



# **EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL EXMOUTH TOWN MEETING HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, EXMOUTH ON MONDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2007, AT 7.30PM**

**Present:**

62 electors including:

Councillors:	E Wragg (Mayor and Chairman)	J Mitchell (Deputy Mayor)
	T Cope	A Toye
	R Mudge	T Reeves
	P Graham	M Mitchell
	P Frewin-Smith	J Taylor
	B Taylor	B Toye
	V Duval-Steer	P Stott
	K Bamsey	C Bamsey
	W Heath	R Roberts
	S Wragg	G Chamberlain
	G Elson	B Hughes

Exmouth Electors

**Appologies:**

Councillors:	L Elson	A Raymond
	S Gazzard	G Kerler
	J Whipps	

The meeting stood in silence to remember George Johnson-Cosby and Daniel Cofey of the Devon and Dorset Regiment who had recently been killed in Iraq.

**1. Minutes**

The minutes of the Town Meeting held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2006 were received and signed as a correct record.

The minutes of the Town Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2007 had been amended by request (identified by Italics) and been available on the Town Council web site following the meeting. Some discussion took place regarding their accuracy. The Town Clerk read a letter from Mrs J Pettit and signed by six other people requesting an amendment. Whilst comments were made about the meeting and the minutes, no specific proposals to amend them were proposed. The Chairman invited the meeting to propose specific amendments to the minutes but no clear proposal was made. It was proposed by Councillor G Chamberlain, and seconded by Councillor T Cope, that the minutes be signed as a correct record subject to two spelling mistakes being corrected. On a vote being taken the motion was CARRIED.

**2. Annual Report of the Town Council**

The Mayor presented the annual report and spoke about the events of the last year. She emphasised that the focus of the Council had been to support positive causes

such as the Exmouth Festival and various charity organisations. She paid tribute to the Devon and Dorset Regiment in its closure and welcomed the newly appointed One Rifle Regiment.

The Town Clerk then took the meeting through aspects of the Annual report and the financial situation of the Council. He referred to the successes of the Exmouth Festival, fund raising for the Exmouth Visitor Centre and implementation of the Jurassic Hopper. He noted positive community work carried out by the Brixington Crime and Disorder Group, the removal of fly posting and graffiti in the town, the provision of Christmas lighting and the work done to control boy/girl racers on the sea front. He mentioned the work LED BY Exmouth Town Council and funded by the Devon Community Safety partnership in upgrading the town CCTV control centre, and pointed out the improvements made to the Town Hall Reception and the recent award of Investors in People for the Town Council. He summed up that it was only by grasping opportunities as they arose, and by working together in positive way with support from the local community, that Exmouth would be able to build a vibrant, prosperous future.

### **3. Question from the Floor**

There followed an open session and matters were raised by electors as follows:

- The increase in the Town Council precept and how the money would be spent
- Request for full community involvement in the dialogue and debate on Exmouth regeneration
- Clarification of the power and future role of the Town Council on Planning issues
- The requirement for people to contribute to the consultation on the Local Development Framework and Community Involvement policies.
- The dangers of loosing, and not replacing, employment land from Exmouth
- How to encourage and promote the views of the different interest groups in Exmouth rather than to polarize into one Community group.
- It was stated that whilst Councillors were entitled to claim allowances, most did not.
- Also, the need to be able to negotiate with developers for S106 gain was explained.

### **4. Other Matters**

Other matters were raised as follows:

- Ms Megan Armstrong wished the names of the people who had written to the Town Clerk regarding the contents of the minutes of the meeting of the 25<sup>th</sup> January 2007 to be recorded in the minutes of this meeting. She asked that it be recorded that they did not support the signing of the minutes as a correct record. They were: Jean Pettit, M Taylor, H A Lane, James Shapter, Megan Armstong, Carol Taylor and Derek Taylor.
- The matter of advertising today's Town Poll was discussed. It was pointed out that it was the responsibility of the Returning Officer, Mr Mark Williams of East Devon District Council, to give notice of the referendum in accordance with

statutory requirements. This had been done by posting the notice on the notice board outside Exmouth Town Hall. A number of different local newspapers had published details on different occasions even though the requirement was to give only 5 days notice of the poll. In addition, some Councillors produced notices and displayed them on notice boards and in shop windows in their wards. There was no statutory requirement to issue polling cards, or conduct postal votes for a Town Poll.

- Publicity for the Town Meeting was discussed and again it was suggested that this should have been better publicised.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

Signed.....

Dated.....