

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, EXMOUTH ON MONDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER, 2014 AT 7.00 P.M.

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

Officers: Lisa Bowman, Town Clerk & Sue Cody, Minute Taker.

C14/136. APOLOGIES

Councillors P Graham, J Humphreys, P Stott & J Taylor.

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

C14/137. COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 1st September 2014 were noted as a true record with the transposition under minute C14/127 bullet point 8, Mayor's announcements, of the relevant charities as the Mayor's charity was the Samaritans and Councillor Gazzard The British Lung Foundation.

C14/138. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

C14/139. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

The following councillors declared interests:

Item	Councillor	Declaration type		Reason
		Pecuniary	Personal	
C14/150	V Duval-Steer	X		Were members of DMC so would stay for the debate but would not vote on that item.
	M Williamson	X		

Item	Councillor	Declaration type		Reason
		Pecuniary	Personal	
C14/151	T Cope	X		He represented the Town Council on the board that would decide on which Parishes Together projects would be funded and would leave the room for that item.

C14/140. URGENT BUSINESS

Mayor B Nash thanked Flight Lieutenant Bagnall for his attendance and supported that the current 1976 building used by the air cadets and Budleigh army cadets in Phear Park was inadequate and too small. Funds were available for a rebuild and the Mayor asked members to support the cadet forces in seeking provision for a replacement building for the two youth organisations. Reference was made to recent difficulties that had been experienced by the Sea Scouts in securing premises and to why EDDC were at that moment in time only prepared to grant a 7 year lease for a building in Phear Park. Councillor T Cope proposed seconded by Councillor E Wragg that the Town Council write to EDDC to state that the MOD would fund a new building for local youth development subject to a lease of a minimum of 25years being issued for the Phear Park site and to question why to date only a 7 year lease been offered.

RESOLVED that the Town Council write to EDDC to state that the MOD would fund a new building for Exmouth Air Cadets and Army Cadets subject to a lease of a minimum of 25years being issued for the Phear Park site and why had a only a 7 year lease been offered to date.

C14/141. NOTICE OF MOTION – BYELAWS FOR EXMOUTH BEACHES

Agenda item 13 had been taken as an earlier item in response to the issue being raised during the public forum. Exmouth Town Ward members had put forward a motion under Byelaws:-

“We propose that Exmouth Town Council writes to East Devon District Council asking for an urgent and complete review of all byelaws covering the use of Exmouth beaches. Where there are currently no byelaws covering Shelly beach, additional ones should be drawn up and implemented with the minimum delay.

We also request that East Devon District Council work with this Town Council and Exeter City Council and other interested bodies to ensure that enforcement action will be pursued where necessary.”

The motion had been put forward as a result of nuisance created off Shelly beach by personalised watercraft users (jet skiers) some going at excessive speed. The Exe Estuary was an area of special interest and a protected area with a speed limit of 10 knots and the watercraft users were a health and safety hazard to users of kayaks and long boards. The noise and nuisance to beach users in a

residential setting was unacceptable and had been endured for many years. East Devon District Council had the authority to introduce byelaws to protect residents and visitors for use of the beach and waterway in its natural environment. Discussion took place on various methods that would prevent the access of Shelly beach Belchers Slipway to vehicles towing personalised watercraft. There were currently two designated areas Belchers slipway and Mamhead slipway (now closed for repairs) along the main beach where personalised watercraft could be used.

Councillor I Stewart proposed seconded by Councillor E Wragg that the motion be accepted.

Resolved that Exmouth Town Council write to East Devon District Council asking for an urgent and complete review of all byelaws covering the use of Exmouth beaches. Where there are currently no byelaws covering Shelly beach, additional ones in existence at the present time along the Exmouth sea front should be drawn up and implemented with the minimum delay.

We also request that East Devon District Council work with this Town Council, Teignbridge District Council and Exeter City Council and other interested bodies to ensure that enforcement action will be pursued where necessary.

Note: Councillor S Gazzard wished to praise the swift action of the Fire Brigade in dealing with a recent fire in the Magnolia Centre which had entailed evacuation of properties near the incident. He requested that the Town Council wrote a letter to the Fire Service in appreciation of their speedy response.

C14/142. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no items to be dealt with necessitating exclusion of the press and public.

C14/143. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 10

There were no questions under Standing Order 10.

C14/144. REPORTS FROM OTHER LOCAL BODIES AND THE TOWN CLERK as appropriate (Standing Order 6.2)

- 1. Town Clerk** – Items within the report (previously circulated) were discussed. Hugo Swire would hold a Jobs Summit which would take place at the Open Door Centre on 10th October to which the Town Clerk had been invited. Members expressed concern that neither the Mayor nor the leader of the opposition had been invited. The Town Clerk would ask if they could attend. Councillor L Elson offered to provide information on funds spent by Exmouth Welfare Trust on supporting the travel costs of job seekers who had had to travel to Exeter Job Centre in the absence of a local centre.

Confirmation was given for the Town Clerk to attend the SLCC Regional Conference in November and the DALC meeting in January

'Preparing for Elections'.

2. Councillors –

- Devon County Council had been challenged on their decision to close DCC residential homes.
- The Flood and Coastal Regional Committee had agreed the 8.75 million pound funding for works to the sands off Exmouth and Dawlish. East Devon District Council had indentified further work to be undertaken on Exmouth's coastline but had decided that Exmouth would go it alone. EDDC's Overview and Scrutiny Committee in response had formed a task group to look at that decision.
- Devon County Councillors and East Devon District Councillors who were representatives of Exmouth had been asked for the future to submit written reports on matters that related to Exmouth to be received at Full Council meetings or attend if they wished to do so.
- A report would be made available so that members were aware of the service currently provided by the Exmouth Voluntary Services which was based in the Town Hall.
- Proposals had been released on the future of Community Health Services within the East Devon locality and the website had information on the current demands on Care in the Community, funding issues plus the dates of meetings that members were encouraged to attend. This topic would be placed on the agenda for the Regeneration and General Purposes meeting to be held on the 13th October.
- Notes from the recent Locality Action Group would be circulated.
- Any minutes or notes from outside meetings would in the future be circulated to members.
- EDDC's decision on the proposed new Conservation Areas within Exmouth had been delayed due to pressure on Conservation Officers time which had been taken up as a result of damage to Listed Buildings during last winter's storms. Planning decisions were being made on applications that were sited within proposed Conservation Areas without input from the conservation team sometimes to the detriment of Exmouth. A proposal was accepted for the Town Council to write to Mark Williams, EDDC Chief Executive, to request that extra staff be allocated to the conservation team.

C14/145. PLANNING COMMITTEE

Councillor S MacQueen proposed, seconded by Councillor R Turner, that the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 1st & 15th September 2014 (as previously circulated) be received.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on the 1st & 15th September 2014 be accepted.

C14/146. REGENERATION AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Councillor B Cole proposed, seconded by Councillor R Turner, that the minutes of the Regeneration and General Purposes Committee held on 15th September 2014 (as previously circulated) be received with the amendment to G14/078 iii) change 27th September to the 21st and resolution G14/081 be received.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Regeneration and General Purposes Committee held on 15th September 2014 be accepted with the amendment to G14/078 iii) change 27th September to the 21st and resolution G14/081 be adopted.

C14/147. FINANCE COMMITTEE

Councillor D Chapman proposed, seconded by Councillor T Cope, that the minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on the 15th September 2014 (as previously circulated) be received.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 15th September 2014 be adopted.

C14/148. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The recent South West Band competition held at the Pavilion was a great success.
- The Tour of Britain was an excellent event.
- The Mayor's Civic Service had raised £300 split between The Exmouth Larder and the Samaritans.
- The local Air Force Training Cadets held a presentation evening which some members attended.
- The Mayor had attended a presentation night for the Girls Trust.

C14/149. ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION PROPOSED CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO RULES AND GUIDELINES

The committee had before them proposals for amendments to current EDAA rules and EDAA guidelines (previously circulated). Following consideration Councillor T Cope proposed seconded by Councillor R Turner that the amendments be accepted and that the EDAA Rules and Guidelines be amended in line with the proposal submitted.

RESOLVED that the amendments be accepted and that the EDAA Rules and Guidelines be amended in line with the proposal submitted.

Note: Councillors S Wragg and B Taylor declared an interest as they were allotment holders.

C14/150. LIGHTSOURCE RENEWABLE ENERGY – COMMUNITY BENEFIT PAYMENT

Correspondence had been received by the Town Council (previously circulated) from Lightsource Renewable Energy Ltd for a unilateral agreement in respect of a choice of benefits should the Solar Farm at Bystock be installed. There were two options:-

- (i) To receive a one off community benefit of up to £12,000 which must be applied towards the cost of installing solar panels on a roof top of a building or buildings of the Town Council's choice within the community

or

- (ii) A payment of £1,000 per Megawatt capacity installed as part of the Development per year for 20 years (approximately £4,000 per year).

Councillor D Chapman proposed seconded by Councillor T Cope that the option (ii) be accepted.

RESOLVED that a payment of £1,000 per Megawatt capacity installed as part of the Development per year for 20 years (approximately £4,000 per year) be accepted.

Note: Councillor T Cope had earlier registered an interest for the next agenda item and left the room.

C14/151. PARISHES TOGETHER FUND ON BEHALF OF GROWING TOGETHER DEVON

The Growing Together Project had been instigated by Sidmouth Town Council to provide support for dementia residents within Care Homes to engage in table top gardening within the care home setting. A request had been made by Sidmouth for Exmouth Town Council to join then so as to gain access to the Parishes Together Fund. Exmouth care homes currently had many activities provided for dementia residents and felt that the remit should be widened to encompass other providers of dementia care. Members requested that a meeting be arranged to discuss the provision and to request the addition of other providers to the project.

Note: Councillor T Cope rejoined the meeting.

C14/152. DRAFT EAST DEVON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

A request had been received from Graeme Thompson, EDDC Planning Policy Officer, for consideration to be given to the draft proposals to East Devon's Playing Pitch Strategy which would be released on 2nd October for response by Thursday 30th November. A nomination of a councillor per ward was to be put forward to the Town Clerk by 13th October in preparation for a meeting to be arranged to consider a response to the draft proposals.

C14/153. IMPROVEMENT WORKS TO THE CLOCKTOWER

Jeff Trail, Chairman of The Exmouth War and Flagpole Memorial Committee, had submitted a proposed project document (previously circulated) for refurbishment of the seafront clock tower. Consideration was given to the proposals for replacement of the blocks that supported the clock tower which were broken and the rusty broken angle irons both of which were a Health and Safety hazard. The clock tower was also stained green and had bird excrement on it. The metal posts and the cupboard door were in need of repainting. A further request was made for metal plaques to be inserted around the base. Sponsors had been identified for supply of scaffolding, paint and protective

barriers and permission was sought from the Town Council to start the work as soon as possible. Cost to be met by the Town Council would amount to £850. Points raised by members was that would the cost of repairs and the person sanctioned to carry out the repairs be covered through the clock tower insurance policy and should a review of work identified on the survey carried out before handover by EDDC of the ownership of the tower be undertaken. Councillor D Chapman proposed seconded by Councillor R Turner that subject to the insurance points being investigated that the project be supported. Members were unanimous in their support and wished to thank volunteers and sponsors for their time and labour.

RESOLVED that subject to the insurance points being investigated that the project be supported and the sum of £850 be underwritten for repair of the clock tower.

C14/154. COUNCILLORS PERSONAL EMAIL ADDRESSES ON THE WEBSITE

The Town Clerk had requested that members gave permission for a personal email address to be posted on the Town Council's website which would enable constituents and outside bodies a method of contacting them as had been the practice in the past. The majority of Councillors wished a new email to be created on their behalf which would be generated by the Town Council email system so as to keep Town Council business separate from their personal email. The Town Clerk would contact ACS who were the company who supported the council's IT system.

C14/155. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Town Council will be held on Monday 10th November 2014 at 7pm.

The meeting concluded at 9.31pm.

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

APPENDIX

PUBLIC FORUM

Dr Pickering, spokesperson for Exmouth Quay Residents Association, spoke in respect of agenda item 13, minute reference C14/141. He gave background information on what the association felt was misuse of Shelly Beach by personalised water craft (jet skis) over the last 12 years. Correspondence had been exchanged between the association and MP Hugo Swire plus a directive from Eric Pickles who had clarified that the Local Authority were responsible for beach byelaws. EDDC's Chief Executive, Mark Williams, had that a timescale of 12 -18 months was needed for a response and that no funds were currently available.

Mr Daniel Smith, Chairperson of the Air Training Cadets at Phear Park, informed members that the building currently used by both the air cadets and army cadets was outdated and not fit for purpose. The MOD had pledged up to half a million to provide a new building for joint usage. He introduced Flight Lieutenant Richard Bagnall who was the current Officer Commanding at Phear Park who gave an overview of the building and the need for new premises to accommodate classrooms, offices, equipment stores, kitchen, toilets etc for the joint use of all cadets currently using inadequate facilities. EDDC had offered a 7 year lease which did not meet MOD criteria for a rebuild as that had to be a minimum of 25 years. The current site was viable as only half the land was required which would mean that a new building could be built whilst the old one was still in use. The Town Council were asked if they would support the request for a 25 year lease from EDDC.