

# EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, EXMOUTH ON MONDAY 22ND DECEMBER 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  
 M Mitchell                      C Nicholas  
 P Stott                            I Stewart  
 B Taylor                         J Taylor  
 B Toye                            R Turner  
 M Williamson                 E Wragg  
 S Wragg

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

**C14/173. APOLOGIES**

Councillors A Greenhalgh & S MacQueen

**Note:** There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

**C14/174. COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 10th November 2014 were proposed by Councillor M Williamson, seconded by Councillor P Stott, and noted as a true record.

**C14/175. MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

**C14/176. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS**

The following councillor declared an interest:

Item	Councillor	Declaration type		Reason
		Pecuniary	Personal	
C14/180	P Graham		X	Her husband had a half share in a property that was discussed as a Planning application.

**C14/177. URGENT BUSINESS**

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

**C14/178. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

It was agreed that agenda item 13 – (HR Group) and that agenda item 14 (Tourist Information Service Working Party update) 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:

**C14/179. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 10**

There were no questions under Standing Order 10.

**C14/180. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES, WORKING PARTIES, OTHER LOCAL BODIES, THE TOWN CLERK / TOWN MANAGER as appropriate (Standing Order 6.2)**

- **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Councillor L Elson proposed, seconded by Councillor M Chapman, that the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> November and 8<sup>th</sup> December 2014 (as previously circulated) be received.

**RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> November and 8<sup>th</sup> December 2014 be accepted and adopted.**

- **REGENERATION AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

Councillor P Stott proposed, seconded by Councillor T Dumper, that the minutes of the Regeneration and General Purposes Committee held on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2014 be received.

**RESOLVED that the minutes of the Regeneration and General Purposes Committee held on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2014 be accepted and adopted.**

- **REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS**

Feedback from a Parishes Together meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> November had shown that Parishes and Towns were happy with the EDDC scheme. Exmouth Fairtrade members wished to thank the Town Clerk and Rons Boatman for ensuring that the Fairtrade Logo and its link were now on the Town Council's website.

The recent meeting of the Flooding and Drainage Working Party had been successful and as a result of that meeting a sandbag policy and flooding advice leaflet had been produced which would form part of a press release and would be handed out to the public. The Exmouth Dock tide times and heights over the Christmas period had been added as an alert and one councillor per ward, Councillors Nash, Gazzard, Stott, Taylor and Cole, had been nominated who would hold sand bags on behalf of their ward residents. AJ's taxi firm would also have sandbags available 24hours/7days a week during the closure of the Town Hall. All details would be posted up on the Town Hall notice board. Reference was made

to the snow warden scheme which had not progressed as contact from the Community Resilience Team had not been made.

- **LOCAL ACTION GROUP (LAG) Councillor Gazzard / Councillor Nash**  
Councillor S Gazzard reported a successful recent meeting where a response had been received from MP Hugo Swire to a letter sent to request his support to the addressing of the sale of legal highs within the town. The Hush shop on the Strand had removed legal highs from their shelves but there was a possibility that another outlet was selling them. Crime figures had been released and would be circulated in the future with the LAG minutes. The biggest increase in local crime was an 80% increase in shoplifting often linked as an alcohol related crime. Chuggers, collecting in the Magnolia Centre, if unlicensed were to be reported via 101. It was noted that sellers who collected funds by direct debit methods did not require a street licence and cars for sale on Exmouth roadsides that were taxed were not acting illegally.

- **TOWN AND TOURISM FORUM**

The notes (previously circulated) from the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2014 were noted. Item 7 Life sized fossils/dinosaurs – Liz Oram was actively investigating possible sources of funding and would report back to the next meeting. She also had ideas to fundraise for the Christmas Lights Fund and would be invited to the working party meeting.

**Note:** Councillor I Brownbill joined the meeting at this point.

- **THE EXMOUTH FLAGPOLE AND WAR MEMORIAL COMMITTEE**

The Chairman, Jeff Trail, had written to David Turner of Royal British Legion to advise the legion that they now had the delegated authority to manage the wreaths and crosses but that they would need to be removed prior to the planting of spring/summer bedding plants.

- **EXMOUTH TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP**

The Exmouth Transport Interchange had been approved at DCC Cabinet and work would start on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2015. Stage 2, improvement to the station would be considered under the National Station Improvement Programme in partnership with DCC. A response was still awaited from Stagecoach on redecoration of the outside of the building particularly as new posters had been erected. Subsidies on some Exmouth bus routes could be cut by up to 40% but subsidies had not yet been clarified. A previous request had been made for extra coaches to be provided on the Exmouth to Exeter train line but that provision seemed to have been hit and miss particularly at peak times when only two coaches had been provided.

#### **C14/181. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- The Samaritans sign had been re-erected on land owned by Clinton Devon Estates near Orcombe Point. Dr Peter Aitkin had pledged his support of the sign and thanked Exmouth for taking a lead in Project Zero.
- The Mayor had presented with a framed photograph of the troops who had taken part in the 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary speed march through Exmouth in

- appreciation of the support received from Exmouth Town Council and its link with Lympstone Royal Marine Camp.
- Information on the formation of an Exmouth Legacy Fund would be released at a later date.
  - The Christmas Cracker event held on 6<sup>th</sup> December was successful.
  - Fireworks would be set off at midnight on New Year's Eve in the Town Centre.
  - The return of a big event had been confirmed for next year. The National Lifesaving Championships were to take place the third week of August and the commissioner had sent his thanks for the event held in 2014.

#### **C14/182. CIVIC SPACE/BUS SHELTER IN THE STRAND – CONTRIBUTION OF FUNDS**

The Chairman made a proposal that Exmouth Town Council make a financial contribution of not more than £10,000 towards the covered civic area / bus shelter on the Strand. Exmouth Town Council had supported the planning application submitted via Devon County Council via its Planning Committee. Discussion amongst members followed and concern was expressed by some members about possible extra cost of groundwork and installation and whether the structure was fit for purpose. Opinion was divided. A recorded vote was requested which resulted in the proposal not being carried.

**RESOLVED that, following a recorded vote, the Town Council would not release funds as proposed to contribute towards a covered Civic Space/Bus Shelter in the Strand.**

A further meeting has been scheduled with the Portfolio Holder at Devon County Council on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2015 to discuss a way forward.

#### **C14/183. TO DISCUSS AND AGREE THE 2015/16 BUDGET**

Members had before them the provisional budget figures agreed by the Accounts Sub-Committee which reflected the budget needed to run the Town Council for the year 2015/16. Councillor D Chapman and the Town Clerk gave an overview of how the budget had been arrived at with some movement within budget headings which differed from last year. The Council Tax support grant base would decrease by £6,000 and the Town Council had, to date, not received the band D prediction. Councillor D Chapman asked that the grant from Lightsource be assigned to a sinking fund to offset against the upkeep of Gorfin Hall and the repairing lease on the Town Hall.

An excellent report had been received from the Town Council's independent internal auditors on the management of 2014's financial information systems and a thank you was given to the Town Clerk and Julie Gregory (Finance Administrator) for that result.

Councillor D Chapman proposed, seconded by Councillor M Williamson, that the provisional budget for 2015/16 be accepted. Members unanimously supported the proposal.

**RESOLVED that the provisional budget for 2015/16 be accepted.**

**C14/184. TO RATIFY THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE RIGHTS OF WAY WORKING PARTY**

Councillor T Cope proposed, seconded by Councillor R Turner, that the Rights of Way Working Party Terms of Reference be ratified.

**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 13 & 14 due to the confidential nature of its contents.

**Note:** No members of the public or press were present for the meeting.

**C14/185. HR GROUP**

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

**C14/186. UPDATE FROM THE TOURIST INFORMATION SERVICE WORKING PARTY**

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

**C14/187. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Town Council will be held on Monday 12<sup>TH</sup> January 2015 at 7pm.

**The meeting concluded at 9.30 pm.**

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