

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, EXMOUTH ON MONDAY 27TH JUNE 2016 AT 7.15 PM.

PRESENT: Councillors: B Cole (Chairman)
J Trail (Deputy Chairman)
B Bailey F Caygill
L Elson S Gazzard
P Garbutt P Graham
R Masding B Nash
C Nicholas B De Saram
R Scott P Stott
B Taylor M Williamson

OFFICERS: Lisa Bowman, Town Clerk, Sue Cody, minute taker.

APOLOGIES: Councillors M Chapman, T Darville, T Dumper, T Hill, J Humphreys, C Gough & B Toye

GUEST SPEAKERS: Dr. Keith Edwards, representative of St John's Court Project Group, Roy Pryke, representing Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group & COLP and Roger Bourgein, Town Crier

A minute's silence was held prior to the commencement of the meeting in memory of Councillor David Chapman. Councillors B Nash and S Gazzard, as leaders of their respective parties, paid tribute to Councillor D Chapman's dedication to his role of both District and Town Councillor and sent their condolences to Councillor Maddie Chapman and family members. Funeral arrangements would be announced in due course.

Note: The Chairman asked that agenda item 9 be brought forward of item 6 to enable the guest speaker Dr Edwards to speak.

Roger Bourgein, Exmouth's Town Crier was invited to speak. He wished to thank the Town Council for the support and hospitality they had provided on the 4th June when the Town Criers competition had taken place on The Strand. The event had become over the years a well-respected event in which 20 competitors from far and wide had taken part.

C16/081. COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the Annual Town Council meeting held on 23rd May 2016 were agreed and noted as a true record.

Proposer: Cllr. Brian Bailey **Seconder:** Cllr. S Gazzard

C16/082. MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

C16/083. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were three declarations of pecuniary interests or dispensations. The following councillors declared an interest:

Item	Councillor	Declaration type		Reason
		Pecuniary	Personal	
C16/086	L Elson		X	Works for Hospiscare who use St. Johns Court
C16/089	B Taylor		X	President of the Beach Rescue Service
C16/090	J Trail		X	President of Brixington Blues Football Club

C16/084. URGENT BUSINESS

Councillor F Caygill gave members an overview of his proposal to put on a road show which would enable the public to drop in and meet members of Town Council. The provision of a hospitality trailer to include refreshments from United Truckers Club would facilitate the roadshow, parked on the Strand and The Pavilion car park on 30th & 31st July at a cost of £1,500. Councillor B Nash seconded the proposal which was also supported by Councillor S Gazzard in principle. On a vote all members were in favour of the two day event.

C16/085. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was agreed that Agenda item 16 would be discussed in Part II of the meeting as they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972:

The Chairman asked that Standing Orders be suspended to allow speaking outside Standing Orders for agenda item 9.

C16/086. THE PROPOSED CLOSURE AND SALE BY THE DEVON PARTNERSHIP NHS TRUST OF ST JOHN'S COURT EXMOUTH - DR KEITH EDWARDS

Dr. Keith Edwards addressed the committee to seek support against the closure of St Johns Court, an adapted purpose-built recently renovated unit at a cost of £140,000, which provided mental health services for the people in and around Exmouth. He had until recently been part of a group tasked by Devon Partnership Trust (DPT) to identify ways of raising funds to prevent the closure due to financial challenges by generating income from sub-letting empty space within the building. DPT had recently dis-engaged from the group as projected revenue from sub-letting was insufficient to secure St Johns Court. Projected DPT budget information for the next financial year had indicated a sum of £600,000 from the sale of St Johns Court which housed 55 members of staff and had identified possible relocation to Exmouth Hospital which members felt would

offer inadequate space and parking for a mental health service which currently had a 3 month waiting list for referrals.

Dr. Edwards requested support from Exmouth Town Council to engage with DPT to prevent the closure of the mental health provision within Exmouth particularly as 1 in 4 people (9,000 within Exmouth) were predicted to seek mental health support in their lifetime. He had met with Hugo Swire, MP, who had said he would approach the Health Minister to request funding to offset the shortfall as he had been greatly concerned at the risk to vulnerable people.

The chairman on behalf of the Town Council thanked the guest speaker for attending and resumed the meeting under standing orders.

The Town Council had previously written to the DPT and Hugo Swire, MP, on the matter in response to a request from Dot Taylor who had addressed members at a previous meeting with concerns at the possible loss of mental health services within Exmouth. Exmouth had lost over recent years The Doyle Centre, Danby House, Exebank and the refurbished Davey Court which had been a huge loss of provision for the town particularly as demographically Exmouth had a fast-growing elderly population.

Councillor M Williamson proposed seconded by Councillor F Caygill that Exmouth Town Council supported the retention of St. John's Court which provided an essential local resource for the growing number of patients with a wide range of mental health needs for residents of the largest and fastest growing town in Devon. The Town Council to write to DPT to request a direct meeting together with a copy of their audited accounts, together with further letters to Hugo Swire, MP, Prime Minister, David Cameron, and the Health Secretary, Jeremy Hunt. Members were unanimous in support of the proposal.

RESOLVED that Exmouth Town Council supports the retention of St. John's Court which provides an essential local resource for the growing number of patients with a wide range of mental health needs for residents of the largest and fastest growing town in Devon. The Town Council to write to DPT to request a direct meeting together with a copy of their audited accounts, together with further letters to Hugo Swire, MP, Prime Minister, David Cameron and the Health Secretary, Jeremy Hunt.

Note: Councillor M Williamson declared a personal interest as his wife had attended St Johns Court that morning.

C16/087. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 10

There were no questions under Standing Order 10.

C16/088. 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 B Bailey that the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 16th and 31st May 2016 (as previously circulated) be received.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 16th & 31st May 2016 be accepted and adopted.

- **Local Action Group**
Councillor B Nash gave a verbal report from the LAG meeting held on 8th June and members had the notes of 20th April 2016 before them. An overview was given on the parking of motorhomes in Exmouth, particularly on the seafront where they were parking over more than one parking bay and vehicles were overhanging the seafront pavement. Members of the public should contact Environmental Health direct should there be any issues with noise or waste management. Crime figures in the town had in general decreased but had experienced an increase in cyber related crimes. A request had been made for an extension to the town's CCTV coverage to include a camera near the Manor Gardens performance stage in light of recent vandalism. Cars parked on pavements were creating major problems for residents with disabilities and would need to be reported via the 101 service. Ward Councillors to report direct to Devon County Highways Enforcement.
- **Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG)**
Members had previously received notes from the meeting held on 18th May 2016. The group had recently met with Tim Spurway, EDDC Planning Officer, who had been impressed with the work of the NPSG particularly the progress made. The first draft report of the analysis of the 2016 individual responses gathered at the open meetings had been received which showed 6% representation of Exmouth's population and would be used as a basis for the first Draft Neighbourhood Plan. The next phase from July until the end of September would see engagement with stakeholders such as local businesses, surrounding Parish Councils and the Town Council from which themes would be identified for smaller groups to work on. Councillor R Masding was thanked for his input to the plan.
- **Flooding and Land Drainage WP**
Councillor R Masding gave a verbal report from the meeting held on the 8th June 2016 where EDDC Officer, Dave Turner, had talked about the Environmental Agency's proposed Flooding Scheme for Exmouth which was due to start construction in 2018. In the meantime a resilience plan for Exmouth would have to be created to sit alongside Devon County Council's Blue Light Plan. A proposal was made to form a new working party to action that proposal.
- **Town Team and Tourism Forum**
Cllr. F Caygill gave a verbal report on from the meeting held on 9th June 2016 (notes had been previously distributed). A thank you was given to

local company, Wilsons Paints, for supplying the paint for refurbishment of the Town Council's bus stops. Ideas were being collated for the launch day of the Jurassic Dinosaurs within the town.

- **DALC Larger Councils Committee**

The Chairman and Town Clerk had attended DALC on 9th June 2016.

- **Otter to Exe Chairmen and Clerks meeting**

The Chairman and Town Clerk had attended the Otter to Exe Parish meeting where the use of Parishes Together Funding had been discussed. Lympstone, Woodbury and Budleigh Salterton Councils were currently hiring the Town Council Supplementary Streetcleaner at a rate that was to be re-costed.

- **Exe Estuary Management Partnership**

No update was given.

- **Waterfront Working Party**

Councillor B Nash gave a verbal update which followed the meeting held on 20th June 2016. Working Party members and officers from EDDC had walked along Exmouth's seafront in order to identify items which may have needed attention. One of the Big Belly bins had been damaged as a result of a disposable BBQ being left on the top of it. A further Big Belly bin was to be delivered which made 16 in total for the town. The criteria for the achievement for a Blue Flag Award for water quality had been raised by the EU which had resulted in many northern beaches failing the test. A new seaside award would be supported by the installation of an illuminated sign that would light up should the water become polluted.

- **COLP**

Members had previously received notes from the meeting held on 20th June 2016. Roy Pryke gave an overview of discussions held at that meeting. In respect of the recent Exmouth Draft Playing Pitch Strategy COLP members had been surprised that no local sports groups had been approached for their views and felt their needs had not been taken into account. The consultation period was seen as too short. Transition Town Exmouth had produced a document 'Sustainable Issues for Exmouth' which was to be considered in respect of Exmouth's Neighbourhood Plan. Disappointment had been voiced on how Exmouth Town Council's views on the Transport hub had not been carried through and that talks with EDDC and DCC should reconvene particularly as the hub would be seen as the 'Gateway to the Town'. The proposed opening date for the new Marks and Spencer store had been delayed until January 2017. New bus stops would be installed outside the Sports Centre once demolition of the bus station began. The Town Council's letter to EDDC for further consultation on Queens Drive had had no response as yet.

C16/089. GRANT APPLICATIONS

Applicant	Description	Amount Requested	Grant Awarded
1. Exmouth Beach Rescue Club	Contribution towards costs of hosting National Surf Life Saving Championships in 2016	1 year grant funding @ £3677	Since the submission of the application anticipated car parking costs had been reduced. In light of that grant awarded £2,500.
2. Exmouth Squash and Racket Club College	Contribution towards start-up costs	3 year grant funding @ £3185 for 2016, £2885 for 2017, £2885 for 2018 = TOTAL £8955	The grant request was turned down as it was thought the application was not appropriate.
3. Exmouth Town Concert Band	Contribution towards purchase of new percussion instruments	1 year grant funding @ £3000	The sum of £500 was granted with a recommendation that the band applied to other funding streams.

Note: The Report to Town Council for 2015-16 from the Museum Society of Exmouth was accepted.

C16/090. EXMOUTH SPORTS PITCH STRATEGY – TO GIVE DELEGATED AUTHORITY TO THE S106 WORKING PARTY TO RESPOND TO EDDC’S CONSULTATION ON BEHALF OF EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL.

(Consultation on the draft strategy will run until 5pm on Friday 8th July 2016.)

A meeting of the Section 106 Working Party had been convened for the next morning and a request was made to members for delegated authority to be given to the Working Party members to enable them to submit a response on behalf of the Town Council to EDDC’s consultation. Representations from the public had been received and should be taken on board when a response was made. The consultation period was considered very short. Councillor L Elson proposed

seconded by Councillor S Gazzard that all representations be considered and that the Section 106 Working Party be given delegated authority to produce the report to EDDC.

RESOLVED that all representations be considered and that the Section 106 Working Party be given delegated authority to produce the report to EDDC. The Town Clerk would request an extension to the response date.

C16/091. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS AND RETURN

- a – Adoption of the Annual Accounts 2015/16
 - i - Income and Expenditure Accounts
 - ii - Balance Sheet
- b – Acceptance of the Internal Auditor’s Report
- c – Annual Governance Statement
- d – Annual Return to the Audit Commission
 - i - To approve section 2 of the Annual Return for the year ending 31st March 2016
- e – Earmarked Reserves as at 31st March 2015
- f – Asset Register

The above list was given consideration.

Councillor L Elson proposed seconded by Councillor S Gazzard that ai & aii be accepted.

In respect of item b the Accounts Sub Committee would need to look at the Internal Auditor’s recommendations in accordance with the Town Clerk.

Councillor L Elson proposed seconded by Councillor P Stott that c & d be accepted.

Items e & f, the Earmarked Reserves and Asset Register were noted.

C16/092. TO RATIFY THE COUNCIL’S STATEMENT OF INTERNAL CONTROL

Councillor S Gazzard proposed seconded by Councillor L Elson that the Town Council’s Statement of Internal Control be accepted. All members voted in favour.

C16/093. BUDGETARY CONTROL AND AUTHORITY TO SPEND

As per our Financial Regulations (adopted in Nov 2015), approval was being sought for the following payment(s):

31/05/2016	Salary recharge by EDDC	£18,312.42
30/06/2016	Salary recharge by EDDC	£20,123.32
30/06/2016	Rock Artist Management	£6,120.00
30/06/2016	ESW Solutions	£11,913.92

Councillor B Cole proposed, and Councillor P Graham seconded, the approval of the payments.

RESOLVED to approve the above payments.

Note: A vote of thanks was given to the Festival Arts Manager, Carla Hiley, and her team. There had been 501 new organ donor sign ups during the period of the Festival. It had been disappointing that only a few councillors had been present at the Festival.

C16/094. TO NOTE THE FORTHCOMING TOWN AND DISTRICT BY-ELECTION FOR LITTLEHAM WARD

There had been more than one nomination for the councillor vacancy so an election would take place on Thursday 21st July and poll cards would be issued to Littleham residents.

C16/095. TO RECEIVE THE HR GROUP MEETING NOTES AND RATIFY ANY RECOMMENDATIONS THEREIN

The minute from that agenda item was discussed under Part ii of the meeting and was held by the Town Clerk.

C16/096. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Town Council will be the Annual Town Council Meeting to be held on Monday 25th July 2016 at 7.15pm.

The meeting concluded at 9.40pm.

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