

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 23rd JUNE 2014 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
J Humphreys S MacQueen
C Nicholas I Stewart
B Toye R Turner
M Williamson E Wragg
S Wragg

Councillor L Elson attended for urgent item G14/056ii.

Guest Speakers: John Smith, Head of Services for Communities for DCC and Chris Launder, Senior Supervisor of Exmouth Library. Tom Vaughan, Neighbourhood Highways Manager for DCC, to speak on item G14/056 item 1. Roy Pryke, as representative of Exmouth Community Organisations Panel, for item G14/059, COLP Report.

The Chairman welcomed Lisa Bowman, the Town Council's new Town Clerk and guest speakers to the meeting. Two volunteer Rangers, Jan Gannaway and Patrick Kalaugher were also present in the Public Gallery to answer any questions raised during item G14/058.

G14/051 Apologies

Councillors B Hughes, B Nash and J Taylor.

G14/052 Public Forum

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

G14/053 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Regeneration and General Purposes Committees held on 28th April 2014 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. There were no matters arising from those minutes.

G14/054 Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and Dispensations

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

G14/055 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.

G14/056 Urgent Business

There were two items of urgent business.

i. Bus shelter on the Strand

The background to the provision of a building which would serve as a bus shelter and covered area for speakers was given to members. The original design had been put forward to the Town Council but was felt too large for the Strand and a request for a bus shelter type construction to be considered as an alternative. The bus shelter 3 canopy design subsequently submitted by the Town Council was felt unsuitable as a protective shelter for the public as it had no sides. Tom Vaughan stated that further consultation had taken place between DCC's Design Team and the manufacturers who could provide vertical sections to screen the impact of bad weather conditions together with a transposed design to provide a protected area, to include electric, facing the Strand. The revised design would be sent to the Town Council for final approval. The total cost would be £90,000 funded two thirds by Devon County Council and a third by East Devon District Council.

The Chairman thanked Tom Vaughan for his attendance at the meeting.

ii. Davey Court Residential Home

Councillor L Elson informed members that Devon County Council had announced that Davey Court would close within 18 months which would lead to whether there was enough capacity to care for people with dementia in the Exmouth area particularly as there were also two private dementia homes closing in Exmouth with a loss of 50 beds. It was estimated that there would now only be between 125 and 135 dementia beds in the Exmouth/Budleigh area to serve an ageing population. Devon County Council had advised that a dementia placement could be as far away as 40 miles which would cause a problem to visitors, particularly elderly relatives. Closure of Davey Court and its day centre facility was a deplorable action, particularly as dementia residents could not always safely be integrated into most residential homes.

Discussion took place which asked why the planning system made no allowance for Section 106 money when sheltered housing applications were approved to be put aside for provision of care in later life and why the Health Authority were not statutory consultees on such applications.

Councillor L Elson proposed seconded by Councillor S Gazzard that a letter be sent from the Town Council to MP Hugo Swire to request that the NHS be considered as a statutory consultee for all major housing applications and a contribution from all developments that are age restrictive identify a contribution to the NHS specifically for the use in provision of care for the elderly. Members gave unanimous support to this proposal.

Note: Councillors C Nicholas, E Wragg and M Williamson declared a personal interest urgent item ii.

Councillor L Elson left the meeting.

G14/057 Devon County Council Reviews

John Smith, Head of Services for Communities for DCC and Chris Launder, Senior Supervisor of Exmouth Library attended for this item and gave an overview of Devon County Council's review on the provision of library facilities within Devon. There were currently 50 static libraries, 3 prison libraries, some mobile libraries plus online and outreach library services. Within Devon County Council's review to save money Library Services were earmarked to save £1.5 million over the next 3 years. The way people read was changing and a need to modernise the library service was identified in the current proposal which had a feedback date of 17th July 2014.

A multi-purpose community type centre for Exmouth, similar to those provided in Newton Abbot and Cullompton, had been identified as a replacement for Exmouth's current library which was unsuitable for that type of community provision. A building would need to be identified or purpose built which would fit that need and members put forward several suggestions; Exebank/Danby site, Rolle College campus, Tesco extension land at Salterton Road or the Town Hall. Barry Parsons, Locality Officer for DCC, was proactive within Devon in working with Town Councils to promote locality hubs and may be a useful contact in lobbying for a central, easy accessible building in reasonable order with enough space and flexibility to suit its usage within the town. The YMCA had shown an interest in locating with a hub in the town.

The Chairman thanked the speakers for attending the meeting.

G14/058 NCN Route 2 Cycle Route

The chairman welcomed Volunteer Rangers for Sustrans, Jan Gannaway and Patrick Kalaugher, who were present in the Public Gallery should members wish to ask any questions in respect of the proposed cycle route through the town which was to be considered by the committee. The Town Council had received a letter from Paul Hawkins, Devon and Torbay Area Manager for Sustrans (distributed to members at the meeting) which gave details of the suggested routes from the seafront to the Strand and from the station to the Strand. All members wished to support proposed route.

G14/059 COLP Report

Mr Roy Pryke, a representative of Colp gave feedback from the recent meeting and the notes would follow.

- i. **Exmouth Traffic Order Review** was to take place in 2015 which would tie in with the construction of the new Mamhead Slipway. The review would focus on parking on streets in particular possible reduction of double yellow lines and loading bays. Colp members wished to request that a wider review was undertaken to look at wider traffic issues within the town.
- ii. **Transport Initiative Hub** proposals would be discussed at Full Council on the 21st July 2014. Devon County Council had some funding to support the hub but Colp members felt that provision of the transport hub should fit within the current Masterplan. They were aware that there were improvements planned for the approach to the bus and rail stations and the underpasses.
- iii. **Terms of Reference and the Constitution for Colp** needed to be reviewed as only three of the original groups attended the meetings.

G14/060 Police Enquiry Desk

The committee were asked for a response to the closure of the Police enquiry desk facility within the town. Concern was shown at the accessibility by phone of the current police enquiry system and whether there was a possibility of a police provision being introduced alongside a Tourist Information Service similar to the facility provided in Dawlish. Agreement was made that this item be put on the next Local Action Group agenda for further discussion.

G14/061 Magnolia Centre Clock

The Magnolia clock was in need of replacement or refurbishment. Councillor R Turner had been approached by the proprietor of Tempus in Albion Hill who was keen to assist. This avenue to be pursued.

G14/062 Imperial Recreation Ground

The ground was in poor condition and had signs of glass protruding within the grass which was a result of revetment work carried out last year. An event was programmed to take place in August and the ground needed to be made safe.

Councillor E Wragg proposed, seconded by Councillor S MacQueen that the Town Council write to East Devon District Council and request that contractors revisit the site and make good the ground. A copy of the letter to be sent to EDDC Environmental Health and Mark Williams, Chief Executive.

RESOLVED that the Town Council write to East Devon District Council and request that contractors revisit the site and make good the ground. A copy of the letter to be sent to EDDC Environmental Health and Mark Williams, Chief Executive.

G14/063 Art Signage

Progression was being made with the provision of art signage around the town. Amanda Pitchford of DCC, had been consulted about location of the signs and the artist was overseeing the metalwork and installation.

G14/064 Update on Events in Exmouth

- (i) **The Edge Cup** was very successful but there had not been much wind.
- (ii) **The Velo Vintage bike ride** had been a very good event.
- (iii) **Season of Sundays** in Manor Gardens was to commence on Sunday 29th June 2014.
- (iv) **World War I Commemoration** would take place on the 4th August from 11am until 6pm in conjunction with Exmouth Museum and others within the Strand. Bay fm would promote any contributors to the event.
- (v) **Surf Lifesaving Championships** would take place from 16th – 23rd August and was being organised jointly between EDDC, DCC, RNLI and the Royal Marines would provide the catering.
- (vi) **The Tour of Britain Cycle Race** would start in the Strand, Exmouth, on the 11th September and the date of the next technical meeting to be arranged.
- (vii) **Kite Festival 2015** – date to be confirmed

G14/065 Exmouth Transport Partnership

Notes for the meeting held on 8th May 2014 had been distributed. A request was made in respect of item 9 in that the Town Clerk investigate whether any action had been taken locally in connection with the Government's Deregulation Bill in respect of licensed minicabs.

G14/066 Improving Exmouth

i. Supplementary Street Cleaner

The committee were informed that Derek would be going into hospital for an operation and would be absent from work for a minimum of 2 weeks. Members wished to pass on their good wishes for his stay in hospital and a good recovery. They wished it to be noted that he had been a great asset to the Town Council as he had worked long hours during the recent week-long festival.

Members had before them the Street Cleaner's updated list of works (circulated at the meeting). This document was becoming very unmanageable and agreement was made for it to be trimmed down into a more easily readable list of more current tasks achieved and work to be carried out in conjunction with Streetscene.

Derek had completed his weed spraying course and was awaiting his protective health and safety equipment before he was available to take on any weed spraying tasks. He is awaiting confirmation of a training date for the strimming course.

ii. Refurbishment – Bus Shelters

Progress was being made on moving to the next stage and a source for large poster size prints had been found.

G14/067 Reports from other Local Bodies and the Town Clerk as appropriate

a) Exmouth Regeneration Board

Met on the 16th June 2014. Mamhead Slipway plans would be submitted by September. A developer for part of the Splash redevelopment had registered their interest. The seafront wall was in the process of being repaired. The discrepancy of some telephone numbers on seafront signs was being addressed along with the possibility of adding the new Tourist Information Services telephone number on them. The Sea Cadets Association would soon be putting their planning application in for consideration. The tender for a cafe at Orcombe Point had been released with a view to it being in place in 2015.

b) Town Management Panel

The notes of the Town Management Panel were noted.

c) Reports from Councillors

- South West in Bloom judges would visit the town on Friday 4th July during the morning. Concern was voiced at the amount of litter near Exmouth Football Club grounds fronting Marine Way.
- The Flooding and Drainage Working Party had been made aware that works would be carried out in Exmouth in Camperdown Terrace, St Johns Road and the sewerage outfall at Maer rocks would be investigated.

- The Local Action Group had reported the presence of people collecting money by means of buckets who may not be licensed to do so in the town. A loophole in the law meant that this issue proved difficult to deal with by EDDC Licensing Officers but the Police were happy to assist if needed.
- An email had been received from Hugo Swire in respect of Job Centre provision within Exmouth and would be sent to councillors in the information bulletin.
- Zero tolerance would be shown to people sleeping rough within the town. A beggar had appeared back in the Magnolia Centre.
- The Town Council would look to reintroduce a newsletter in local paper which would initially address some misconceptions that local residents may have on which council provides which services and then be a method of informing the public of key messages that the Town Council felt would be helpful for them to have knowledge of.
- Exmouth Tidy Group was concerned about the use of portable BBQ's on the beach particularly as there had been an incident last summer of a child who had received badly burnt feet from sand that had supported one. There had also been instances when disposable BBQ's had been disposed of in EDDC litter bins. A request to be made to EDDC to erect signs by the wall/litter bins to advise users to extinguish the BBQ's and cool the sand with sea water before disposal.
- Suzanne Birkett had been experiencing severe back pain and was absent from the office whilst awaiting a MRI scan that weekend to identify the cause. All members sent their good wishes.

G14/068 Date of next meeting

The next meeting was to be held on 1st September 2014 at 7pm.

The Meeting ended at 9.05 pm.

Signed Dated
Chairman