLVED that the Heads of Agreement that Town Council responsibilities be approved in Principal subject to a detailed policy being brought back for agreement.

G80 Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill

A letter (already circulated) from Mike Bull, the Chairman of the Devon and Cornwall Police Authority, seeking support for representations made in his letter was reported.

RESOLVED that Exmouth Town Council support his letter against replacing the Police Authority with an elected commissioner and make representations accordingly.

G81 Local Flooding Survey

A copy of the letter from Devon County Council Flood Risk Manager and the attached Local Flooding Survey had been previously received. A request was made for a member from each ward to participate in the completion of the survey attached to the letter.

G82 Queen Elizabeth II – Fields Challenge

Consideration was given as to whether to nominate a recreational site to be included in the programme.

Resolved that St. Johns Road playing field be put forward.

G83 Exmouth Youth Centre

Members had received a letter written by Ben Chilton which identified his concerns that if public sector funding cuts were to take place it would affect the Exmouth Youth Centre. Members were encouraged to visit the Youth Centre to show support for this facility at the open evening on Friday.

G84 Other Bodies – Updates

- **Exmouth Regeneration Board**

The Masterplanning exercise for Exmouth Town centre and Sea Front was not yet complete as some supporting evidence was still awaited which had created a delay. Once received the report would be forwarded to EDDC’s development Management Committee for Members’ consideration of its recommendations. The next stage in the process would be to present the report to the Town and

request comments from DCC, town council, community organisation, businesses, residents and other stakeholders.

A report on possible Managed Work Space in Exmouth was presented.

- **Community Organisations Liaison Panel**
The next meeting of Colp would take place on Thursday 10th February.
- **Exmouth Action Group**
Councillor S Gazzard had previously circulated a report.
- **Rolle College**
Rolle Exmouth Ltd was continuing to work on a locally based solution and remained optimistic that it could influence future options.
- **Olympic Collage by Exmouth WI – (attached)**
A progress report had been received to state that the Olympic Collage was on schedule.

The Meeting ended at 9.15 pm

Signed Dated

Chairman