

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, EXMOUTH ON MONDAY 4TH JULY 2011 AT 7.00 P.M.

PRESENT: Councillors: S Sutton (Mayor)
J Humphreys (Deputy Mayor)
B Cole T Cope
D Chapman M Chapman
T Dumper V Duval-Steer
L Elson S Gazzard
P Graham A Greenhalgh
J Mitchell M Mitchell
W McConnell B Nash
C Nicholas I Stewart
P Stott B Taylor
J Taylor R Turner
M Williamson E Wragg
S Wragg

GUESTS: Inspector Tony Comerford, Exmouth Police

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Meeting was adjourned for Public Question Time.

Mr Jeff Trail, Brixington and Bystock Action Group, congratulated members on their appointment to office and asked for their agreement that during electioneering the majority of parties referred to the youth of Exmouth as the future of Exmouth. Would the Town Council be minded to invite two representatives from the youth of Exmouth so that they could be heard which would display unity across various age groups within the Town and could assist the Town Council on decisions that would affect them.

Exmouth Community College had a School Youth Council and were aware that representatives would be welcome to attend any public council meeting.

Mr Ron Roberts made reference to two previous campaigns which had asked for a Town Referendum to be held in respect of The Strand. The Returning Officer had refused to implement the referendum for reasons given.

The Mayor stated that legal advice had been sought on the matter and a referendum would not take place.

Mrs Jacquie Heywood asked when Byelaws would come into place to prevent pushbikes, skateboards and balls being used on The Strand and would the Town Council assist with the request as a matter of urgency.

Councillor P Stott reported that the matter had been raised with DCC at the Exmouth Regeneration Board meeting. The item would be placed on the agenda for the next Regeneration and General Purposes meeting.

17. APOLOGIES

No apologies.

18. COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual Town Council meeting held on the 23rd May 2011 were received and signed as a correct record subject to an addition at the end of minute F12 that noted that Councillor T Cope had requested that Standing Orders be waived for that matter to be discussed and the request was declined.

19. URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of urgent business.

20. FORMER COUNCILLORS PRESENTATION

The Mayor presented former Councillors May Hardy and Ken Harper with Town plaques in recognition of their service to the community as Councillors.

21. GUEST SPEAKER INSPECTOR COMERFORD

The Mayor welcomed Inspector Tony Comerford who had recently taken over the area from Inspector Jez Capey. He gave an overview of the effect on local policing that was a result of restructuring of Police Services due to the national spending review and the identification of 20% budget savings. This challenge would result in an overall loss of £15 million funding across Devon and Cornwall Police Services over the next 4 years. Processes would need to be streamlined and the Police Force would be moving from a geographical role to a functioning role split into three areas; Local Police Partnership, Crime Investigation and Response Officers.

In East Devon four hubs in Exeter, Exmouth, Honiton and Cullompton would be created as bases for Response Officers whose shift patterns had been changed to create uniformity across all areas of policing. Police stations would have restricted opening as a result of a value for money audit. Concern was expressed by members that Exmouth Police Station would now have restricted opening times in comparison to Barnstaple as Exmouth was the biggest town in Devon. A request was made for a copy of the audit survey to be provided to members.

A question and answer session took place which focused on the Section 30 on the Strand, future Police Officer recruitment and potential problems associated with multi occupied properties. Inspector Comerford thanked members for the opportunity to meet them and stated he would be happy to answer Councillors questions via email should they wish to contact him in the future.

The Mayor thanked him for his attendance.

Further discussion took place on the restricted opening times of Exmouth Police Station and Councillor M Williamson proposed, seconded by Councillor P Stott that the survey on usage of Police Stations in Devon be requested from the force.

Members requested that crime statistics provided by the Exmouth Action Group be monitored in the future.

RESOLVED that should the survey on Police Station usage not be forthcoming that this information be requested under the Freedom of Information Act.

22. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 10

There were no questions under Standing Order 10.

23. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no items to be dealt with necessitating exclusion of the press and public.

24. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Councillor L Elson, seconded by Councillor T Cope moved the acceptance of the minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 16th May, and 6th and 20th June 2011 (as previously circulated). Councillor L Elson gave feedback on public speaking at the last two Planning Committees and gave the outcome of discussions held on the Courtlands Cross development which had been considered at the meeting held that night.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 16th May, and 6th and 20th June 2011 be received.

25. MINUTES OF THE REGENERATION & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Councillor P Stott, seconded by Councillor M Williamson moved that the minutes of the Regeneration General Purposes Committee meeting held on 6th June 2011 be received.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Regeneration and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 6th June 2011 be received.

26. MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Councillor R Turner, seconded by Councillor P Stott moved that the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 20th June 2011 be received. Councillors raised concerns that the minutes in some aspects did not reflect what was said at the meeting and asked that the concerns be addressed at the next Finance meeting. Councillor S Gazzard would be invited to speak at that meeting.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on the 20th June 2011 be received and the recommendations contained therein adopted subject to questions of accuracy being addressed at the next committee meeting.

27. REPORTS FROM LOCAL BODIES AND THE TOWN CLERK AS APPROPRIATE

- A letter had been received from Ilfracombe Town Crier and his wife thanking Exmouth and its Town Crier for the wonderful Town Crier event held during the Exmouth Festival.
- Dinan Twinning events were successfully held at the Sailing Club and the Royal Beacon.
- Singing in the Rain performance had been excellent.

- The Mayor had given a talk on the forthcoming Tour of Britain bike race and the LDA Masterplan at the Chamber of Trade and Commerce breakfast club. She had met with a Major from the Rifles, attended Glenorchy Church bible session and St John's Church in Withycombe, cheered off the Condor Cycling Team who had opened the new cycleway link between Ebford and Topsham and visited Eurotech to celebrate their 20 years of trading.
- Glenorchy Church Work Club had been launched for anyone in the Town seeking work.
- South West Britain in Bloom judges would be in Exmouth on Monday 11th July to judge in the afternoon.
- Stagecoach had withdrawn their buses from Moorfield Road as a result of inconsiderate parking in the vicinity of Marpool Children's Centre which had prevented bus access.
- Exmouth Action Group's report had been circulated.
- Exmouth Tidy Group had organised a litter pick on 23rd July at 10.00am.
- Support was given for the Town Council to recruit a man with a van.
- Refuse and recycling services had settled down in the Colonies.
- Feedback requested by EDDC on recently used Polling Stations had been requested and would be an agenda item on the next Regeneration and General Purposes Committee.
- Exmouth Gateway Visitor Centre funding had been reduced from £500,000 to £400,000, the £100,000 being reallocated to Seaton Visitor Centre. The Town Clerk was requested to write to DCC to ask for reinstatement of the £100,000 to support the Orcombe Point project.
- A request to review Byelaws following local residents who had sent photos to Mark Williams of jet skiers riding very close to children snorkelling off Shelley Beach. Natural England, EDDC and other agency representatives would be meeting next week about the issue. Councillor J Humphreys, as a member of EDDC's Overview and Scrutiny Committee to request a member of the Town Council be asked to attend.
- No Independent District Councillor was represented at EDDC's meetings.
- Cranbrook development had started.
- LDF was currently stalled and it was hoped that the document would be back with Town and Parish Councils for comment in September.
- Housing Review Board would review car parks in Council Housing Estates.
- Housing Scrutiny Committee would review local community centre provision.
- New Councillors Induction Course held by the DAPC had been very informative.
- Brixington Improvement Group had been busy preparing flower troughs.
- Chamber of Trade and Commerce would discuss the TIC at their next meeting.
- This year the Tidy Group would have a Youth Award.
- Ambassadors would be elected to promote the Jurassic coast Forum.
- Cllr. B Nash and the Town Clerk had attended the NALC conference.
- The LDF panel would be open to the public and would meet fortnightly.
- EDDC Overview and Scrutiny Panel had set up a TAFF for Planning Issues but Town Council Planning members had been excluded.

The meeting concluded at 8.50 p.m.

Signed Date

(Chairman)