

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 16th NOVEMBER 2015 AT 7.30pm

Present:

Councillors: P Stott (Chairman)

B Bailey

D Chapman

T Dumper

T Hill

R Masding

R Scott

F Caygill

P Dean

P Graham

J Humphreys

C Nicholas (observer)

M Williamson

Guest Speaker: Mr Adrian Toole, representative of Transition Town Exmouth, in respect of item G15/091 COLP

G15/089 Apologies

Councillors A Greenhalgh, C Gough & B Toye

The meeting was adjourned for the Public Forum. Please see Appendix for details. The meeting was then reconvened.

Note: The Chairman asked members if agenda item 7 in respect of COLP could be brought forward and welcomed Mr Adrian Toole the guest speaker.

G15/090 Report form COLP

The COLP meeting had been held on 5th November and Adrian Toole gave an overview of topics discussed at that meeting.

- Exmouth Police Station would close in 2017 and a preferred use of the site would be for housing and parking. Exmouth Community Association wished to press for a police presence and no loss of PCSO's in the town.
- Exmouth recycling trials were taking place and a request was made for EDDC to publicise the collection of larger items.
- Marks & Spencer and the Transport Interchange – a request was made for the design of both buildings to be of a high standard and environmentally sustainable. Lewis Ward, Devon County Council Officer, would be invited to the next COLP meeting.
- St John's Court – Councillors M Chapman & C Nicholas had attended a meeting where Devon Partnership Trust had highlighted the need to save £6million.
- Transition Town Exmouth had organised a lobbying march to coincide with the Paris Climate Summit which would leave the Jubilee Clock Tower at 2.30pm on 29th November 2015.
- The recruitment of snow wardens was needed. An audit of grit bins was to be carried out to enable Devon County Council to refill them.

- Exmouth Town Council had included in next year's budget funds for the upkeep of the Town Council owned bus shelters and it was noted that any new bus shelters would be maintained by the Town Council.
- Exmouth Masterplan – Exmouth Community Association felt that Exmouth Town Council should oppose the residential and cinema element of the Queens Drive leisure area stronger than they had. The Town Clerk had been asked to investigate several points.
- The railway station was to be modernised and did not require planning permission.
- The Strand – there was a residue of £110,000 left over from the original allocation of funds. It was suggested that community organisations put forward a case for a stage and microphone facilities on the Strand.
- ERaTA – members asked that enquiries were made as to whether the group still existed.

The chairman thanked him for attending.

G15/091 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Regeneration and General Purposes Committee held on 5th October 2015 were proposed by Councillor M Williamson seconded by Councillor D Chapman and confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

G15/092 Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 5th October 2015

Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting:-

Minute G15/082 Marks & Spencer – The Town Clerk had been asked to follow up Marks & Spencer's response to the motion which had asked that the Town Council be involved in future discussions.

Minute G15/081 Recycling trials – the trial in the Colony was underway and following an initial surge there was slight increase in recycling but no reduction in black bin waste.

Minute G15/077 Graffiti Wall – the graffiti wall would be white washed in the spring so that it could be re-used. A quote had been received to provide the same finish for the back of the wall which had been around £2,500 but the youth fund did not have that amount of funds. Organisers of the 'men's shed' had been approached to see if they could assist.

G15/093 Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and Dispensations

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

G15/094 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business. Councillor Pat Graham wished to advise members that Exmouth in Bloom had been selected to represent the south west region in the national event.

G15/095 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.

G15/096 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).

- **Town Team and Tourism Forum** – the notes of the meeting held on 8th October 2015 had been previously circulated to members. An update was given by the Town Clerk on the Thomas Tucker building following complaints received from the public on possible danger from its structure falling off. The Conservation Officer had visited with a suggestion that the current owner be asked to consider a planning application for different usages to make the building more attractive to a wider range of buyers.

Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group - the notes of the meeting held on 28th October 2015 had been previously circulated to members. Neighbourhood Plan group members were currently looking at statistics and Councillor R Masding had been elected as treasurer. A Trello software package had been identified as a useful tool that would enable members to feed their findings into a central database and which had the ability to invite others to join. It was noted that the Planning Minister had asked that Neighbourhood Plans of the future be more concise.

- **Exmouth Transport Partnership** - the notes of the meeting held on 22nd October 2015 had been previously circulated to members.
 - **Transport Interchange** - a proposed design for the modernisation of the railway station was circulated to members at the meeting. The ramp was not ideal as it had a sharp turn in it which would disadvantage wheelchair users on their own and the void created by the bend would be a haven for rubbish dis-guarded when leaving the station. The signage was bland and needed inspiration.

Funding for the modernisation would be by the National Station Improvement Programme for completion in 2016/17. Identification on whether bus bays would be provided within the station site would be decided in conjunction with Kilo Properties, developers for Marks & Spencer as currently bus bays were to be provided in Imperial Road. It was important that bus/train connectivity was considered at planning stage. Councillor M Williamson had written to Darren Roberts, EDDC Team Leader and Ed Freeman, EDDC Strategy and Development Manager to request that connectivity be incorporated in talks with DCC, Stagecoach, Kilo Properties and Great Western Railways.

- **Starcross Ferry** – six years ago the ferry had transported around 200 bikes per year and had now risen to 7,000 in 2015. Bikes had to be lifted onto the ferry and that process had resulted in injuries particularly when moving electric bikes. Councillor A Greenhalgh and DCC Officer, Jamie Hlland, were to convene a meeting with interested parties to look at access, which was currently by steps over a bridge and other possible funding sources.

- **South West Conference of Local Councils Association regional conference** – the Town Clerk gave an overview of the recent conference she had attended. The first topic had been on bullying in the workplace and both SLCC and DALC would look at current policies and the Code of Conduct to support such situations. Attendees were made aware of a current South West Group ‘Heart of the South West’ of which East Devon District Council was a member. The group were involved in looking at devolution of powers within councils and the topic would be debated in Parliament on 18th December 2015.

G15/097 To respond to the Statement from Devon and Cornwall Police about the potential impact of its planned budget cuts in the coming years

Support was given to a request for no PCSO’s being cut within the police force, particularly in Devon where the concept had been born. Following the Paris incident it had been highlighted that London did not have enough police officers on the ground. The Town Council was to write a letter to state that there should be a police presence within Exmouth, possibly within a shop unit particularly as Exmouth was tourist town. The Police referendum had been postponed in light of recent statements which had focused on the formula that had been used.

G15/098 Date of next meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for 25th January, 2016 at 7pm.

Note: The chairman reminded councillors that a tour of the revamped Sports Centre would take place at 6.15 pm on Tuesday 17th November 2015.

The meeting ended at 8.30 pm.

Signed **Dated**

Chairman

Appendix

Mr Ian Cann, as secretary of Exmouth Civic Society, asked what was Exmouth's policy on protection of its ancient treasurers as Exmouth's sand dunes had a long history within the town. Around 50 years ago the dunes had been removed but sand over the 3 years that followed had covered the road during the winter months. The Urban Council had then rebuilt the dunes and strengthened them with marron grass. During last year's storms the dunes had been almost flattened but to date had not been rebuilt. Mr Cann wished to voice concern that sand that was currently on the road as a result of the recent bad weather was not being returned to the dunes and that sand from the remaining small sand dune appeared to be being removed and taken elsewhere. The chairman agreed to place the request for a discussion as an item on the next agenda.