

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 9th MARCH 2015 AT 7.00pm

Present:

Councillors: P Stott (Chairman)
B Cole (Vice-Chairman)
D Chapman M Chapman
T Dumper V Duval-Steer
S Gazzard P Graham
S MacQueen C Nicholas
B Taylor B Toye
R Turner M Williamson

G15/017 Apologies

Councillors J Humphreys, B Nash, I Stewart & S Wragg

G15/018 Public Forum

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

G15/019 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Regeneration and General Purposes Committee held on 26th January 2015 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

G15/020 Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 26th January 2015

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

G15/021 Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and Dispensations

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

G15/022 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

G15/023 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.

G15/024 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 – Roma Patten attended the meeting on behalf of Exmouth Community Organisations and gave feedback on the COLP meeting held the previous week. Members were appreciative of the update given on housing provision within Exmouth. Hope had been given on future provision of public toilets at the western

end of the Esplanade. Tim Spurway, EDDC Planning Officer for Neighbourhood Planning, had attended COLP and had given a presentation on the advantage of formulating a Neighbourhood Plan for Exmouth. Other resident group representatives had been invited for the subject matter. The plan would be overseen by a Steering Group that would act as an overarching body for the five wards which would feed into the main neighbourhood plan. The five Exmouth Community Organisations would meet soon to collate ideas and information. The proposed Marks and Spencer development would need to take into account the future transport interchange for that area.

Town Manager's Report – The report had been previously received by email and noted.

Flooding and Land Drainage Working Party – the notes had previously been circulated to members by email. Representatives of South West Water had not attended the meeting which had meant some matters on the agenda had not been dealt with. Concern had been raised at that meeting about the presence of underground springs at the proposed development site at Higher Marley Road.

Town Clerk – gave a verbal update:-

- Pete Scott, Growing Together project, had sent an invite to arrange for members to attend Rose Lodge on 17th or 31st March to see the desk top gardening in operation.
- EDDC's Street Names and Numbering department had written to advise that the new development of 4 houses opposite 347 Exeter Road would not be named as Lowe Gardens after the developer of that name had been unable to complete the houses. It would be now be named 1-4 Victoria Gardens, EX8 3AG. It was noted that Exmouth Town Council's request for the name Parminter to be incorporated in a new development was still in hand.
- Regeneration Project Boards topics for feedback to members:-
 - i. Design consultants had been appointed for Mamhead Slipway and the timetable would be confirmed once detailed design and cost were complete. Fish migration would need to be considered.
 - ii. The legal agreement with Grenadier was being prepared for the Watersports Centre and discussions with potential developers and plans for the road realignment continued for the rest of the site.
 - iii. Playing Pitch Strategy was out for consultation and was listed as an agenda item.
 - iv. The Transport Interchange was awaiting a planning application by Marks and Spencer.
 - v. The proposed Sea Scout building site was in the process of being cleared but abandoned boats were a problem.
 - vi. Table tennis tables were in place on the Strand.
 - vii. The Premier Inn on the seafront was now open for business and the official opening ceremony would take place on 23rd March and members had been invited to that event.

Councillors Update

DCC's HATOC had been awarded an extra £16.7 million to support road repairs within Devon, £14.1 million of which had to be used by the end of March 2015.

East Devon Locality Health Trust had advised that Wakely Consultants were to request that hospital beds at Axminster (16), Seaton (16) and Honiton (16) were all retained which was the opposite of Exmouth's hospital at home request.

G15/025 Update by the Town Clerk on Neighbourhood Planning

The Chairman advised that COLP members had been enthused by the presentation given by Tim Spurway at the COLP meeting last week. A Neighbourhood Plan would identify areas within the Town that would be designated for housing developments which would generate an income from the Community Infrastructure Levy. East Devon District Council would fund the referendum.

The Town Clerk informed members that grants would be applied for to support the process and Full Council would be asked on the 20th April to ratify the recommendation for Exmouth to proceed with a Neighbourhood Plan to enable the process to begin. Ward by ward groups would be formed under one Steering Group, an overarching body, to look at different aspects within each ward. Outside support would be engaged to assist the process and the plan would be community led. Some Town Council funding had been previously set aside to support the provision of a Neighbourhood Plan and there had been research and reference documents previously produced by community organisations that would be available.

G15/026 To note correspondence from Sulina Tullack, EDDC Section 106 Officer,

Members considered the letter and agreed that the Section 106 Working Party meet to draw up a list of what open spaces were currently available within Exmouth and what would need to be identified when new developments were built. When new play areas were identified a request for ongoing maintenance of those areas would need to be factored in.

G15/027 To Respond to East Devon District Council's Playing Pitch Strategy

Consideration was given to the EDDC's draft Playing Pitch Strategy document and discussion was focused on the current availability within the town which was felt inadequate to support sport amongst youngsters particularly those who were at professional level. Members were supportive of the paper but wished to further investigate the possibility of registering community assets and possible compulsory purchase of playing fields due to the lack of open space within Exmouth.

Following discussion Councillors wished EDDC to consider comments and recommendations listed below:-

1. EDDC to take a more flexible approach to leasehold arrangements for sports clubs in the Town, especially in the context of its aspiration to support clubs in the development of ancillary facilities. Withycombe RFC was a typical example, where funding was potentially available from the RFU for improvements to club facilities but progress was being hindered by a short leasehold tenancy. External funding was often dependent on a long

term lease being in place and Councillors wished to reiterate that time was of the essence.

2. When considering self-sufficiency, EDDC needed to acknowledge that a key component of sustainability and income generation for any club was the need for a club house which was *adjacent to the pitch(es)*. Clubs that did not have club houses near to their pitch facilities would struggle to generate income and would remain heavily dependent on public subsidies.
3. Subject to (2) above, there was support for the idea of shared use pitches but Councillors believed that EDDC needed to play a strong facilitation role in the process.
4. Knapps Cross Playing Field was not listed as an existing asset?
5. Could any more be done to protect Rolle Playing Fields from future development? (e.g. compulsory purchase order).

**G15/028 Improving Exmouth
Supplementary Street Cleaner**

On behalf of tasks listed by the Brixington Improvement Group Derek had been busy in that area. He had refurbished the Town's flagpoles and would be weed spraying during April and May. Stephen had passed his bush cutting course. Once a fortnight on a Tuesday Derek worked for Lympstone Parish Council and worked for Budleigh on Monday. Woodbury were yet to decide if they wished to take up the other available Tuesday. There could be a further opportunity to have an apprentice from Bicton College. The use of the Community Pay Back Scheme was still under consideration.

G15/029 Date of next meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for 1st June 2015 at 7pm.

The meeting ended at 8.18pm

Signed Dated
Chairman