

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 SEPTEMBER 2015 AT 7.35 pm

Present:

Councillors: P Stott (Chairman)
B Bailey F Caygill
B Cole T Darville
P Dean T Dumper
L Elson P Graham
A Greenhalgh T Hill
J Humphreys R Masding
B Nash C Nicholas
R Scott B Toye
M Williamson

Speaker: Maureen Loman, as a member of COLP for item G15/066.

G15/059 Apologies

Councillors D Chapman, E Gibbons & C Gough

G15/060 Public Forum

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

G15/061 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Regeneration and General Purposes Committee held on 29th June 2015 were proposed by Councillor M Williamson seconded by Councillor A Greenhalgh and confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

G15/062 Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 29th June 2015

Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting:-

Minute G15/056 EDDC Playing Pitch Strategy 2015 – a meeting was to be held with EDDC to discuss possible locations for the provision of playing pitches, particularly for football, as there was a shortage available within Exmouth.

Minute G15/048 Urgent Business - Graffiti wall in Phear Park looked good from the skateboard park but untidy from the rear as viewed from the public footway. A request was made for the back to be boarded the same as the front possibly funded by Section 106 monies or the Town Council Youth Council budget.

Minute G15/057 Strand Bus Shelter – The Town Clerk had attended a recent meeting where Tom Vaughan, DCC Highways Officer, had been present and confirmed that a bus shelter of a design currently used in Exeter would be installed on the Strand before the onset of winter.

G15/063 Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and Dispensations

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

G15/064 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

G15/065 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.

G15/066 To receive and Consider Reports and Minutes of Committees, Working Parties, other local bodies and the Town Clerk / Town Manager as appropriate (Standing Order 6.2).

- **COLP** – Maureen Loman, representative on behalf of ERaTA, gave a verbal update from the COLP meeting held on 27th August 2015.

The National Living Wage had been raised at the meeting and it had been reported that there would be a designated week in November for the promotion of the National Living Wage.

The chairman of Devon Senior Voice, Tony Siddall, had spoken to COLP members on Dementia Awareness and how he had contributed to the formation of the first dementia friendly town in the UK, Tavistock. The Dementia Awareness group currently ran a day centre in Exmouth at Morgan Court. Exmouth and Budleigh Salterton had approximately 800 people diagnosed with dementia.

Exmouth's Neighbourhood Plan Designated Area had been ratified and a steering group of approximately 10 people would need to be formed plus the ability to expand the group for specialisms such as environment and leisure when required. A grant of £2,000 had been received from EDDC and mapping software had been purchased with part of the grant. Tim Spurway, EDDC's Neighbourhood Planning Officer, would support the process and there was a possible £16,000 available through central government to offset costs.

Exmouth Community Organisations had requested an update on the Traffic Order restriction for Bath Road and Tower Street, the relocation of some Belly Bins along the seafront, the request for a replacement 400m dangerous bathing sign that had gone missing at Harbour View and the Higher Marley Road development.

The Town Clerk gave an update on the location of community toilets now highlighted on the new town maps. No location had been identified for a new provision of toilets along the seafront.

The terms of reference for COLP would be revisited at the next meeting of COLP.

- **Town Team and Tourism Forum** – the notes of the meeting held on 6th August 2015 had been previously circulated to members. Councillor A Greenhalgh explained that now that the estuary cycle route went as far as Starcross a

problem had arisen with cyclists who wished to return to Exmouth via the Starcross Ferry. The ferry was only accessible by steps over the railway bridge which meant cyclists had to carry bikes. The ferry was also not equipped to take bicycles in volume but most of the passengers were now cyclists. A request was made for Parishes Together and the Exmouth Transport Partnership group to investigate the possibility of funding a solution. A correction to the notes which stated that Councillor B Nash was still the Mayor was needed.

- **Exmouth Local Action Group** – The notes of the last meeting had been discussed at the recent Full Council meeting. Councillor B Nash informed members that the Police had a dedicated officer who responded in respect of matters concerned with licensing. Anti-social behaviour and shop lifting had decreased within the town as a result of the Hush shop no longer selling legal highs.
- **Section 106 Working Party** – a verbal update was given by the Town Clerk. The two play schemes identified for Imperial Ground and Phear Park had been ratified by EDDC and the Section 106 group. Progress with the installation of additional showers was on hold as unknown associated costs were to be added to the seafront showers already installed and in use in order to conform with European directives. Jamie Murrell would advise the Town Council once the costs were known as the Town Council was responsible for ongoing maintenance of seafront showers.
- **Twinning** – Councillor T Dumper gave members an overview of his recent visit to Langerwehe and how the formal link up worked within the two Councils and staying with local families. It had been the 30th anniversary and 34 people had travelled to enjoy the German hospitality and good weather. The words of the Mayors had been exchanged and the people of Langerwehe had asked that the charity gift be gifted to aid the Syrian refugees to support their welcome, induction and learning.

Councillor T Dumper asked that members consider a response by Exmouth Town Council to the refugee crisis. The chairman suggested that EDDC as housing providers and DCC for Social Services support would need to take the lead.

G15/067 To Respond to a briefing note issued by the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) for the Eastern Locality, dated July 16th, 2015 (attached) in respect of bed closures at Exmouth Community Hospital.

Councillor L Elson wished members to support a proposal to challenge the confirmed reduction of Exmouth Hospital beds from 30 to 16 following the relocation of 8 stroke care beds to Ottery St Mary, particularly as Tiverton were to retain 32 beds. During recent consultations the Clinical Commissioning Group had recommended that Exmouth retain 24 beds and had at no time recommended a reduction to 16 beds. Exmouth Hospital had overall a 90-95% bed occupancy and was currently up to full capacity with up to 12 on the waiting list at the RD&E for transfer to Exmouth. Care in the Community and Hospital at Home Services were currently struggling to support patients due to staff shortages and new retirement properties were currently under construction in Exmouth. Councillor L Elson proposed seconded by Councillor T Dumper that a letter be written to the

Healthcare Trust to state the Town Council's disappointment in the reduction of beds to 16 particularly as the recommendation from the CCG was for 24 beds to be retained at Exmouth's Hospital, the largest town in Devon.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk write a letter to the Clinical Commissioning Group to state the Town Council's disappointment in the reduction of beds to 16 particularly as its initial recommendation from the CCG consultation was for 24 beds to be retained at Exmouth's Hospital, the largest town in Devon.

Note: Councillor T Dumper wished the committee to note that one of the lay members of the CCG was a personal friend of his and Councillor L Elson left the meeting after that agenda item.

G15/068 To respond to a consultation by East Devon District Council in respect of a potential Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for Belshers Slipway and Shelly Beach, Exmouth (see attached).

It was discussed and agreed that the timing of the consultation had been insensitive in view of the absence of an alternative slipway in Exmouth at this time and that the wording of the consultation materials had been confusing, which had potentially antagonised both residents and water users.

Councillor E Wragg had submitted a statement for consideration by Exmouth Town Council in which she requested support for the extension of EDDC's beach byelaws to encompass Shelly Beach. It was felt by Councillor Wragg and members, that the extension of the byelaws would be preferable to a PSPO and that the latter would be unenforceable. On the other hand, byelaws would prohibit parking on the beach and ensure the removal of trailers once the watercraft had been delivered. This would go part way to restoring peace amongst the community.

RESOLVED that the Town Council respond to the consultation by requesting that EDDC extend the current EDDC beach byelaws to include Shelly Beach rather than introducing a Public Space Protection Order.

G15/069 To Receive an update on Exmouth Town Council's Neighbourhood Plan.

The Town clerk confirmed that part of the £2,000 grant that had been received from EDDC had been spent on Pear Technology mapping software. The Steering Group, of approximately 10, to be formed would consist of one councillor per ward and representatives from the organisations on COLP. There was scope to incorporate previous pertinent Town studies to and it was likely that a questionnaire would be compiled to gather feedback from the public as to their aspirations and views for Exmouth. Consultants could be engaged at a later stage and funding of up to £16,000 could be accessible to help fund the process. The Neighbourhood Plan was for the whole of Exmouth (within the parish boundary) and each ward could potentially work on a smaller section of the plan, however the production of the Neighbourhood Plan was expected to take 2 to 3 years to complete. Councillor M Williamson gave an overview of the process and also made reference to other towns and parish neighbourhood plans, in particular Lynton and Lynmouth, who had within their Neighbourhood Plan created a policy that restricted the purchase of second homes within their towns as it was

preventing local people from purchasing property. St Ives had also sighted the same provision in their draft Neighbourhood Plan with St Minver and Roseland taking the same stand.

Note: Councillors T Darville, F Caygill & B Bailey left the meeting.

G15/070 To Receive an update on the formation of a Coastal Community Team for Exmouth (see supplementary information).

It was reported that the newly formed Coastal Community Team at EDDC had secured a £10,000 grant which would be used to commission an economic report which can be used to update the Masterplan in respect of the retail offer in Exmouth, and in particular the potential for redevelopment at London Inn and Imperial Recreation Ground. Alison Hayward will be appointing consultants to produce the submission which was needed by January 2016 and this may then open up the opportunity to secure further funding. The Coastal Community Team has been formed as a sub group of the Regeneration Project Team / Board. The Exe Estuary Partnership has also successfully applied to form a Coastal Community Team and secured £10,000 to produce an economic plan on sustainable fisheries and fish supplies.

G15/071 To Receive an update on the Exe Estuary Trail Solar Lighting Project

The Town Clerk reported that she would be meeting with Clearview Traffic and Devon County Council's Rights of Way Officer to identify a date for installation of the solar lights.

G15/072 To Receive an update on the Art Trail signage

A meeting was pending between the Town Clerk, EDDC and DCC to establish the exact location for the installation of the art trail signs.

G15/073 Date of next meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for 5th October, 2015 at 7pm.

The meeting ended at 8.56 pm.

Signed **Dated**

Chairman