

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, EXMOUTH ON MONDAY 17TH FEBRUARY 2014 AT 7.00 P.M.

PRESENT: Councillors: Mayor J Humphreys (Chairman)
Deputy Mayor W Nash (Vice Chairman)
I Brownbill D Chapman
M Chapman B Cole
T Cope T Dumper
V Duval-Steer L Elson
S Gazzard P Graham
A Greenhalgh S MacQueen
M Mitchell P Stott
B Taylor B Toye
R Turner M Williamson
E Wragg S Wragg

Officers: Colin Poole, Town Clerk & Julie Gregory, Minute Taker.

C14/011. APOLOGIES

Councillors C Nicholas, I Stewart & J Taylor

The Chairman opened the meeting by expressing concern for our neighbours at Dawlish and his thanks to the following for their hard work during the recent bad weather:

The Town Council clerk and his staff for working additional hours handing out sandbags and alerting other authorities to incidents; Devon & Cornwall Constabulary; EDDC Streetscene; DCC Highways and other voluntary organisations.

Councillor Steve Gazzard endorsed the above sentiments and asked that Bay FM & the Exmouth Voice be added to that list in recognition of the role they played in getting important information disseminated quickly. The Chairman said he was very pleased to do so.

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

C14/012. COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the Town Council held on 16th December 2013 and 6th January 2014 were agreed.

Proposed: Cllr D Chapman

Seconded: Cllr P Stott

C14/013. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

The following Councillors declared interests:

Item	Councillor	Declaration type		Reason
		Pecuniary	Personal	
14/019.a	E. Wragg		x	Support through DCC locality budget

14/019.b	S.Gazzard		x	Represents Town Council on their Committee
14/019.c	B. Cole		x	Friends of EMTC
	P. Graham		x	Friends of EMTC
14/019.d	B. Cole		x	Supporters of Centre Stage
	T Cope		x	Supporters of Centre Stage
	P. Graham		x	Supporters of Centre Stage
	B. Toye		x	Supporters of Centre Stage

C14/014. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were two agenda items to be dealt with item 15 & 16: Exclusion of the press and public under the Public Bodies (Admission to meetings) Act 1960 – publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted – staff matters.

C14/015. URGENT BUSINESS UNDER STANDING ORDER 6.2

There were no items to be dealt with under urgent business. Cllr S Gazzard asked why his request to discuss the sand dunes could not be taken. The Clerk advised that he had discussed this request with the Chairman but concluded that as an EDDC Councillor, Cllr Gazzard should be raising such matters himself directly with EDDC's Beach Safety Officer and it was not a matter the Town Council needed to expedite on his behalf. Cllr Gazzard expressed disappointment at that decision.

C14/016. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 10

There were no questions under Standing Order 10.

C14/017. REPORT FROM MR AND MRS DOBBS

The Mayor was very pleased to welcome Mr & Mrs Dobbs who gave a talk on their recent visit to Exmouth Western Australia (attached) where they kindly presented a plaque to the Shire Council on our behalf. Mr & Mrs Dobbs then presented a plaque to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor on behalf of the Acting Deputy Shire President Cllr Stuart Fitzgerald.

The Mayor thanked Mr & Mrs Dobbs for their fascinating talk and for having facilitated the sharing of expressions of friendship between the only two towns in the world called Exmouth.

C14/018. S106 UPDATE

Littleham Multi-Use Games Area

Cllr Greenhalgh reported that David Cook Senior Engineer from EDDC had received 3 quotes and it was hope that the MUGA would be in place by the summer months.

Proposed: Cllr A Greenhalgh

Seconded: Cllr D Chapman

Seafront Showers

The Council were asked to consider setting aside £2750 in 2013/14 as a sinking fund to cover the revenue costs of a shower on Exmouth seafront, on condition EDDC meets any costs over and above that figure. Concerns regarding legionella disease were raised and the Council asked that the Town Clerk contact EDDC for information on their maintenance and testing procedures.

Proposed: Cllr W Nash

Seconded: Cllr A Greenhalgh

C14/019. SLA/GRANT APPLICATIONS

Grant Application	Total	Proposed	Seconded
a. Littleham Family Activity Centre	1000.00	MW	DC
3-year funding agreements	Total	Proposed	Seconded
b. Age Concern	1200.00	SG	MW
c. Exmouth Musical Theatre Company	1000.00	DC	SG
d. Centre Stage	1000.00	DC	SG

C14/020. STRAND BUS AND CIVIC SHELTER

Consideration of this item was held over to a future meeting in order to allow guidance to be given on predetermination.

C14/021. ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

The Council were asked to consider arrangements for the Annual Town Meeting on 31st March 2014 and to whether an outside speaker on a current topic of interest was arranged.

RESOLVED that the Chairman give his annual report of the work achieved by the Town Council throughout the year, and then open the meeting for questions from the public.

Proposed: Cllr S Wragg

Seconded: Cllr S MacQueen

C14/022. PLANNING COMMITTEE

Councillor L Elson proposed, seconded by Councillor R Turner that the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 6th, 20th January and 3rd February 2014 (as previously circulated) be received.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on the 6th & 20th January and 3rd February 2014 (as previously circulated) be received.

C14/023. REGENERATION AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Councillor. P Stott proposed, seconded by Councillor M Chapman moved that the minutes of the Regeneration and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 20th January 2014 (as previously circulated) be received.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Regeneration and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 20th January 2014 be accepted.

C14/024. FINANCE COMMITTEE

Declarations of Interest previously declared were noted subject to the following correction:

- Minute 14/002 under 14/009.e declaration of Personal Interest should read as Members of the WEB health and Care Reference Group.

Councillor D Chapman proposed, seconded by Councillor T Cope moved that the minutes of the meeting held on the 3rd February 2014 (as previously circulated) be received and the recommendations and all resolutions contained between F14/004 and F14/010 inclusive be adopted

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 3rd February 2014 be received and that all resolutions contained between F14/004 to F14/010 be adopted.

C14/025. REPORTS FROM OTHER LOCAL BODIES AND THE TOWN CLERK as appropriate (Standing Order 6.2)

- 1. Town Clerk** – No additional report
- 2. Arts Manager** – The content of the report were noted and accepted
- 3. Town Management Project Officer** - The content of the report were noted and accepted
- 4. Councillors** –
 - Cllr E Wragg reported that DCC were increasing their budget by 1.9%, however she felt there would be lots of hardship ahead with the vulnerable and young suffering.
 - Cllr S Gazzard raised concerns with regard to EDDC moving to Skypark – he considered this was a bad move, with an adverse impact on Exmouth.
 - Cllr P Stott reported that Cllr J Elson was leading an EDDC think tank regarding Youth provision in the light of the DCC consultation on cutting the service.
 - Cllr M Williamson reported that oral hearings have begun on the East Devon Local Plan, discussions on the Exmouth Strategy section of that document would be taking place on Wednesday 5th March 2014
 - Cllr M Mitchell reported that a plaque in memory of Cllr Jean Mitchell would be unveiled on Saturday 29th March at 10am in the Manor Gardens, and a personal bench on behalf of the family in Phear Park later the same day.

Cllr Steve Gazzard asked the Council to consider the following motion:

Exmouth Job Centre:

“Exmouth Town Council recognises that Exmouth’s Job Centre was closed 4 years ago as a result of government policy. Exmouth is the largest town in Devon and for a town of our size not to have a Job Centre is totally unacceptable. The closure has and is causing severe hardship for those who have to claim benefits and ‘sign on’ in Exeter. We strongly urge the Department for Works and Pensions to undertake an urgent review of their decision to close Exmouth’s Job Centre and seriously look at reinstating it or taking up one of the empty shops in Exmouth to provide a much-needed service for the unemployed people of Exmouth and surrounding areas.”

Proposer: Cllr Steve Gazzard

Seconded: Cllr L Elson

Cllr Steve Gazzard asked the Council to consider the following motion:

Orcombe Point cliffs:

“It is with sadness that Exmouth Town Council acknowledges the tragic deaths from the cliffs at Orcombe Point, Exmouth. We strongly urge the National Trust in conjunction with East Devon District Council and Devon County Council to erect information signs to inform people of the contact details of the Samaritans.”

Proposer: Cllr Steve Gazzard

Following discussions it was agreed that while the Council were united in sympathy they felt that they were inadequate to decide on this without further advice from people with experience like the Samaritans.

The Press and Public were asked to leave the room whilst agenda items 15 and 16 were discussed.

C14/026. HR GROUP

The minute for this item is held by the Chairman of the HR Group.

C14/027 Staff Salary Scale 2014/15

The Town Clerk had circulated for approval a report on the current pay scales of staff and the recommended pay scale increases for some staff for 2014/15. This was approved subject to the HR Group satisfying itself that the pay rate for Reception/Administrator and the Casual Worker were correct.

Proposer: Cllr W Nash

Seconded: Cllr M Williamson

C14/028. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Town Council will be held on Monday 14th April 2014.

The meeting concluded at 8.45 pm.

Signed..... Date.....
(Chairman)

APPENDIX

PUBLIC FORUM

1 - Mr B Bird

Mr Bird raised the issue of tourist information in Exmouth. He is supportive also of a visitor centre. Former Mayor Darryl Nicholas is working on a solution for Tourist Information. However, there needs to be an interim solution. Mr Bird suggested re-orientating the duties of the town council staff to address this. He highlighted a possible location in the Strand for a tourist information centre. There would need to be a more permanent solution which would arise from the work of Mr Nicholas. All potential funding sources need to be researched. The Council budget of £500k and reserves of £200k, plus loans from the Public Works Loans Board could all be applied to this. Support for the tourism industry is essential and we must support it if Exmouth is to be the number one destination in Devon.

2 - Mr R Roberts

Expressed his concern that the Council were to discuss a combined bus and civic shelter. He highlighted that the previous thatched shelter on the Strand was not for the purposes of waiting for a bus and therefore to refer to it as a bus shelter was a glaring fault. He described himself as appalled that the council were still beating a drum for a civic shelter. He has not seen the design but was concerned that the proposal was for a building and insisted that 'the people' did not want any structure on the Strand.

3 - (The Chairman allowed the following speaker to remain anonymous)

Regarding Davy Court Residential Home: Expressed concerns regarding the closure of this specialist home for people with dementia and asked the Town Council for their support to fight this closure. The Mayor and Councillor E Wragg confirmed that they supported this centre when they stood at the County Council elections.

This subject will be discussed at a special meeting of the General Purposes and Regeneration Committee on 17th March 2014.