

# EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, EXMOUTH ON MONDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> FEBRUARY 2015 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                        A Greenhalgh  
S MacQueen                    M Mitchell  
C Nicholas                      P Stott  
I Stewart                        B Taylor  
R Turner                         M Williamson  
E Wragg                         S Wragg

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

### **C15/013. APOLOGIES**

Councillors J Humphreys, J Taylor & B Toyne

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

**Note:** In response to the question raised by Mr Geoff Morris within the public forum session, Councillor M Williamson gave feedback from his attendance at the Exmouth Public Transport Partnership meeting held the previous week where a Devon County Council Transport Officer had informed the group that Exmouth Bus Station was in the process of being sold and the developer would make an announcement once finalised.

### **C15/014. COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2015 were proposed by Councillor M Williamson, seconded by Councillor V Duval-Steer, and noted as a true record.

### **C15/015. MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES**

There were no matters that arose from the minutes.

### **C15/016. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS**

There was one declaration of pecuniary interests or dispensations.

The following Councillor declared an interest:

Item	Councillor	Declaration type		Reason
		Pecuniary	Personal	
C15/023	T Cope		X	He represented the Town Council on the board that would decide on which Parishes Together projects would be funded.

### **C15/017. URGENT BUSINESS**

There was one item to be dealt with under urgent business.

#### **Town Hall Car Park**

The Town Clerk had received a letter from Mr Andrew Ennis, EDDC Environmental Health Manager, which detailed a proposal to change the charging arrangements for the Town Hall car park so that it operates as a public pay and display car park daily for a temporary period until the Town Hall office space has been successfully reoccupied. The Mayor asked that the members present discuss and state their views, which raised the following concerns:-

- Loss of facility for events
- No availability for Town Hall visitors, particularly those who were vulnerable clients of the Registrar and Housing teams – Councillors would prefer to retain the free parking during the week for the benefit of the town's people
- No other EDDC car parks applied a charge after 6pm
- Cost of enforcement for a 24hr car park
- Many large meetings are held at the Town Hall where officers and guests would expect to be able to park
- Town Hall staff, visiting councillors and the Town Council van needed to park
- EDDC Councillors and staff would have no restrictions on parking but the Town Councillors would incur costs
- Budleigh Salterton had their own free car park as did Broadclyst
- The car park was unsuitable in design with too narrow bays for public use 24hrs a day.

Councillor M Chapman proposed seconded by Councillor S Gazzard that the Town Clerk write to Mr Ennis to reject the proposal to change the charging arrangements and that it should remain as it is, or the management of the car park should be transferred to Exmouth Town Council.

### **C15/018. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

There were no items to be dealt with that necessitated the exclusion of the press and public.

## **C15/019. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 10**

There were no questions under Standing Order 10.

## **C15/020. 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 12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> January and 9<sup>th</sup> February 2015 (as previously circulated) be received with the words “as amended” inserted after 12<sup>th</sup> January.

**RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> (as amended) & 26<sup>th</sup> January and 9<sup>th</sup> February 2015 be accepted and adopted.**

- **REGENERATION AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

Councillor P Stott proposed, seconded by Councillor S Wragg, that the minutes of the Regeneration and General Purposes Committee held on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2015 be received.

**RESOLVED that the minutes of the Regeneration and General Purposes Committee held on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2015 be accepted and adopted.**

- **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Councillor D Chapman proposed, seconded by Councillor C Nicholas, that the minutes of the Finance Committee held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2015 be received.

**RESOLVED that the minutes of the Finance Committee held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2015 be accepted and adopted.**

- **TOWN CLERK’S REPORT**

The Town Clerk gave a verbal report to members on items below:-

Continental Markets – Jamie Murrell, EDDC, had advised that there had been a request via EDDC for licences during the summer period for continental markets on the Strand. Councillors were asked for feedback on their views on the content of the markets as there had been issues in 2014 with visiting continental market operations.

Leisure East Devon (LED) wished to install new brown signage around the town, which would necessitate the approval and input of the Town Council. The project had been scoped out previously and the Town Clerk would be investigating further.

Flowers Towers contract – delegated authority had been given to Councillors D Chapman and P Graham, alongside the Town Clerk, to

decide the contractual arrangements for the planting and maintenance of the flower towers. The possible purchase of a water bowser to facilitate in house watering, was being pursued.

An application for Listed Building Consent in respect of repairs to the Clock Tower is in the process of being completed.

COLP – the meeting to be held on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February was open to all councillors. EDDC Planning Officer, Tim Spurway, had been invited to talk on Neighbourhood Planning.

Regeneration Project meetings that were held fortnightly and attended by Councillor J Humphreys and the Town Clerk would now feedback items that had been discussed via the Town Clerk in order to open lines of communication to other Town Council members. Recent topics of discussion had been the need to secure more funds to finalise proposed works at Mamhead Slipway, ongoing discussions between Grenadier and EDDC on the provision of a Watersports Centre on Queens Drive, the appointment of a project manager to oversee the Sea Scouts building, an impending EDDC Playing Pitch Strategy and an update on Devon County Council's plans for the provision of a bus shelter on the Strand together with the final landscaping of the area and possible new plans for the management of the Strand.

Councillor T Cope suggested that the repair and maintenance report that had been completed by EDDC in the past should be submitted with the Listed Building application for the Clock Tower. He added that he was disappointed with the need to raise more funding for the Mamhead Slipway project as the slipway had already been out of action for far too long.

There was a Masterplan meeting on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February at 6pm for those who wished to attend.

- **LOCAL ACTION GROUP (LAG) Councillor Gazzard / Councillor Nash**  
Notes had previously been circulated from the meeting held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2015. Councillor B Nash reported that the 101 system had been reported as not fit for purpose and that graffiti was a criminal act and anyone who was a witness to it should dial 999. Exmouth Magistrates Court was owned by the Justice system and there were no plans to sell the building which was currently being used for training purposes. Councillor B Nash had received a request from Nigel Alford, Devon and Somerset Fire Officer, for a batch of the sandbag leaflets recently produced by the Town Council to be sent to the Fire Station for distribution to residents. The next LAG meeting would be held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2015, where Councillor S Gazzard would add an agenda item in relation to EDDC Taxi Licencing and the expectation of the Police to feedback to EDDC Licencing should there be an issue with a taxi driver.

- **EW/FMC MEETING**  
Notes of that meeting had previously been circulated to members by email and were noted.
- **EXETER JOB PLUS SUMMIT**  
Notes of that meeting together with Exmouth unemployment figures since 2012 had previously been circulated to members by email. Members were not satisfied that the figures were a true reflection as they did not encompass the part time unemployed or NEETS and requested more accurate figures be supplied. Concern was voiced that Exmouth still did not have a Job Centre in Exmouth and this would add to the expense that the unemployed already experienced by the need to attend Exeter Job Centre to sign on fortnightly; also that the situation was likely to worsen with the introduction of Universal Credit in October 2015 when claimants would have to sign on weekly. Members felt that EDDC and DCC should support the need for a Job Centre in Exmouth and that pressure should be put on Central Government by the local MP. Councillor B Nash reported that there had been 155 applicants for the vacancies at the new Premier Inn of which 141 were from Exmouth applicants and all 42 jobs had been given to locals. The Town Clerk would write to the MP to express the Town Council's disappointment that Exmouth did not have a Job Centre and that the introduction of Universal Credit would have a great impact on the local unemployed.
- **EXE ESTUARY MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP GROUP MEETING**  
Notes prepared by Councillor Pat Graham had been previously circulated to members with the agenda. A new report on the condition of the Exe Estuary was now posted on the Exe Estuary website together with teaching programmes for schools.
- **JURASSIC COAST COMMUNITIES FORUM MEETING**  
Notes of that meeting had previously been circulated to members by email. The dinosaur project had proved popular with the forum members.
- **TOWN AND TOURISM FORUM**  
Notes had previously been circulated by email from the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2015. Liz Oram's idea of the large model dinosaurs had raised the question of funding/sponsorship. A visit by members of the Town/Tourism Forum had been arranged to The Jolly Roger Warehouse at Bovey Tracy had a range of dinosaurs. Members agreed that the table tennis tables to be located on the Strand be purchased from Town Management funds held at EDCC.
- **DALC LARGER COUNCILS SUB COMMITTEE MEETING**  
The Chairman, Councillor Bill Nash, gave a verbal update which followed his attendance at a meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2015. He had been made aware that business rates were payable on public toilets in certain circumstances. The new Quality Council Award Scheme had been launched with Exmouth Town Council registered at Foundation level for

the first year. The Chairman warned members there would be a large cost implication to the council to attain gold level.

**Note:** The chairman executed his rights under Standing Order 11.29 to move agenda item 15 (Mayor's announcements) up the agenda.

#### **C15/021. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor gave a verbal update on future activities and events he had attended.

- Councillor S Gazzard would undertake a sky dive at Dunkerswell on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May to raise funds for the British Lung foundation in memory of his daughter.
- The Mayor had attended the second anniversary service of The Exmouth Larder which had provided in its second year of operation food for 2,000 people, 247 families, which equated to 0.5% of the local population for Exmouth and surrounding villages. A £2,000 cheque had been donated by Exmouth Rotary to fund emergency cash payments for utilities etc.
- The Mayor had attended an ecumenical service for the Girl Guides
- The Mayor and Town Clerk's recent article in the Journal had made reference to the Annual Town meeting where local community groups would be invited to give an overview of their activities during the last twelve months. Organisations which had been in receipt of a Town Council grant would also be asked to share how the grant had supported their cause. Rolle Ltd may wish to attend with an update.

#### **C15/022. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE TOURIST INFORMATION WORKING PARTY AND CONSIDER RECOMMENDATIONS THEREIN**

Councillor B Nash as Chairman of the working party had circulated their report and the five recommendations therein had been circulated to members via email for consideration. Each recommendation was discussed on an individual basis.

1. The production by a commercial company of an Exmouth Town Guide 2015/16 on a 'no cost basis to the council' (advertising finances the whole project).  
The commercial company, Besley Copp, currently produced 17 guides in the area and had a team of advertising sellers that worked on the guides. Between 10,000 and 15,000 guides would be produced. There had not been an Exmouth Town Guide for a number of years. The Chamber of Trade and Commerce did not have retail or tourism providers represented on their membership so had been unable to support the production of a town guide as they had done in the past. Councillor S Gazzard proposed, seconded by Councillor M Chapman, to accept the recommendation. All members were in support bar one.

**Note:** Councillor S MacQueen declared a personal interest as her husband was the Chairman of the Exmouth Chamber of Trade and Commerce.

2. Agreed the need for an Exmouth Guide website which needs to be properly scoped and costed before Council approval is given.  
The recommendation was put on hold until the printing of the Exmouth Town Guide 2015/16 was complete and further discussions had taken place with the companies involved.
3. Agree the relocation from the Exmouth Indoor Market, for the short to medium term, to AJ's Taxis premises in the Strand on a "free from rent and overheads" basis. The only expense involved is a one-off cost of £1,486 for the provision of secure overnight storage of the TIS collateral. The Chairman gave feedback on the reticence of the TIS volunteers to be based within the Indoor Market during the summer months. The new premises would have more space plus onsite toilet and kitchen facilities. Debate took place amongst members on other possible venues, all of which were discounted. Councillor D Chapman proposed, seconded by Councillor S Gazzard, that the TIS relocates from the Exmouth Indoor Market to A J's Taxis premises on the Strand and that funds should be released from the Town Council's Economic Development budget to support the move. 18 members were in support, 1 against and 3 abstained.
4. Pursue further the offer from LED of a pop-up Tourist Information Service at Ocean Blue for the summer season. The Chairman stated that the TIS volunteers were concerned at the thought of running two separate locations. The recommendation would be pursued by the Town Clerk, subject to there being no cost implications.
5. Employment of a part-time employee - it was acknowledged that an employed person was needed to support the volunteers and oversee rotas, training and material support etc. Funds for the post were available from the Economic Development budget. Councillor D Chapman proposed, seconded by Councillor R Turner, that a permanent part time person be appointed to co-ordinate the Tourist Information Service. All members were in support.

#### **C15/023. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE TOWN CLERK ON PUBLIC TOILET PROVISION IN EXMOUTH**

The Chairman and the Town Clerk had met with a company who provide low cost toilets and had also spoken to Andrew Hancock to look at the possibility of re-launching the Community Toilet Scheme. A couple of sites between the Docks and Premier Inn had been identified as a possible location for low cost toilets. A question was raised regarding the provision of public toilets and showers that had formed part of the Section 106 agreement when the Dock development was given planning permission and had subsequently not materialised. The Town Clerk had been informed by Ed Freeman at EDDC that the agreement had been superseded. Councillor E Wragg, proposed seconded by Councillor M Williamson, that the Town Clerk write to the Chief Executive of EDDC to ask if the public toilets and showers which formed part of the Docks Section 106 agreement would be provided. Councillor T Cope asked that the Premier Inn agreement for the provision of public toilets within

the site also be revisited. Councillor B Nash had recently been advised at a meeting with Premier Inn that no provision of public toilets on the site would be made as they had made a Section 106 payment to EDDC for the provision of new public toilets.

**C15/024. TO RATIFY AN APPLICATION TO THE PARISHES TOGETHER FUND FOR SOLAR LIGHTING ALONG THE ESTUARY TRAIL**

A quotation had circulated to members for their consideration and whilst the total cost exceeded funds available, the Town Clerk explained that the specification could be amended so that the project was financially viable. The application was dependent on the collaboration with Lypstone Parish Council, which had a small amount of funds to put towards the project. Councillor L Elson proposed, seconded by Councillor P Stott, that the application be submitted to EDDC for consideration. All members were in support, apart from Councillor T Cope who abstained due to his earlier declaration of interest.

**C15/025. TO RESPOND TO DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL'S PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION CONSULTATION**

Members had received supporting documentation which gave details on proposed cuts in bus journey provision within Exmouth and other local areas. The Chairman asked members for their views on the proposal to cut services on the routes in Exmouth. Councillor L Elson proposed, seconded by Councillor R Turner, not to support any cuts on any of the bus routes proposed. Councillor T Dumper requested that a "use it or lose campaign" be launched perhaps within Exmouth Community Association's bus users group.

**Note:** Agenda item for the next finance committee would be discussion of the Town Council's transport budget in respect of funds committed to the support of local bus transport.

**C15/026. TO NOTE THE KEY FINDINGS FROM DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL'S BUDGET PRIORITIES SURVEY 2014**

The survey report had been previously circulated to members which showed the results of surveys carried out in response to DCC's Tough Choices programme. Councillor E Wragg reported that Devon County Council's budget for the forthcoming year had been set with a rise of £22 per Band D rate payer. The proposed budget cuts for the CAB Service and the provision of school crossing patrol personnel had been saved.

**C15/027. TO NOTE THE CHANGE OF VENUE FOR THE POLLING STATION WHICH COVER TOWN WARD SOUTH WARD**

The change of polling station at Wesley Hall, Tower Street to Holy Trinity Church, Rolle Street was opposed due to its remote location at the top of the town and lack of disabled access. Members had a preference for the Baptist Church and were unhappy that Ward members had not been consulted on the move. The Town Clerk to write to the Returning Officer with feedback.

**C15/028. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Town Council will be held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2015 at 7pm.

**The meeting concluded at 9.34pm.**

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

## **APPENDIX**

### **PUBLIC FORUM**

Mr Tom Payne spoke in respect of Bystock Nature Reserve Pools that were to be sold at auction on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2015 by South West Water Authority. He was concerned that whoever purchased the land would close the area to the public and might even apply to build houses on the land. Devon Wildlife Trust had over the last 20 years leased the land and had done a wonderful job in introducing wildlife to the Bystock Pools. He asked for the support of the Town Council in retention of the area as a nature reserve.

Mr Geoff Morris wished to ask Town Councillors if they could shed any light on what was going to happen to Exmouth Bus Station in the future.