

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 28TH APRIL 2014 AT 8.00pm

Present:

Councillors: P Stott (Chairman)
M Chapman (Vice-Chairman)
I Brownbill D Chapman
B Cole V Duval-Steer
S Gazzard P Graham
J Humphreys S MacQueen
W Nash C Nicholas
B Toye R Turner
M Williamson E Wragg
S Wragg

Speakers: Ron Roberts, as representative of Exmouth Community Organisations for item G14/043, COLP Report.

G14/037 Apologies

Councillors T Dumper and J Taylor.

G14/038 Public Forum

There were no members of the public present who wished to speak.

G14/039 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Regeneration and General Purposes Committees held on 3rd and 17th March 2014 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. There were no matters arising from those minutes.

G14/040 Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and Dispensations

No declarations were made and no requests for dispensation had been received.

G14/041 Exclusion of the Public and Press

There were no items to be dealt with which necessitated exclusion of the Public and the Press under Public Bodies (Admission to meetings) Act 1960.

G14/042 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

G14/043 COLP Report

Mr Ron Roberts of Exmouth Residents and Traders Association reported on agenda items discussed at the recent COLP meeting held on 4th April 2014. He expressed his concern at the possible redevelopment of the Exmouth Rugby Club which was the only green space available within that area and he said this had flooded badly during the winter storms. A request had been made by COLP members for the implementation of a policy sanctioned by the Town Management Panel which would restrict certain businesses taking vacant

shops within the Town as they felt there were too many cafes and too many charity shops. Other towns such as Weston-Super-Mare and Stockton-on-Tees had policies which indicated their preference to shop occupancy. Colp members supported the Access Strategy paper put forward by John Petty on the proviso that rules were adhered to.

G14/044 Devon County Council Reviews

An update on the reviews that had or were being undertaken by DCC on residential homes, youth centres and children's homes was requested as consultation results had been announced before the consultations with Exmouth, the largest town in Devon, had been carried out. Davey Court was proposed for closure. Councillor E. Wragg's group had called for a special meeting of the County Council which was scheduled to take place on 14th May 2014 at which there would be an opportunity for the public to speak.

Note: The Town Clerk was thanked for the letters he had written to Devon County Council in respect of Bystock Court, DCC Youth Services and Davey Court residential home.

G14/045 East Devon AONB

East Devon District Council are to fund three new Area of Natural Beauty Gateway signs and asked for expressions of interest from towns in the area. Members were happy to support the signage but asked that SSSI/RAMSAR signs also be erected along the Exe Estuary.

G14/046 Update on Events in Exmouth

- (i) **The Exmouth Festival** programmes were being distributed and the banners and flags were displayed. Councillor S Gazzard had distributed many programmes and any other offers from members for distributing would be welcomed.
- (ii) **Royal Marines speed march** applications for road closures scheduled to start at 10.30am on Saturday 31st May had been submitted. The Town Clerk advised Members to discourage local residents from driving through the town on that morning but to walk or use public transport to see the event. A request was made for the Royal Marines to inform the local paper and BayFM radio station of the route and to ask them to inform the public of the temporary road closures and the times. The Clerk advised that the military would not give notice of the route very long in advance for security reasons.
- (iii) **The Edge Cup** would take place on the 12th – 15th June.
- (iv) **World War I Commemoration** led by members of Holy Trinity Church would take place on the 4th August. Through Hugo Swire MP, Exmouth had secured a Victoria Cross memorial stone to lay in remembrance of Rex Warneford in 2015. Shops within the town had been asked to decorate their windows with World War I memorabilia.
- (v) **Surf Lifesaving Championships** would take place from 16th – 23rd August. Meetings were currently being held every Monday so as to pull ideas and arrangements together. There were opportunities for individuals and local businesses to sponsor events, parts of events and races which would be publicised in the local paper.
- (vi) **Tour of Britain Cycle Race** would start in the Strand, Exmouth, on the 11th September. Suzanne Birkett was representing Exmouth Town Council on the working group who would support the event. The meeting endorsed Councillor E Wragg's nomination of Councillor P Graham to join the working group. The Town Council was negotiating with DCC Highways Streetlighting to see in vertical banners could be put on lamp columns to decorate the town. A suggestion was put

forward that bunting should be erected with the help of EDDC Streetscene for the summer as there were many events taking place throughout the town.

The Town Clerk confirmed that a proposal would be brought forward to the Finance Committee on 27th May for the Town Council to contribute towards dressing the town for these events.

G14/047 Flooding and Land Drainage Working Party

A local resident, Mr Edward Wilkinson, had attended the last meeting and gave a report to members on the flood prevention measures that had taken place in Exmouth in the 1940's. Councillor E Wragg had recently attended The South West Water Coastal and Flooding meeting at Bodmin where proposed tidal defences for Exmouth had been addressed. More information on this subject would be requested by Councillor E Wragg.

Councillor J Humphreys wished to record thanks to Councillor S Gazzard who along with himself had distributed sandbags to residents until the early hours of the morning when the flood water was most threatening.

Work would take place soon at Camperdown Terrace properties in their gardens to reset pipes in order to separate the foul water and highway run off. The work could cause short-term problems with residents parking; however this was important work in relation to resolving their flooding issues.

G14/048 Improving Exmouth - update

- (i) **Supplementary Street Cleaner** – The updated list would be circulated with the minutes. Derek had passed his weed spraying course. Members were asked to send in requests for use of Derek's time. He had recently been cleaning street signs along Dinan Way.
- (ii) **Refurbishment of bus shelters** – The Clerk was working with Daniel Smith of Vibrant Pulse to gather photos of sufficient resolution to be enlarged to bus shelter size. The Parishes Together Fund had agreed to fund the cleaning of 20 of the Town's bus shelters.

Concern was voiced at the current untidy appearance of the Thomas Tucker's building, in particular the state of the windows. There appeared to be some activity within the building. The meeting asked that the EDDC Conservation Officer be asked to visit the building and the Strand in general and contact to be made with the owner. The Town Clerk suggested the Council could have the windows cleaned and the frames painted. Council S Wragg supported this. Councillors B Nash and S Wragg agreed to visit the owner to ask them to take action.

The special machine used to clean the Strand had been converted temporarily to a litter collecting during the winter. Spraying water during winter months onto cold paving could create ice hazards. It was now being converted back to be a cleaning machine.

G14/049 Reports from other Local Bodies and the Town Clerk as appropriate

a) Exmouth Regeneration Board

Met 27th March 2014. Councillor E Wragg reported that the original design for the Strand shelter had been referred back to the designers who were asked to

investigate from the manufacturers if it was possible to produce a design that had better weather protection for people awaiting buses within the allocated budget. The Town Clerk advised the meeting that he had been contacted by the manufacturers today asking if the town council had heard from DCC as they had not, for the last five weeks. The requested changes were on the design made available at the Regeneration Board meeting of 27th March. Councillor E Wragg said she would ask county council officers for an update.

Councillor P Stott agreed to ask EDDC Councillor S Hughes for a progress report on the shelter.

b) Town Management Panel – To agree the Terms of Reference

Councillor P Graham proposed seconded by Councillor J Humphreys that the draft Terms of reference for the Town Management Panel be accepted.

c) Reports from Councillors

- The St Georges Flag had been flown outside the Town Hall on the 23rd April to celebrate St Georges Day.
- Local youth projects had recently been put before the Youth Council Working Group for consideration for a Town Council grant. The extension of the graffiti wall in Phear Park secured the funding.
- The topic of public speaking at EDDC Development Management Committee meetings would be considered by members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- EDDC Housing Department had purchased a block of 4 flats in Bradley Mount and a 6 roomed house in St Andrews Road for bedsit provision.

d) Magnolia Centre Clock

The ‘Grumble Walk’ through the town had raised concerns about the state of the Magnolia Centre clock face. The Town Clerk had offered to work with EDDC to refurbish it, however, Simon Allchurch of EDDC had responded that the Magnolia clock was in need of so much maintenance and repair he asked that the Town Council start a debate within town about whether it should be refurbished or replaced. Exmouth Museum held the original Town Clock which was on the old Town Hall and had offered it back to the Town if it could be re-erected in its original position.

G14/050 Date of next meeting

The next meeting was to be held on 23rd June 2014 at 7pm.

The Meeting ended at 9.05 pm.

Signed **Dated**

Chairman

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