

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, EXMOUTH ON MONDAY 21ST JULY 2014 AT 7.00 P.M.

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

Officers: Lisa Bowman, Town Clerk & Veronica Boatman, Minute Taker.

Guests: Inspector Antonia Weeks, Lewis Ward (DCC), Alison Hayward (EDDC) and Dr. Ian Harrison (EDDC).

C14/100. APOLOGIES

Councillors M Mitchell & J Taylor.

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

C14/101. COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 9th June 2014 were agreed, subject to the name of the guest speaker being corrected to read Dr Richard *Mejzner*.

Proposed: Cllr Pauline Stott

Seconded: Cllr Richard Turner

C14/102. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

The following Councillors declared interests:

		Declaration type		
Item	Councillor	Pecuniary	Personal	Reason
7	E Wragg		x	County Councillor

C14/103. URGENT BUSINESS

None

C14/104. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was agreed that Agenda item 17 (HR Group) would be discussed in Part II of the meeting as it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972:

C14/105. REPORT FROM INSPECTOR ANTONIA WEEKS ON THE FUTURE POLICING ARRANGEMENTS FOR EXMOUTH.

The Chairman welcomed Inspector Weeks who gave an overview of the future plans for policing in Exmouth in the context of severe budgetary cuts. Inspector Weeks reported that following a number of internal reviews and a requirement to drive down costs by saving a further £5.2m in the next two years, the front counter service in Exmouth would inevitably close by the end of the year. Inspector Weeks also explained that public preference is to use alternative methods of contacting the Police and that the footfall has been falling at Exmouth Police Station; it will however remain as a fully operational 24/7 police station and Exeter would be retaining its counter service. Councillors requested further information on the proposed savings.

Councillor Turner expressed concern about the consultation process for licensing applications in the context of alcohol related crime and Councillor Toye questioned Inspector Weeks about future arrangements for lost property and lost children. Inspector Weeks commented that Exeter HQ deals with licensing and that alternative solutions for lost property were being investigated; however, no missing child had ever been handed into Exmouth Police Station. Councillors also specifically wanted to know if a Town Centre presence, similar to Dawlish, could be accommodated; Inspector Weeks explained that the Dawlish model was based on different criteria. The 101 service was also discussed and Inspector Weeks acknowledged that the service has had its ups and downs but has vastly improved. It can still be overwhelmed at certain times for reasons beyond Police control.

Cllr. E Wragg commented that many of the Councillors' comments should be directed at the Police Commissioner and MPs and further suggested that estates belonging to the Police Authority should be disposed of to fund proper policing.

Cllr. S Gazzard proposed that the Council invite the Police Commissioner to a Town Council meeting so that they could address their concerns with him.

C14/106. INTEGRATED TRANSPORT INTERCHANGE: DEVELOPMENT

The Chairman welcomed Lewis Ward, the Lead Transport Planning Officer for Devon County Council, Alison Hayward (EDDC) and Dr. Ian Harrison (EDDC).

Lewis Ward outlined the proposals for the Integrated Transport Interchange for Exmouth (supporting documents had been previously circulated to members) and explained that discussions about a possible Transport Interchange had been ongoing since 1977, however funding now available from the Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) would enable the first part of a three phase scheme to be implemented, providing the project could be delivered in the next financial year.

Phase 2 funding could become available through the National Station Improvement Fund.

The designs were therefore based on a longer term phased strategy but working in collaboration with the Exmouth Transport Partnership via consultation to agree the overall plan. Current proposals include sweeping away the clutter at the front of the station to create a forecourt, the creation of 10 metre long taxi rank outside the front entrance in Marine Way, and a drop-off point on the other side. An “informal” crossing or pelican crossing was also being proposed to make the station part of the town centre.

Members raised concerns about the crossing and the possibility that it would create a backlog of traffic during busy periods; also the speed of traffic along Marine Way. Lewis Ward explained that two options were being considered and that the data traffic team had examined traffic and pedestrian movements in order to qualify the demand for one or other and also the future of the subway and would be conducting further studies.

Members also questioned the logic of installing drop off bays on the opposite side to the station and whether this was truly providing an integrated solution for train and bus users. Lewis Ward explained that the bays aim to provide an official drop off area so that people do not obstruct the entrance to the bus station and that the provision of bays on the station side of the road would be cost prohibitive due to the necessary reconstruction of the road. He also confirmed that the local taxi drivers had been included in the consultations to date via the Exmouth Community Association.

Further discussion ensued regarding the possibility of local buses taking their services into the bus station itself and members were told that this was unlikely due to the fact that any extra mileage would need to be covered by passenger numbers and was not really within the power of Devon County Council to influence; the proposed scheme was however trying to make it more intuitive for pedestrians to find the bus stops.

Lewis Ward also explained that the proposals would be modified and finalised at the next Exmouth Transport Partnership meeting to be held at 10am on Thursday 4th September at the Town Hall. All Councillors were invited to attend. The consultation is not fully public but open to comments for another two weeks. A final report would then follow for presentation to Devon County Council's Committee in the Autumn.

C14/107. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 10

There were no questions under Standing Order 10.

C14/108. PLANNING COMMITTEE

Councillor S MacQueen proposed, seconded by Councillor R Turner that the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 9th June, 23rd June and 7th July 2014 (as previously circulated) be received.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on the 9th June, 23rd June and 7th July 2014 (as previously circulated) be received.

C14/109. REGENERATION AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Councillor P Stott proposed, seconded by Councillor B Cole moved that the minutes of the Regeneration and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 23rd June 2014 (as previously circulated by email) be received subject to Vice Chair amended to read Cllr B Cole.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Regeneration and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 23rd June 2014 and the recommendation contained within be accepted.

C14/110. FINANCE COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on the 7th July 2014 was not yet available due to staff pressure and holidays. Councillor D Chapman therefore proposed that the minutes are received at the next Council meeting.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 7th July 2014 be received at the next Full Council meeting on Monday 1st September 2014.

C14/111. REPORTS FROM OTHER LOCAL BODIES AND THE TOWN CLERK as appropriate (Standing Order 6.2)

1. **Town Clerk** – Report read to members, copy attached.
2. **Arts Manager** – The content of the report was noted and accepted. Lisa Bowman would report on the Gay Pride event once all feedback had been received and collated.
3. **Councillors** –
 - Cllr Wragg confirmed that a meeting date had been confirmed between the Residents Association, Mark Williamson, Hugo Swire MP and Eric Pickles in respect of Section106 agreements relating to the dock developments.
 - Cllr Steve Gazzard updated Councillors on the possible provision of Dynamo cycles along the seafront, to be funded via S106 monies.
 - Councillor T Cope confirmed that a meeting of the Parishes Together Panel would be meeting imminently.

C14/112. REVISED DESIGN FOR THE STRAND BUS SHELTER

Members were updated on the status of the Strand Bus Shelter and specifically that Tom Vaughan, (DCC Highways Officer), despite chasing the company who were to redesign the shelter, had been unsuccessful in obtaining a picture of the revised shelter. Members were concerned about the delay. Councillor V Duval-Steer proposed, seconded by Councillor Pauline Stott, that a letter was sent to Councillor John Hart with a copy to the portfolio holder Councillor Stuart Hughes to voice Exmouth Town Council's concerns in respect of the delay.

RESOLVED that the Town Council write to Councillor John Hart, Leader of Devon County Council, about their concerns in the delay in obtaining the revised design from the Company and a copy sent to the Portfolio Holder, Councillor Stuart Hughes.

C14/113. APPOINTMENTS TO THE FLAG POLE AND WAR MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

The Chairman advised members that Councillors S Gazzard and R Turner had agreed to be nominated to represent the Town Council on the Flag Pole and War Memorial Committee.

RESOLVED that Councillors S Gazzard & R Turner represent the Town Council on the Flag Pole and War Memorial Committee.

C14/114. SATELITE JOB CENTRE PLUS FOR EXMOUTH

The Town Clerk reported to Councillors that a meeting had been held on the 4th July between Hugo Swire and the Department of Work & Pensions, however nothing had been progressed and Hugo Swire was advocating that further consultation should take place with all stakeholders concerned. Councillors asked the Town Clerk to write to Hugo Swire to reiterate the need for a Job Centre in the Town.

RESOLVED that a letter be written to Hugo Swire to reiterate the Town Council's concerns.

C14/115. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Tourist Information Service** – The Service had seen 646 visitors in the past week, 120 on Monday July 21st. The Service had now been extended and would open on Sundays.
- **Royal Marines Beat Retreat** – would take place on Friday 25th July at 19:00 at the Exe Estuary Car Park. All Councillors are welcome to attend.
- **100th Anniversary WWI Event– Monday 4th August 11pm on The Strand.** Councillors were reminded to advise the office if they wished to purchase a candle for the LIGHTS OUT national moment of reflection. The special Centenary Candle costs £4.
- **Twining Association** - a reception for the visitors from Langerwehe is being held on Friday 15th August.
- **National Surf Lifesaving Championships** – 16th August
- **Jurassic Cycle Race** – 17th August.

Exclusion of the Public and Press

RESOLVED: That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public (including the press) be excluded from the meeting for item 15 due to the confidential nature of its contents.

C14/116. HR GROUP

The minute for that item is held by the Town Clerk.

C14/117. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Town Council will be held on Monday 1st September 2014 at 7pm.

The meeting concluded at 9.50 pm.

Signed..... Date.....
(Chairman)

APPENDIX

PUBLIC FORUM

Jeff Trail spoke on behalf of the Royal Marines Association

Jeff wished to thank everyone involved with the Armed Forces Day Event held on Saturday 5th July in particular Lisa Bowman Town Clerk, the Town Hall staff, EDDC and Streetscene for helping making the event a success.

He reminded the Council that on Friday 25th July at 19:00 the Royal Marines Band would be conducting a Beat Retreat at the Imperial Recreation Ground Car Park.

Roy Pryke spoke on behalf of Exmouth Community Association (ECA) on agenda item 7.

Statement as follows:-

INTEGRATED TRANSPORT INTERCHANGE

Statement and Questions from ECA to Exmouth Town Council 21st July 2014

We consider that elements of the proposals the Council is considering this evening threaten to undermine the integrated scheme which we have been advocating for several years and which has been widely endorsed. We are supported in this view by the Exmouth Civic Society.

I underline that we supported and continue to support the Master Plan concept of the Station Square, to quote: "a new high quality urban square.... to create a positive sense of arrival at the town centre and improve pedestrian links between town centre, transport interchange and estuary". In our view the proposed scheme falls far short of that Master Plan concept. To pursue this lesser scheme now, without setting it firmly in the more comprehensive proposals envisaged in the Master Plan, seems to be a piecemeal approach and, potentially, not sound use of public money. We believe it would be better to continue use of the existing pedestrian links to the town centre until such time as the Master Plan proposals are formulated.

The proposals for the eastern side of Marine Way are not only unnecessary but are expensive and problematic. A taxi rank on the eastern side of Marine Way is in the wrong place for passengers. It is on the "wrong" side of a busy road and, together with the drop-off bays and a surface crossing, would create a new problem: the massing of pedestrians and cyclists.

We are keen to see a start made on the transport interchange, but we consider the proposals are only partly the right first step. We believe that the funds ear-marked for the eastern side of Marine Way would be better spent at this stage on elements of our proposals. These could be implemented now with the available money to form part of the bigger overall plan and not be detrimental to it - or wasteful of resources.

We would appreciate answers this evening to the following six questions:

1. How do the proposals fit with the Master Plan concept for Station Square?
2. Apart from the drop off point on the west side of Marine Way, which will please those who arrive at the last minute to catch their train, how do the proposals improve the passenger experience?
3. Have the safety issues (of passengers with luggage crossing the cycle path and Marine Way traffic) been properly assessed as part of the proposal to provide a taxi rank on the east side of Marine Way and have the taxi drivers been consulted about the practical challenges to them in terms of accessing the taxi rank and being available in sufficient numbers at busy times?
4. Would it not be more sensible at this stage to just provide the new drop-off point at the bus entrance, pave the bus entrance area, improve the underpass including lighting and make a start on the cycle path to overcome the problematic congestion of pedestrians and cyclists between the station and the zebra crossing at Manchester Road?
5. Can the money saved then be blended into Exmouth's share of the £1.1m for 2014 -15, which DCC has just received from Government for sustainable transport schemes, building on the start made in the current year and contributing to the total scheme for the transport hub?
6. Given the importance of these proposals for Exmouth residents and visitors, will the meeting of the Exmouth Transport Partnership on 4th September be presented with a revised set of proposals, which properly address the concerns of Exmouth Community Association and Exmouth Civic Society and other points made at this evening's meeting?

John Petty spoke on behalf of the Exmouth Cycle Group and explained that the Exmouth Cycle Group are not happy with the major introduction of a cycle crossing at the interchange. Where is the overall scheme for the ITI?

Geoff Morris former Chairman of the Exmouth Residents & Traders Association (ERaTA) spoke on agenda item 7.
Overall in favour of what he had seen do far.