

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, EXMOUTH ON MONDAY 10TH NOVEMBER 2014 AT 7.00 P.M.

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

Officers: Lisa Bowman, Town Clerk & Sue Cody, Minute Taker.

Guest Speakers: Janet Wallace, EDDC Environmental Health Officer, Devon County Councillors Bernard Hughes and John Hone

C14/156. APOLOGIES

Councillors I Brownbill, L Elson, I Stewart, R Turner & J Taylor

Councillor M Chapman proposed seconded by Councillor S Gazzard that Standing Orders be suspended to allow speaking outside Standing Orders for agenda items 2 and 4. Item 3, report back on National Life Surfing Championships was cancelled.

C14/157. EDDC ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICER, JANET WALLACE, UPDATE ON DOG CONTROL ORDERS

Janet Wallace, EDDC Environmental Health Officer, gave an overview of the recent new legislation governing Anti Social Behaviour, the Anti Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, which came into effect on 20th October 2014 (EDDC report previously circulated). The new act drew together 10 pieces of earlier legislation and reduces the previous 19 tools to 6 more effective powers that would give greater powers to EDDC Environmental Health to deal with persistent problems particularly feeders of nuisance birds, rubbish filled gardens, illegal parking, people noise, drug sellers and dangerous dogs. Partnership working was encouraged between EDDC, councils, health, social landlords, the Police and other agencies plus the ability to serve notices in a shorter period of time.

The introduction of Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO) would enable Town and Parish Councils to identify and nominate areas to EDDC for consideration. Honiton were in the process of applying for one. Dog Control Orders would run alongside the PSPO and be more specific and issue strengthened guidelines to dog owners of nuisance dogs.

Residents would now approach EDDC to request a Dog Control Order as the Town Council no longer had the authority to issue one. All enquirers would need to send an email to environmentalhealth@eastdevon.gov.uk. The EDDC Dog Warden mainly dealt with stray and nuisance dogs and dog fouling enforcement and fines had become one of the duties of the Environmental Health Officers, Streetscene staff and PCSO's.

Discussion took place around the recent closure of an Exeter shop which had sold legal highs and a request for guidelines and new legislation on the sale and control of legal highs was made by members.

The Chairman thanked Janet Wallace for attending the meeting.

C14/158. COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS

County Councillor John Hone gave an overview of his involvement as a member of DCC's People Scrutiny Committee which was currently looking at outcomes of the Virtual School which had been put in place to support Children in Care and those with special educational needs.

Note: Cllr. T Cope left the room for the item above as he worked with educational staff.

County Councillor Bernard Hughes gave an update on the new committees he had become a member of which were DCC Place Scrutiny Committee and DCC Audit Committee and added that he was also a director of PLUSS which was an organisation formed jointly by Torbay Borough, Plymouth City, Somerset and Devon Councils which sold disability aids and oversaw employment for people with disabilities. He was still a member of other committees, the Exe Estuary Management Committee and the Devon and Exeter Rail Working Party which included the Avocet Line. The Avocet Line now carried out over 1.6 million journeys plus a regular Sunday service with a new station on the line planned at Newcourt. A plea for new rolling stock was made. All Devon branch lines were successful and all now linked into more major routes.

Councillor Hughes wished to thank Councillor Pat Graham and the Exmouth in Bloom group for their hard work over the summer in the Littlemead area where they had, with the help of a £500 donation from the locality budget, removed weeds around trees and replaced with decorative stone and kept a grassed area mowed.

The projected route for the Dinan Way link road with a projected cost of £8.5 million would run parallel to Summer Lane with a roundabout sited between Courtlands Lane and Pitt Farm to join the A376/Courtlands Lane/Dinan Way Link route. Members felt that the Dinan Way link road was critical in light of the proposed future housing developments at Goodmores Farm and Plumb Park. Councillor Hughes confirmed that the road was within the Ministry of Transport's future plans.

The proposed Lower Halsdon cycleway, funded by Section 106 money, would probably run through the grounds of A La Ronde into the new housing

development across the A376 via a crossing down to Lower Halsdon Farm. There had been a delay in the progress of the cycleway but it was unclear as to the hold up. Councillor Hughes voiced his support of the cycleway and the National Trust had pledged theirs.

Most of Councillor Hughes enquiries as a DCC Councillor were in connection to problems on roads, footpaths, overgrown weeds and hedges and potholes. Concern raised in respect of the dangers encountered by pedestrians at the Hulham Road/Exeter Road junction had been monitored but no action would be taken due to the lack of pedestrian traffic at that junction. A crossing for pedestrians had been agreed on the Exeter Road near Seymour Road to enable the safe crossing of pedestrians, particularly the elderly, at that point on a busy road. A request for bus shelters on Exeter Road was still outstanding particularly as the bus route 57 which served that area was exceptionally well used. The Town Clerk stated that there was an offer of two bus shelters for the town but at that moment their location was unknown.

Councillor Hughes offered to consider requests for funding within the town from his locality budget.

Councillor P Stott thanked both councillors for their locality fund contribution of £500 each to the Exmouth Christmas Lights fund and for their £2,500 donation from the Invest in Devon funding towards the special light fittings for the Strand lamp columns.

Councillor Eileen Wragg gave an update on County matters. DCC Cabinet would debate the Exmouth Transport Interchange proposals. The Investing in Devon grant had allocated £2,500 to support the new gig club. In terms of her own grant allocations; the Open Door Centre had received £7,500 for refurbishment and showers and funding had been allocated to Exmouth Light Orchestra, the Chill Youth Club at Littleham and the Self Help group.

Devon County Council would, as a result of further spending restraints only cut the grass bank along Marine Way every third year. It was hopeful that Exmouth in Bloom may be able to assist the other years.

The Chairman thanked the County Councillors for their reports.

Councillor M Chapman proposed seconded by Councillor S Gazzard that Standing Orders be brought back into the meeting.

C14/159. COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 29th September 2014 were proposed by Councillor P Stott seconded by Councillor T Cope and noted as a true record.

C14/160. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

C14/161. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

The following councillors declared interests:

Item	Councillor	Declaration type		Reason
		Pecuniary	Personal	
C14/168	S Gazzard B Nash		X X	Had a connection with one of the companies supporting the launch of community awards.

C14/162. URGENT BUSINESS

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

C14/163. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was agreed that Agenda item 17 – shown as 18 (HR Group) would be discussed in Part II of the meeting as it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972:

C14/164. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 10

There were no questions under Standing Order 10.

C14/165. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES, WORKING PARTIES, OTHER LOCAL BODIES, THE TOWN CLERK / TOWN MANAGER as appropriate (Standing Order 6.2)

- **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Councillor S MacQueen proposed, seconded by Councillor A Greenhalgh, that the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 29th September, 13TH & 27TH October 2014 (as previously circulated) be received.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on the 29th September, 13th & 27th October 2014 be accepted and adopted.

- **REGENERATION AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

Councillor B Cole proposed, seconded by Councillor V Duval-Steer, that the minutes of the Regeneration and General Purposes Committee held on 13th October 2014 be received.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Regeneration and General Purposes Committee held on 13th October 2014 be accepted and adopted.

Note: Recommendation under G14/093 in respect of provision of information on a possible Neighbourhood Plan for Exmouth was deferred.

- **LOCAL ACTION GROUP (LAG) Councillor Gazzard / Councillor Nash**
Notes from the recent meeting would be circulated to members when received. Legal Highs had been discussed and both Probation and the Police were aware of the hot spots within Exmouth. Many crimes had been committed by people who were under the influence of legal highs. Gerry Moore had written to the local MP to ask what was being done about the consumption and sale of legal highs within the town. Over 18's were purchasing legal highs from a shop in Exmouth and selling them on to under 18's. Members asked for action to be taken to prevent the sale of legal highs locally particularly in light of the recent closure of a shop in Exeter which had sold legal highs. Doctors and Paramedics did not necessarily have the in depth knowledge to deal with the effects that legal highs had on youngsters and concern was voiced on whether there was sufficient education provided to young people on the dangers. Devon Action Group were currently looking at the issue. Councillor E Wragg proposed seconded by Councillor S Gazzard that the Town Council write to Hugo Swire, MP, with a copy to Sir Eric Pickles, to highlight the effect that legal highs have on young people who take them. Members were unanimous in their support.

Crime figures were up by 70% in shoplifting and 28% in criminal damage with a decrease in the use of weapons.

RESOLVED that the Town Council write to Hugo Swire, MP, with a copy to Sir Eric Pickles, to highlight the effect that legal highs have on young people who take them.

- **S106 WORKING PARTY**
The notes (previously circulated) from the meeting held on 28th October 2014 were noted.
- **TOWN AND TOURISM FORUM**
The notes (previously circulated) from the meeting held on 2nd October 2014 were noted. A further meeting had taken place last week.
- **DALC'S LARGER COUNCIL COMMITTEE- COUNCILLOR NASH**
One of the Councils who had attended the meeting had announced that they would increase their precept by 20% in light of DCC's proposed cuts in funding for service provision. Devon County Council would be appointing a Locality Lead whose position would be to liaise between County, District and the Town Councils.

The revised criteria for Quality Council scheme would be released in December and consist of 3 levels. The Quality Council group would need to reconvene to discuss the guidelines.

- **EXE ESTUARY UPDATE**

The Exe Estuary Management Partnership would soon publish a new report which would contain updated information in respect of dog walking,

personalised watercraft usage/areas, crab tying and bait digging (a ban has been established for the Dawlish Warren area), powerboats, kayaks, canoes, paddleboards, wind and kite surfing. The report would make special reference to the impact of the activities on birds along the Estuary.

Stephanie Clark would return as Exe Estuary Officer. EDDC, Teignbridge and Exeter City Council would discuss Exeter City Council's role in the patrol of the Estuary as it needed to be reinstated. A £16.4 million levy could be accessed by the three councils for the Exe Estuary. Councillor T Cope wished the committee to be aware that the Ophelia worm was now endangered due to the traffic movements within the Estuary.

- **TOWN CLERK**

The Town Clerk's report (previously circulated) was noted.

C14/166. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Head Teacher of Littleham Primary School, Duncan Nelmes, had placed a wreath on behalf of the Town Council on his visit to Ypres.
- Exmouth Carnival had the most entries ever.
- The Mayor's Ball and the Civic Service were both well attended.
- The Christmas Cracker event was scheduled for 6th December.
- Members were invited to the Mayor's Christmas gathering on Thursday 11th December when a cheque on behalf of funds raised for the Mayor's charity The Samaritans would be presented to the Chairperson. Councillor M Mitchell gave his apologies.
- Changes in Town Council meeting dates was agreed from January 2015 – April 2015 inclusive.

C14/167. PERMISSION TO USE THE TOWN COUNCIL CREST

Brian Worts had made a request to the Town Council for permission to use the Town Council's crest on commemoration material for Edith Pratt, the details of which were in an overview previously circulated to members. Councillor T Cope proposed seconded by Councillor B Taylor that permission be granted.

RESOLVED that the Town Council gave permission for the Town Council's crest to be used on commemoration material in respect of Edith Pratt.

C14/168. EXMOUTH COMMUNITY AWARDS 2015

Exmouth was to have its own Community Awards where local people would be nominated within 10 categories and 10 sponsors would be chosen from Exmouth organisations. Exmouth Town Council had been asked if they would sponsor the 'Volunteer of the Year'. The sponsor package was £350. Councillor D Chapman proposed seconded by Councillor T Cope that the Town Council be a sponsor of the Exmouth Community Awards.

RESOLVED that Exmouth Town Council sponsor 'Volunteer of the Year' in respect of Exmouth Community Awards 2015 at a cost of £350.

C14/169. DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL'S ROAD WARDEN SCHEME

The agenda item was moved for discussion at a later date by the Regeneration and General Purposes Committee.

C14/170. LEGACY FUND

The agenda item was moved for discussion at a later date by the Finance Committee.

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 for agenda item 17 due to the confidential nature of its contents.

C14/171. HR GROUP

The minute for that item was held by the Town Clerk.

C14/172. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Town Council will be held on Monday 22nd December 2014 at 7pm.

The meeting concluded at 9.30 pm.

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