

# EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, EXMOUTH ON MONDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2014 AT 7.00 P.M.

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

Officers: Christopher Holland, Sidmouth Town Clerk (covering for Lisa Bowman, new Town Clerk who starts on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2014) & Sue Cody, Minute Taker.

**Guest Speakers:** Dr Richard Mejzner & Annabel Blee, representing Woodbury/Exmouth/Budleigh Stroke Services.

**Note:** No recording of the meeting would take place as the recording device was not working.

The chairman welcomed Mr Christopher Holland, Sidmouth Town Clerk, who had attended the meeting whilst the Town Council awaited the arrival of the new Town Clerk, Lisa Bowman.

The speed march through the town by 850 Royal Marine troops took place to celebrate 350 Anniversary of the Royal Marines.

The Mayor had laid a wreath at the Phear Park memorial on Sunday in honour of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D Day.

Agenda item 10, Work-Life Balance Policy had been withdrawn as no previous consultation had been held with Town Council staff members.

### **C14/082. RELOCATION OF WOODBURY/EXMOUTH/BUDLEIGH STROKE SERVICES**

Dr Richard Menjzner thanked members for the invitation to speak at the meeting and gave an overview of the current provision of stroke services within East Devon. Budleigh Stroke Unit had relocated to Exmouth Hospital last November. Exeter, Mid Devon and East Devon were currently consulting on the best option for provision of stroke services within that region. There were two quality stroke units, one in Exmouth and one in Crediton, which were not geographically best

placed to some of the catchment area and too distant from the main acute stroke unit in Exeter. Quality Care Standards wished targets to meet at least 95% for early supported discharge from stroke admissions by reducing the time patients spent on the stroke unit by providing rehabilitation at home together with the necessary qualified staff to support; Physiotherapists, Occupational Therapists, Speech Therapists and specialised nursing care. The approximate cost of the rehabilitation at home scheme would be £500,000.

A possible solution to provision of more effective stroke care was seen as moving the current stroke provision of 12 beds currently sited in Exmouth hospital to Exeter Wonford hospital near the acute stroke unit thus releasing beds in Exmouth for medical use and day case surgery. Several points were raised by members who were concerned that Exmouth Hospital may close as a result of the loss of the Stroke Unit under a cost cutting exercise.

The Chairman thanked both guests for attending the meeting.

**C14/083. APOLOGIES**

Councillors A Greenhalgh, J Taylor & E Wragg

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

**The meeting was then reconvened.**

**C14/084. COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

The minutes of the Town Council held on 19th May 2014 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Proposer: Councillor M Williamson    Seconder: Councillor S Gazzard

**C14/085. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS**

The following Councillors declared interests:

Item	Councillor	Declaration type		Reason
		Disclosable Pecuniary	Personal	
5	S Wragg	X		He was married to Cllr. E Wragg.
	S Gazzard		X	He was interviewed in connection with the matter.
	C Nicholas		X	Signed the complaint.
14	B Nash		X	National Coastwatch member

	L Elson		X	Hospiscare, her employer has a stall at Country Fayre.
	S MacQueen V Duval- Steer B Nash M Williamson		X	Country Fayre – attend the event as Parish Cllrs.
	P Graham I Brownbill		X	Exe Sailing Club members

**C14/086. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

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, publication of minutes of a closed meeting. Agenda item 15.5 HR Group due to personnel matters being discussed; item 16: To confirm as permanent the current temporary appointment to the position of Mayoral Secretary.

**Note:** Councillor S Wragg declared an interest and left the room.

**C14/087. CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINT AGAINST COUNCILLOR EILEEN WRAGG**

Councillor D Chapman proposed, seconded by Councillor M Williamson: “In the spirit of co-operation and good will, I would like to propose this council is minded not to accept the recommendations within item 5 of this agenda.” The Chairman added that he acknowledged and had noted the findings of the Standards Sub-Committee and supported this motion. On a vote, members voted 20 for, with one councillor who chose to abstain.

**RESOLVED that Exmouth Town Council did not impose sanctions as listed under agenda item 5 and that no further action be taken.**

**Note:** Councillor S Wragg returned to the room.

**C14/088. URGENT BUSINESS UNDER STANDING ORDER 6.2**

There were no items to be dealt with under urgent business.

**C14/089. TOURIST INFORMATION UPDATE**

The chairman announced that Suzanne Birkett, Town Management Project Officer, had been taken ill at the end of last week so had been unable to write an update on progress with the provision of tourist information services within the town. Finance Committee had agreed a sum of £3,500 be released to purchase a pavilion type building to house the services. The building had been sourced at a cost of £2,500 and would be sited on 27<sup>th</sup> June. Furniture, shelving, leaflet holders and IT equipment would be needed plus staff. There was a possibility that undergraduates who were to study tourism may be available to assist and there were already a list of willing volunteers coming forward. A member of the Town

Council would initially need to be released from their current duties to support new staff and volunteers.

**C14/090. RAILINGS AROUND THE WAR MEMORIAL**

The notes (previously circulated) of the Exmouth War Memorial meeting were considered. It was established that the request for railings around the memorial was no longer supported. Money had been put aside by the Town Council for the design and manufacture of the railings. The Royal British Legion thought that wreath racks would be an ideal solution to the display of wreaths which would also serve to protect the memorial from staining red from the poppy colorant. Councillor D Chapman proposed seconded by Councillor T Cope to withhold the current pledge of funding for the railings in order to consider a grant request for wreath racks which would be made via the Finance Committee before referral to Full Council for approval. Unanimous support was given to this proposal.

**C14/091. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 10**

There were no questions under Standing Order 10.

**C14/092. WORK LIFE BALANCE POLICY**

This item had been removed from the agenda.

**C14/093. PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Councillor S MacQueen proposed, seconded by Councillor L Elson that the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 12th & 27<sup>th</sup> May 2014 (as previously circulated) be received.

Councillor S MacQueen advised that there were no matters that had arisen at the Planning Committee meeting held that evening.

**RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> May 2014 (as previously circulated) be received.**

**C14/094. REGENERATION AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

The minutes of the last meeting held on the 28<sup>th</sup> April 2014 had been approved at the Annual Town Council meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2014.

**C14/095. FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Councillor D Chapman proposed, seconded by Councillor V Duval-Steer, that the minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on the 27<sup>th</sup> May 2014 (as previously circulated) be received. The grant requests identified under minute F14/030b would be considered as the next agenda item.

**RESOLVED that the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2014 (as previously circulated) be received.**

**C14/096. GRANTS**

To consider the grants below that had been held over from the previous Finance Committee on the 27<sup>th</sup> May so that more information could be provided to members.

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>	<b>Amount Awarded</b>
National Coastwatch	New Webcam & relocation costs	Up to £2500	£1500
SW Brass Band	15 <sup>th</sup> Exmouth Brass Band Festival	£396	£400
Littleham Association of Residents and Friends	Contribution towards cost of Country Fayre	£100	£100
Exe Sailing Club	2014 Dinghy Championships	£500	£500

Members gave unanimous support to all grant allocations. Councillor D Chapman reminded all that this was an expenditure of £2500 in total and that there was £7500 left in the annual grant allowance fund.

#### **C14/097. REPORTS FROM OTHER LOCAL BODIES AND THE TOWN CLERK as appropriate (Standing Order 6.2)**

1. **Town Clerk** – the new Town Clerk would be in post on the 16<sup>th</sup> June.
2. **Arts Manager** – The content of the report was noted and accepted. The Festival had attracted over 30,000 people with £4300 raised in donations. The idea of hiring out the deck chairs had raised a good income. Councillor S Gazzard had signed up 83 organ donors at his stall. Carla was to be commended for putting on a successful festival and thank you to Derek for putting in extra effort to ensure the festival was serviced well. A request was made for recycling containers to be supplied next year, possibly through an outside recycling contractor (possibly SITA) and for the Town Council to adopt a Green Policy. The Traditions Day on the Strand was received well and it was hopeful the idea would continue. Churches Together had run a successful children's tent with many parents and carers donating towards the Festival. Colin Poole, the outgoing Town Clerk, had worked hard to ensure the infrastructure was in place. The Royal Marines Band had played for the town.
3. **Town Management Project Officer** - The content of the report was noted and accepted. Members sent their good wishes to Suzanne for a speedy recovery and asked that flowers be sent. The Edge Kite Boarding event was to take place that week and a report in a national newspaper had run a two page spread on the Bridge family with photos of Exmouth contained in the article.
4. **Councillors** –
  - The Exe Estuary Partnership met every 3 months and councillors were welcome to attend. The Exe Estuary Officer, Midge Kelly, was to leave her post but it was hoped she would be replaced as the post was key to organising the bi annual beach cleans, educational visits and teaching sessions. Money raised from the donations given to Stuart Line Cruises whilst the

bird watching cruises take place up the estuary will fund a screen which will allow people to watch the bird movements on the estuary.

**Exclusion of the Public And Press**

RESOLVED: That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the public (including the press) be excluded from the meeting due to the confidential nature of its contents.

- 5. **HR Group** - The notes for this item were noted and held by the Chairman of the HR Group.

**C14/098. MAYORAL SECRETARY**

The request for the post of Mayoral Secretary to be made permanent was noted.

**C14/099. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Town Council will be held on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2014.

**The meeting concluded at 9.30 pm.**

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

## APPENDIX

### PUBLIC FORUM

#### **Alderman David Scott spoke on agenda item 5.**

Alderman David Scott in reference to agenda item 5 held up an article that had been reported in the local Exmouth Journal which asked for political groupings at the Town Hall to be abolished for the good of the Town. He himself had served 25 years with East Devon district council and was never political as infighting was detrimental to the electorate and did not help relationships between Council Members. It was important to elect the best man with the relevant experience to do the job of Councillor. He asked that members represented Exmouth and in doing so should fly the flag. He thanked the council for addressing the issue of providing a service for tourists.

#### **Mr Geoff Skinner spoke on behalf of Exmouth Community Association (ECA).**

Devon County council had been preparing a proposal in respect of the transport interchange for Exmouth to be sited near Marine Way roundabout and the proposal would be put before members at the Council meeting to be held on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July. Mr Skinner reported that ECA had submitted their proposal last year but were unclear as to how it had been received. Members of ECA had strong reservations on the proposed changes along Marine Way particularly the reduction in width to accommodate drop off bays and a taxi rank. Councillor M Williamson stated that DCC would give a progress report at the meeting. Councillor T Cope asked that a representative from EDDC be asked to join the meeting. Alison Haywood and Ian Harrison would represent EDDC and Lewis Ward and another DCC officer would be present.