

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, EXMOUTH ON 19TH OCTOBER 2015 AT 7.00pm

PRESENT: Councillors: D Chapman (Chairman)
C Nicholas (Vice Chairman)
M Chapman
L Elson
S Gazzard
P Graham
A Greenhalgh
J Humphreys
R Masding
B Nash
R Scott
P Stott
J Trail
M Williamson

Officers: Lisa Bowman, Town Clerk & Julie Gregory, Minute Taker.

F15/065 APOLOGIES

Cllrs B Cole, T Dumper & B Taylor

F15/066 PUBLIC FORUM

George Nightingale spoke in support of his application for financial assistance towards the cost of equipment, licence and installation costs of a new radio system to communicate potential problems throughout the pubs of Exmouth, when volunteers were not manning the CCTV system in the Town Hall.

Cllr Jeff Trail thought that this was the reason why pubs employed bouncers and felt that as this was a commercial venture. He could not support this application.

Cllr Alison Greenhalgh felt that we needed to be seen to be supporting the night time economy as it was vital to tourism, and be seen to work in partnership with the businesses. The Open Door Centre provided night pastors and Cllr Greenhalgh proposed financial assistance of £200 to help the Centre to purchase a radio for use by the night pastors.

Cllr Lynne Elson pointed out that the grants were for local groups not businesses and that she would support a grant to the Open Door Centre of £300, providing that they applied for financial assistance themselves.

The general consensus of this Committee was that they could not support the application by Mr George Nightingale in accordance with section 31A of our grant policy, but a grant by the Open Door Centre would be looked at favourably.

F15/067 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7th September 2015

The Minutes of the meeting held on 7th September 2015 were approved and signed as a correct record.

F15/068 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND DISPENSATION

Item	Councillor	Declaration type		Reason
		Pecuniary	Personal	
15.55.2	P Graham		X	Governor
15.55.2	L Elson		X	Sister to the Chair of Governors
15.55.2	B Nash		X	Community College

F14/069 URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items to be considered under urgent business.

F14/070 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

No item on the agenda necessitated the exclusion of the press or public.

F15/071 REPORT FROM THE RESPONSIBLE FINANCE OFFICER

The Responsible Financial Officer had previously circulated a Financial Report which included a Year-To-Date Budget Report and Bank Reconciliation for the financial period ending 30th September 2015. Cllr Robert Masding checked the printed bank statements against the bank reconciliation and the Charity Statements on behalf of the Committee and confirmed they matched the funds reported. The RFO reported that there were no areas for concern. There is still a large balance in the Active Saver, an investment will be made once the Investment & Borrowing Policy is ratified at the next Full Council meeting.

F15/072 To receive and consider reports and minutes of Committees, Working Parties, other local bodies and the Town clerk/Town Manager as appropriate

It was reported that EDDC were considering the transfer of beach huts back to Town Councils. This would be pursued at the appropriate time.

F15/073 TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE TOWN MANGEMENT PROJECT OFFICER ON THE 2015 MUSSEL FESTIVAL.

A report from the Town Management Project Officer was circulated. The Committee were all in agreement that the Mussel Festival had been a great success and asked that their thanks be passed on to Suzanne Birkett for all her hard work.

F15/074 TO RATIFY THE APPOINTMENT OF MICHELMORES SOLICITORS TO ASSIS WITH TOWN HALL REFURBISHMENT MATTERS.

Noted - To go to next Full Council meeting

F15/075 TO RATIFY AN INVESTMENT AND BORROWING POLICY FOR THE COUNCIL

NOTED – To go to next Full Council meeting.

F15/076 TO RATIFY EXPENDITURE OF £1,150 FOR THE TESTING OF CATINARY WIRES IN THE TOWN CENTRE.

The Committee agreed that this was urgent and necessary and authorised the Town Clerk to go ahead.

F15/077 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE PURCHASE OF A NEW VAN FOR THE SUPPLEMENTARY STRETT CLEANING TEAM.

The Town Clerk reported that a new van had been purchased identical to the van used by EDDC, which had a storage facility for carrying tools and a tow bar for towing the water bowser.

F15/078 TO REVIEW THE GAZEBO HIRE POLICY

Cllr Stott asked if the Gazebos were insured and the Town Clerk reported that they came under the Town Council policy. Concerns were raised about the use of the Gazebos in bad weather conditions and how this could be tightened up. Cllr Trail asked whether we should have an advertisement on the Gazebos advising where they could be hired from. It was agreed that this suggestion would be investigated further.

F15/079 TO RATIFY AN APPLICATION TO THE PARISHES TOGETHER FUND FOR FESTIVE LIGHTING

The Town Clerk reported that she had been invited to collaborate with other Parish Councils to invest in the purchase of Christmas Lights which could be shared by the Towns and Parishes. Sidmouth, Honiton and potentially Budleigh were on-board with the idea. Our 3 year contract with Gala Lights at a cost £12k per annum was in its last year and Cllr Stott reported that the ECL group had been disbanded so there would be no more contributions from them. The Committee agreed that this was a brilliant idea and asked the Town Clerk to do more work on this and report back to the next finance meeting.

F15/080 APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS

The committee discussed the three grant applications before them and made the recommendations shown in the table below.

Applicant	Description	Amount Requested	Amount Approved
1. Licenced Victuallers Association	Contribution towards cost of equipment, licence and installation costs.	£5,000.00	NIL
2. Exmouth Community College Cadets	Contribution towards uniform costs, transport, expansion of membership and tutoring	£4,000.00	£1,000

Exmouth Community College
Proposer: Cllr J Trail

Secunder: Cllr L Elson

F15/081 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is 30th November 2015

The meeting closed at 8.00pm

SIGNED.....
Chairman

DATED.....