

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 3rd MARCH 2014 AT 7.00pm

Present:

Councillors: P Stott (Chairman)
M Chapman (Vice-Chairman)
I Brownbill D Chapman
B Cole T Dumper
V Duval-Steer S Gazzard
P Graham A Greenhalgh
J Humphreys S MacQueen
W Nash C Nicholas
R Turner M Williamson
E Wragg S Wragg

Speakers: Victoria Hatfield for Heart of Devon; and Noel Harrower, as representative of Exmouth Community Organisations for item 8, COLP Report.

G14/016 Apologies

Councillors J Taylor, B Toye

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

The meeting was then reconvened.

G14/017 Presentation of Town Council Shield

Councillor J Humphreys presented the shield to Tim Mock in acknowledgement of the work he has done for Exmouth RNLI over the past 30 years.

G14/018 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Regeneration and General Purposes Committee held on 20th January 2014 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed Councillor M Williamson, seconded Councillor V Duval-Steer. There were no matters arising from those minutes.

G14/019 Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and Dispensations

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

G14/020 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.

G14/021 Urgent Business

There was no urgent business.

G14/022 Tourism - Victoria Hatfield, Economy and Tourism Manager for Exeter City Council spoke regarding the Heart of Devon tourism initiative.

Visit Devon is funded by Devon County Council and the 6 Area Tourism Partnerships (ATP) each contributing £6000 and Devon Association of Tourist Attractions contributing a smaller amount. The focus of work is on website, PR and marketing. The 6 ATPs in Devon work collectively to promote Devon nationally and meet on a monthly basis to develop work to promote Devon as a domestic holiday destination. There has been a lot of work recently with local and national press on the weather and the effect on the tourism industry – sending positive messages out. Heart of Devon is the Tourism Partnership and local membership organisation for the areas of East Devon, Exeter, Mid Devon and parts of Teignbridge and Dartmoor.

There were 3.9 million day visitors and 513,000 overnights trips in 2012 and they spent £244,513,000 in East Devon - £37.4 million on accommodation, £52.6m on shopping, £79.7m on eating out, £27.5m on visiting attractions and entertainment, £37.4m on travel in the area and £9.5m on visiting friends and relatives. This spend supports 6,484 jobs in the local economy.

With the Tour de France starting in England in 2014 and with the development of the Exe Estuary Trail the Heart of Devon plans to focus on activity holidays, especially cycling. The activity campaign for 2014 will comprise promotion of walking & cycling routes, fishing and water sports and a small charity ride.

The Rugby World Cup matches at Exeter take place on 29 September, 7 October and 11 October 2015. Heart of Devon Tourism Partnership is developing a ‘how to’ guide for local businesses for how they can promote the Rugby World Cup; businesses need to be clear on what they can do, due to limitations with international sponsorship.

If 50% of the people attending matches stay overnight in the Heart of Devon for all 3 games it would generate revenue of £4.9 million.

Councillor E Wragg:

What is Heart of Devon doing to promote the Tour of Britain and local food?

Nothing has been officially announced.

Do you have a connection with transition towns?

No but we would be delighted to be involved.

Does the Heart of Devon website supersede the need for TICs?

TIC in Exeter is paid for by the City Council, as they believe the service provision is still warranted as part of the public service.

Councillor S Gazzard

Will Exeter Chiefs, Exeter City Council or the Tourism Partnership be meeting with the Town Council in Exmouth?

The long list of venues for teams will be announced in September 2014.

Councillor S Wragg

What would be the cost of putting on a big screen event?

The fan zone in Exeter will cost £250,000.

Councillor B Nash

The date of the charity cycle ride through Exmouth?

Not yet agreed but should be early summer.

The Chairman thanked Victoria Hatfield for a most interesting talk.

G14/023 COLP Report - Mr Noel Harrower reported on the proceedings of the COLP meeting held 28th February 2014.

Flooding and Development – COLP felt that it is important that all development in Exmouth is coordinated – traffic flow, parking, flood defences, drainage, improvements at Camperdown Creek and signage and routes for visitors and cyclists.

Traffic Orders – COLP would like to see orders as soon as possible, to prevent car parking in Tower Street and Bath Street impeding the link between the town centre and Madeira Walk.

Upper Lovering / Goodmore's Farm – COLP supported the extension of Dinan Way to relieve the town centre of traffic and proposed that if a new supermarket in Exmouth is needed this would be the best site. A Park and Ride service with a re-routed no 57 bus had been suggested.

Sustainable Communities Act – Transition Town Exmouth have submitted a proposal under the Sustainable Communities Act to EDDC. Councillor P Stott asked for Exmouth Town Council backing for this levy on large shops. The full proposal will be discussed at the Town Council after circulation of COLP minutes. **Action Town Clerk**

G14/024 Strand Bus & Civic Shelter

Councillor P Stott proposed that standing orders 16.12 & 16.13 be suspended.

Proposed P Stott

Seconded Mark Williamson

Carried

The proposed design for a bus and civic shelter was discussed in principal.

Councillor E Wragg said that she had no problems with the design but raised concerns from DCC officers that it had no side protection for passengers.

Councillor W Nash stated that in 2012 and 2013 the full Town Council had approved the concept and the principal needed to be agreed today so that the funding would not be lost. Councillor J Humphreys said that it was vital for the community to have a covered civic area.

Councillor S Gazzard stated that in the last survey the people of Exmouth had chosen a bus shelter. Is it right that money can be found for an extravagant shelter at times and respectfully requested the funds are used for more urgent purposes. The council should not clutter up The Strand with a very large building. Transfer the bus shelter across the road to this site.

Councillor M Williamson said that we should agree the proposal in principle, that it was not the time to be turning down investment in the town. The funding was coming from East Devon District Council and Devon County Council who are currently working on the proposals.

Councillor A Greenhalgh said that the results of the survey by the working group in 2012 showed that less than 50% of respondents requested a civic stage and bus shelter, less than 50% wanted a bus shelter and 15 – 20% had no view on the subject. It was not true to say that the majority of people only wanted a bus shelter.

It was proposed that the Strand Bus and Civic Shelter proposal be accepted

Proposer: Councillor P Stott

Seconded: Councillor W Nash

Amendment to the proposal that there be only as bus shelter

Proposer: Councillor S Wragg

Seconded: Councillor S Gazzard

Voting for the amendment: 4 for, 12 against

Votes were recorded as follows:-

Voted for:- Councillors S Gazzard, I Brownbill, E Wragg and S Wragg.

Voted against:- Councillors D Chapman, M Chapman, B Cole, V Duval-Steer, A Greenhalgh, J Humphreys, B Nash, C Nicholas, P Stott, S MacQueen, R Turner and M Williamson.

Abstain:- Councillors T Dumper, P Graham

RESOLVED that the amendment was LOST

Voting for the proposal: 12 for, 4 against

Voted for:- Councillors D Chapman, M Chapman, B Cole, V Duval-Steer, A Greenhalgh, J Humphreys, B Nash, C Nicholas, P Stott, S MacQueen, R Turner and M Williamson.

Voted against:- Councillors S Gazzard, I Brownbill, E Wragg and S Wragg.

Abstain:- Councillors T Dumper, P Graham

RESOLVED that the Strand Bus and Civic Shelter proposal be ACCEPTED.

G14/025 Exmouth Transport Partnership

Councillor M Williamson spoke to the notes of the meeting held 9th January 2014. A talk was given by Chris Irwin director of TravelWatch Southwest which Councillor M Williamson found inspirational.

G14/026 Community Resilience

The report from TAFF was circulated. Councillor M Chapman said that they were waiting for information from EDDC for the next meeting.

G14/027 Improving Exmouth

i) Supplementary street cleaner

The worker has been off sick with a pulled muscle but has now returned to work. He has cleaned bus stops and street signs in Dinan Way and Ashleigh Road, cleared litter in Hulham Road and cleared branches from culverts in Lime Kiln Lane.

ii) Refurbishment

CP will meet with County Councillors to discuss locality budget funding.

Councillors E Wragg and S Wragg left the Chamber at this point in the meeting.

G14/028 Reports from other Local Bodies and the Town Clerk as appropriate

a) Tourism Forum update

The Tourism Forum met on 27th January with the Town Team to discuss ideas for tourist information in Exmouth, facilitated by former Mayor Darryl Nicholas who will be reporting back with ideas by the end of April.

b) Reports from Councillors

Councillor M Williamson reported that there will be an oral hearing of the East Devon Local Plan at EDDC at 9.30am on Wednesday to discuss Exmouth.

Councillor W Nash reported back from the Exe Estuary Forum that in the next 10 years 47,000 houses are expected to be built within 10km of the Exe Estuary, an increase of 26%.

Councillor T Dumper told the meeting that Fair Trade Fortnight runs from Feb 24th to March 8th with a special event in the Town Hall on 6th March.

Councillor S Gazzard reported that EDDC voted in support of the proposal to move to Skypark. He personally voted against.

Cllr M Chapman reported from the Planning Committee that South West Water had commented on the plans for Goodmore's Farm that the present sewers would not take the development.

Councillor P Stott reported that EDDC is increasing its housing stock with an additional 4 flats in Exmouth and looking at buying back council houses. It takes the sale of 4 houses to fund the buyback of one.

G14/029 Date of next meeting

The next meeting was to be held on 17th March 2014 at 7pm to which all councillors are invited.

The Meeting ended at 21:05 pm.

Signed Dated
Chairman

Appendix

Mr Ron Roberts spoke regarding the proposed structure in The Strand. He said that the people of Exmouth had said in a past survey that they did not want anything more than a bus shelter and that the Town Council should not go against the wishes of the town. He also commented on the sound quality of recordings of council meetings and asked that councillors should be aware of the background noise generated.