

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 29th JUNE 2015 AT 7.00 pm

Present:

Councillors: P Stott (Chairman)
B Bailey F Caygill
D Chapman M Chapman (Ex Officio)
P Dean T Dumper
P Graham A Greenhalgh
T Hill B Nash
R Masding R Scott
B Toye M Williamson

Guest Speaker: Lewis Ward (Transport Planning Officer, Transportation and Environment, Devon County Council)

G15/043 Apologies

Councillor J Humphreys, E Gibbons & C Gough

G15/044 Public Forum

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

G15/045 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Regeneration and General Purposes Committee held on 1st June 2015 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

G15/046 Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 1st June 2015

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

G15/047 Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and Dispensations

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

G15/048 Urgent Business

The Chairman advised members that the District Council had been asked to facilitate a graffiti workshop in Phear Park and that there had been a request for the graffiti wall to be occasionally whitewashed. Members gave their unanimous approval.

The Chairman asked for a letter of thanks to be sent to East Devon District Council for their commendable and quick action in respect of the travellers in Phear Park. Members also asked for a letter of appreciation for the support given to EDDC by the Police.

G15/049 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.

G15/050 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).

- **Section 106 Working Party** - Email updates from Jamie Buckley had been previously circulated.
- **Exmouth Local Action Group** – There was concern about the increase in anti-social driving along the seafront. Members were asked to report any incidents to the Police by phoning 101 and quoting reference number EN011469/15 in order for them to collate information and take action as previously advised.
- **Town Team and Tourism Forum** – Cllr. F Caygill provided a verbal update and reported that Wilson Paints had again re-secured its Royal Warrant. The Town Team had also agreed to support the Licensed Victuallers Association with a £500 donation from its Portas Pilot funds towards the purchase of radios. This was on the basis that the radio scheme was an effective and responsible approach to preventing crime in the town, based on information sharing between businesses.
- A new gym had recently been opened at the Leisure Centre plus the new children's area in Ocean was due to be opened shortly.

G15/051 To Receive a presentation on the Dinan Way Extension Consultation

Lewis Ward, Transport Planning Officer for DCC, gave an overview of Devon County Council's proposals for the extension of Dinan Way from Hulham Road to the A376. Development within Exmouth had seen a rise in traffic using routes not intended for large volumes of through traffic. The extension would provide a more suitable route for traffic travelling to and from large areas of Exmouth. Three options were discussed:

Option 1 - The Valley Route – was the most expensive of the three options. Extensive earthworks throughout the main alignment and junction with the A376. This scheme would likely cost in the region of £10.3 million

Option 2 - The South Route - Lower Cost Option. Less earthworks and less structural work. Junction with the A376 is still a major undertaking but less so than the Valley Option. This scheme would likely cost in the region of £8.5 million.

Option 3 - to do nothing – No alternations or improvements.

Note: A question & response session followed:

Option 2 could include an access to A La Ronde.

A response from the National Trust was awaited to see if in fact it was something that they would support.

There would be resistance to any additional development along the new Dinan Way extension and a request would be made to safeguard the land from future development.

Members asked that Courtlands Cross junction be incorporated into the new roundabout.

This would be impractical as it would involve the demolition of some existing buildings/homes to facilitate that.

Would the cost of the scheme be funded through developer's contributions?

Contributions from developers would not cover the cost.

The 58 bus route would need improvement.

The current 58 route was not ideal and did not reach its full commercial potential and discussions with Stagecoach would need to take place.

Concern about public safety from traffic wanting to turn right out of Courtlands Lane onto the A376.

Feedback through experience had shown that drivers would instinctively turn left and go around the roundabout as a safe means of exiting the junction in order to turn right.

The extension would cause additional congestion problems on the A376.

The impact on the A376 would be alleviated by the potential improvements being considered for public transport. The extension wasn't just about the A376 but to provide improvement to Exmouth in general.

Members were asked to send their response to the consultation to the Town Clerk who would then collate the information and feedback to DCC. The consultation deadline was the 15th July, 2105.

G15/052 To Discuss the impact of Devon County Council's Highways Maintenance cuts in Exmouth

The Town Council had been inundated with complaints about the lack of grass cutting within the Town, with many of the complainants being unclear that it was mostly as a result of cut-backs by Devon County Council. The Town Council's initial response had been focused on identifying which authority had responsibility for various grassy areas in Exmouth but given the short notice in which the cuts had been introduced, there was virtually no capacity within the Town Council budget to respond to the cut backs within the financial year. The Town Council could look at any future requirements in the context of the 21016/17 budget setting and the Town Clerk had requested clarification from DCC and EDDC as to whom was responsible for which areas in order to scope out the level of service which would be needed. The Town Clerk had discussed with the Area West manager for EDDC Streetscene, Nick Cristo, the potential for setting up self-help schemes through Neighbourhood Charters and Road Warden schemes as he had some experience in the past of those type of schemes. In the meantime, Pat Graham had identified current priority areas for the forthcoming South West in Bloom competition which would be judged in 10 days' time. The Town Clerk said she would obtain a quote from EDDC Streetscene and if acceptable would authorise for those areas to be cut in time for judging day.

15/053 To Receive an update from the Boundary Commission Task and Finish Forum

Members agreed that the Town Clerk should confirm the Town Council's objections to the proposed recommendations on numerous grounds.

RESOLVED that a letter of objection be written on behalf of the Town Council to the proposed recommendations for Exmouth.

G15/054 To Receive an update on Devon County Council's proposed implementation of bus service reductions in Exmouth

Members were pleased to note that the proposed bus service reductions in Exmouth had been withdrawn, with the exception of the route No 7 service which had been withdrawn at 1740 on the Monday to Saturday service.

G15/055 To Discuss and Agree a response to DCLG's proposals for extending the remit of the Local Government Ombudsman to larger parish and town councils (Deadline of 30th June, 2015)

Members agreed for the Town Clerk respond to the consultation that the defining criteria for a larger parish council should be defined by an annual precept of £1m or more. Councillors were broadly in agreement with the proposals and concurred that the Ombudsman should be protecting the public purse.

G15/056 To note the adoption by East Devon District Council of the East Devon Playing Pitch Strategy 2015

The Playing Pitch Strategy was adopted at EDDC's cabinet meeting on the 17th June 2015 and it was noted that this would provide supporting evidence for the impending Neighbourhood Plan in respect of Exmouth's shortage of playing pitches.

G15/057 To Receive an update on The Strand

- (i) **Bus Shelter** - The application to provide a bus shelter had be withdrawn following an objection by EDDC. No further update had been received from Devon County Council.
- (ii) **Bike Racks** – Funding from DCC had been made available for replacement and additional racks. It was also noted that there was not enough motorbike parking spaces in Exmouth. The Town Clerk would pursue this as part of the Traffic Management Review being discussed via the Transport Partnership.

G15/058 Date of next meeting

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

The meeting ended at 9.00pm.

Signed **Dated**

Chairman

