

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, EXMOUTH ON MONDAY 22ND FEBRUARY 2016 AT 7.00 PM.

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

Officers: Lisa Bowman, Town Clerk & Rons Boatman, Minute Taker.

Guest Speaker: Peter Brain, Fairtrade Exmouth.

C16/012. APOLOGIES

Councillors F Caygill, B Toye, P Graham, T Hill, C Nicholas & B Taylor.

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

The Chairman asked that agenda item 9 be brought forward and invited Peter Brain to speak.

A minute's silence was observed in memory of ex Cllr. Ken Harper.

C16/013. PRESENTATION BY PETER BRAIN, FAIRTRADE, EXMOUTH

Peter Brain gave an overview of Fairtrade Exmouth's work in the town since it had been established in 2009.

It was subsequently resolved that:

Exmouth Town Council, an important consumer and opinion leader, supports a strategy to facilitate the ongoing promotion and purchase of products with the Fairtrade Mark:

- To continue to contribute to the efforts to increase sales of products with the Fairtrade Mark;
- To continue to offer Fairtrade-marked food and drinks where possible and make them available for internal meetings;

- To continue to seek to encourage local retailers to provide Fairtrade-marked options for customers;
- To continue to support the local steering group in its endeavours to increase awareness of Fairtrade among people and businesses;
- To continue to support the initiative in the media when opportunities arise.

Proposer: Cllr. T Dumper

Seconder: Cllr. J Humphreys

C16/014. COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 11th January 2016 were agreed and noted as a true record.

Proposer: Cllr. M Williamson

Seconder: Cllr. S Gazzard

C16/015. MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

C16/016. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations of pecuniary interests or dispensations.

C16/017. URGENT BUSINESS

Cllr S Gazzard raised one item of urgent business concerning the proposal from Devon County Council to stop funding school traffic patrols in a bid to save money. A consultation held over the Christmas holidays had been timed in such a way that the Town Council was unable to respond. It was understood that the proposal had been referred to Devon County Council's Scrutiny Committee. It was proposed that the Town Clerk write to that Committee strongly objecting to the motion and request that they reconsider. Cllr. M Chapman commented that the local police had requested the involvement of Exmouth Town Council in ensuring that Devon County Council traffic enforcement officers increase their patrols outside Bassetts Farm and Brixington Schools. Cllr B Bailey added separately, that he had approached DCC to consider a pelican crossing outside Withycombe Raleigh School. DCC Highways would be discussing the proposal on the 18th March which he would be attending to put forward a case in support of the proposal.

C16/018. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

C16/019. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 10

There were no questions under Standing Order 10.

C16/020. 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 T Dumper that the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 11th & 25th January and 8th February 2016 (as previously circulated) be received.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 11th & 25th January and 8th February 2016 be accepted and adopted.

- **Local Action Group**

Councillor S Gazzard gave a verbal report from the LAG meeting held on 13th January 2016. Clarification was given regarding the increase in the number of recorded violent crimes without injury. This was a result of changes in the process of recording and did not reflect that violent crime had increased.

Cllr. M Williamson expressed concern regarding the increase of street motor traders selling cars on Salterton Road and Exeter Road. He asked for guidance as the authorities were often found to be powerless to deal with the issue. Discussions ensued regarding how the problem could be tackled. If vehicles were parked properly, taxed and insured it was very difficult for anything to be done. The discharging of liquids was illegal and could be reported to Environmental Health. Clarification was needed regarding the selling of cars and trading laws. Cllr L Elson would provide the Town Clerk with a contact from EDDC who could supply stickers that could be placed on vehicles.

- **Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group**

Members had previously received notes from the meeting held on 25th January 2016. Members were given an update on the meeting held earlier in the day, questionnaires/newsletters were to be distributed at the end of March and a community engagement day was to be held on 28 April 2016. This would be followed by a programme of ward consultations in May/June.

- **Exe Estuary Management Partnership (OWG)**

Minutes from the meeting held on 14th January 2016 attended by the Town Clerk were previously circulated. Discussions regarding the role of the partnership and members' expectations was still ongoing and a specific meeting had yet to take place regarding Exmouth's expectations of the partnership.

- **Regeneration Programme Board**

Notes from the previous meeting held on the 24th November 2015 had been previously circulated. The date for the next meeting contained within the notes should be amended to 31st March 2016.

- **DALC Larger Councils Committee**

The Town Clerk had attended a DALC meeting held on 21st January 2016 and members had previously received the notes from that meeting. The Clerk reported that there was a strong debate at that meeting regarding the role that Town and Parishes would play in the Heart of the SW devolution bid. At a separate meeting with a DCLG representative, concerns were raised regarding the lack of dialogue with the Town and Parish sector and in particular the role that the sector could potentially play in respect of the bid's aspirations for social welfare and health. DCLG would be taking this feedback back to London.

C16/021. ENTRIES FOR THE EDDC'S QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY AWARDS

EDDC wishes to acknowledge local councils' achievements to mark the Queen's 90th Birthday celebrations and are inviting applications. It was proposed and agreed to submit the following applications for an award.

Local Service Award – Tourist Information Service
Youth Award – Democratic Decision Process Project and Graffiti Wall
Community Award – Exe Estuary Trail Lighting Project, Christmas Cracker and Exmouth Festival

C16/022. ADOPTION OF EAST DEVON LOCAL PLAN AND THE DRAFT CIL CHARGING STRUCTURE

On 28 January 2016 East Devon District Council adopted the East Devon Local Plan. The adopted plan would now form part of the development plan for East Devon. Cllr. M Williamson suggested members take particular note of Chapters 10 and Strategy G22 which set out the framework in which Exmouth would grow. The land adjoining Tesco on Salterton Road had been allocated for employment use. A debate then ensued regarding developer contributions for affordable housing, how this was calculated and the associated cost impact for developers. 15% of CIL receipts would be passed onto the Town Council but could increase to 25% should a Neighbourhood Plan be adopted.

C16/023. UPDATE ON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Correspondence from Graeme Thompson and an associated EDDC Cabinet report had been previously circulated to members. Cllr. D Chapman reported to members that the first draft of the final recommendations ensuing from the consultant's report on Exmouth and Honiton would be available in April. Cllr D Chapman added separately that he would be speaking to Exmouth Town Football Club regarding potential grant assistance by the Town Council with regards to a leaking flat roof at their club which would cost £9,000 to repair.

C16/024. BUDGETARY CONTROL AND AUTHORITY TO SPEND

As per our Financial Regulations (adopted in Nov 2015), approval was required for items over £5,000, evidenced by a minute reference. Expenditure could be authorised that exceeded the amount provided in the revenue budget for that

class of expenditure other than by a resolution of the Council, or duly delegated Committee.

Authorisation was sought for the following payment(s):

19 Jan 2016	EDDC Grounds Maintenance - £30,236
22 Jan 2016	ETC Staff Costs wages recharge) – £17,893.42

RESOLVED to approve the above payments

Proposer: Cllr. David Chapman Seconder: Cllr. L Elson

C16/025. TO RECEIVE THE OUTCOME OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION'S ELECTORAL REVIEW OF DEVON

The final recommendations from the Boundary Commission on the new electoral arrangements for DCC had been previously circulated. Members were opposed to the proposed changes and to the recommendation for a new ward for the Richmond Road ward, to be represented by one Councillor. Councillors raised concerns about the discrepancies in the population projections used in the report. The Town Clerk was asked to write to Hugo Swire MP regarding the Town Council's concerns and appeal for the Commission's recommendations to be called in under parliamentary procedures.

C16/026. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE TOWN CLERK REGARDING COUNCILLOR VACANCIES AND THE PROCESS / TIMETABLE FOR ELECTION OR CO-OPTION.

The Town Clerk had been verbally informed by EDDC that there would be two ward elections in respect of the Town Councillor vacancies. EDDC had indicated that the elections would take place sometime in April. The Town Clerk would email the information to members once she had received confirmation.

The following brief report received from County Councillor Eileen Wragg, who had apologised for not being in attendance, was read out to members by the Town Clerk.

There had been a meeting of Devon County's Full Council which had debated the forthcoming budget for 2016-17.

A DCC Council Tax increase of 1.99% had been agreed. An additional increase of 2% was also agreed towards care provision for the elderly making an overall increase of 3.99% which equated to around £5 for a Band D property.

A dispensation had been sought for the DCC Member for Withycombe and Brixington, for in excess of six months, due to serious illness which was agreed.

Exmouth Campaigner for St John's Court, Dot Taylor, presented a petition. St John's Court was a centre for mental health provision in Exmouth. The Devon Partnership Trust was intending to sell St John's for approximately £600,000-£800,000 and provide a hub for the town.

The highly contentious issue regarding the withdrawal of funding for school crossing patrols, which would result in schools having to find funding themselves if they wanted to continue the provision was discussed. There were 22 school patrols in Exmouth which would be affected. There was considerable concern expressed about the safety of children getting to and from school safely and many members were unhappy with the decision to make the cuts.

At a budget meeting of all four scrutiny committees on 29 January, she had asked for reconsideration (for the third year running) be given to the proposed cuts to Citizen's Advice Bureau of £40,000. In times of austerity, there were more demands being made on CA resources. The income generated within Devon had amounted to approximately £5m in past years under the Devon Welfare Rights Unit, which was an arm of the CA. The request had been listened to and the £40,000 had been reinstated.

Cllr J Trail requested members to report any vehicles found parking on grass verges in the town to either Devon County Highways or EDDC.

The meeting concluded at 8.34 pm.

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