

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, EXMOUTH ON MONDAY 11TH JANUARY 2016 AT 7.00 PM.

PRESENT: Councillors: M Chapman (Chairman)
B Cole (Deputy Chairman)
B Bailey F Caygill
D Chapman T Darville
T Dumper L Elson
S Gazzard C Gough
P Graham A Greenhalgh
T Hill R Masding
B Nash C Nicholas
R Scott P Stott
B Taylor J Trail
M Williamson

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

The Mayor read the tribute prepared by East Devon District Council in honour of Alderman Barry Willoughby who had passed away on Christmas Day. His funeral was to be held the next day at 2pm at Glenorchy Church. Members who were to attend could if they wished wear their official badges. A minute silence followed.

C16/001. APOLOGIES

Councillors P Dean, J Humphreys & B Toye

There were no members of the public present at the meeting that wished to speak.

C16/002. COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 14th December 2015 were agreed and noted as a true record.

C16/003. MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

C16/004. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations of pecuniary interests or dispensations.

C16/005. URGENT BUSINESS

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

C16/006. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

C16/007. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 10

There were no questions under Standing Order 10.

C16/008. REPORTS AND MINUTES 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 S Gazzard that the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 30th November and 14th December 2015 (as previously circulated) be received.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 30th November and 14th December 2015 be accepted and adopted.

- **Local Action Group**

Councillor B Nash had given a verbal report from the LAG meeting held on 2nd December 2015 to members at the previous Council meeting. Members had before them the minutes of that meeting (previously received). Councillor B Nash added that the Police had carried out regular patrols around the area of the Old Warehouse and anti-social behaviour had diminished as a result. Break-ins had been reported by neighbours at the Hush shop on the strand which was believed to be selling scientific experimental substances.

- **Flooding and Land Drainage Working Party – 7th December, 2015**

Members had before them the notes of the meeting (previously circulated). Councillor A Greenhalgh, in respect of item 7, had spoken with Environmental Agency engineers in respect of the removal of sand from Pole Sands. Confirmation had been given that around 1% of sand would be removed and that it would have no effect on Exmouth sands.

- **Waterfront Working Party – 7th December, 2015**

Members had before them the notes of the meeting (previously circulated). Councillor B Nash, elected as Chairman at that meeting, gave a verbal report. East Devon District Council would no longer provide new dog bins as dog bags could now be put in ordinary bins. The new play equipment had been installed on Imperial Recreation Ground.

- **Town Team and Tourism Forum – 15th December, 2015**

Members had before them the notes of the meeting (previously circulated). Councillor A Greenhalgh gave an update on the Thomas Tucker building which had been empty for a long time and was in a poor state. East Devon District Council had recently employed an officer who would support owners of premises which had been granted planning permission to aid the sale of the property but had not resulted in a sale. She would take up the Thomas Tucker building as one of her first projects. Planning permission for the

placement of dinosaurs around East Devon was being sought and it was hopeful they would appear later in the year.

- **Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group – 18th November & 21st December, 2015**

Members had before them the notes of the meeting (previously circulated). Councillor P Stott reported that ward councillors and community groups were collecting data and a newsletter was in the process of being produced. A library was being put together which contained documents and information that had been previously sourced.

- **Festival Working Party – 22nd October & 12th November, 2015**

Members had before them the notes of the meeting (previously circulated). Councillor S Gazzard was concerned about the possibility of bad weather should the festival be moved to Imperial Ground as it was a more exposed location and asked if matting would be provided if deemed necessary. Councillor F Caygill reminded members that one of the early festivals had experienced bad weather and at that time the financial loss had been born by private individuals.

Manor Gardens, which had become dangerously crowded at last year's festival, would still be used for some festival events dependant on the securing of Arts Council funding. Planting in the gardens had also been endangered due to numbers of people overflowing onto planted areas which was a concern to Exmouth in Bloom in respect of their competition entry.

Councillor J Trail wished to be considered for nomination as a member of the Festival Working Party. Councillor M Chapman agreed that he take her membership place.

No decision had yet been made on which authority would manage the events on the Strand. EDDC were to carry out a street licensing consultation before a decision would be made. Event organisers were currently hesitant at applying for a licence as the criteria to obtain one was unknown. The Town Clerk would follow up with EDDC to ascertain clarification of the conditions set down for obtaining a Strand licence. Councillor I Chubb, Environment Portfolio Holder, to be invited to a meeting.

Note: Councillors L Elson and S Gazzard declared a personal interest in the above item as they were to request a licence for a Strand event later that year.

C16/009. TO RATIFY THE 2016/2017 BUDGET AND ASSOCIATED PRECEPT

Members were made aware that prior budgetary meetings had taken place where discussions on each budget heading had been explored in more detail. Councillor D Chapman proposed seconded by Councillor M Williamson that the rise in precept which equated to a rise of 24p per week for a Band D rate payer be accepted. The increase was modest and would be used to support grass cutting services, clock tower renovation and increased administration time. Councillor S Gazzard was in support and had a preference for the increase to be used on the items as identified in the proposal.

RESOLVED that Exmouth Town Council increase the precept from 30.42914286p per Band D rate payer to 44.10308612p. The resolution had unanimous support from all members present.

C16/010. TO RATIFY AN APPLICATION TO PARISHES TOGETHER FUND FOR THE PURCHASE OF CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Honiton and Exmouth Town Council's wished to propose the submission of a joint application to the Parishes Together Fund to purchase Christmas lights for 2016 onwards. The approximate cost had been identified as £25,000, two thirds for purchase of lights and one-third for the Christmas tree, storage and commissioning. Councillor B Nash proposed seconded by Councillor D Chapman that as the deadline for the application submission would be 12th February 2016 that the Town Clerk together with the Christmas Lights Working Party be granted delegated powers in order to prepare the application to meet that deadline. Councillor T Dumper asked if there was a possibility of the voluntary fundraising group reforming. That would not be the case but there had been 3 local businesses who had expressed an interest in future sponsorship of the Christmas lights.

As an aside Councillor S Gazzard asked that consideration be given to a future Parishes Together application for parishes to fund a dog warden now that EDDC no longer provided that service. Councillor P Stott asked for consideration for the installation of solar lights at Phear Park and along the cycleway that linked Exmouth to Budleigh Salterton.

C16/011. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Town Council would be held on Monday 22nd February 2016 at 7pm.

The Festival video was shown to members of the committee and the Town Clerk expressed the importance of the video as evidence of how the Arts Council grant had supported festival events. An expression of thanks was given to Jo Warburton for the excellent job of showing Exmouth Festival as a showpiece.

The meeting concluded at 8.10 pm.

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