

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, ST ANDREWS ROAD, EXMOUTH, ON MONDAY 22ND JANUARY 2018 AT 7.15 PM.

PRESENT: Councillors: B Cole (Chairman)
J Trail (Vice Chairman)
B Bailey S Gazzard
B De Saram T Dumper
L Elson R Masding
C Nicholas P Garbutt (arrived at 19.32)
P Stott K Norton
B Toye J Humphreys
R Scott B Taylor
T Hill

OFFICERS: Lisa Bowman, Town Clerk & Chetna Jones, Deputy Clerk.

GUEST SPEAKER: Roy Pryke, Chairman of Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

APOLOGIES: Councillors D Nicholas, F Caygill, B Nash, T Darville, M Chapman, C Gough & M Williamson.

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

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

C18/014. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no items on the agenda that would be discussed in Part II of the meeting that involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972:

The Chairman welcomed Mr Roy Pryke to the meeting in respect of agenda item 9.

C18/015. TO ENDORSE THE DRAFT NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN BEFORE IT PROCEEDS TO THE PRE-SUBMISSION CONSULTATION; AND PUBLICISE AS NECESSARY

Roy Pryke, informed the Council that it had originally been said that Exmouth's Neighbourhood Plan could take up to five years to complete. The Steering Group had hoped to achieve this in two years but realistically it was likely to be three years. The plan truly reflected the local community through community engagement.

Due to the size and complexity of the town additional consultation took place in September 2017 resulting in almost 2,000 comments being received. The comments were used to make significant changes in a balanced manner to meet these aspirations. The plan has been split into 26 policies and 38 community action points.

What happens next

- The plan will be published following agreement from this meeting.
- The statutory consultation will be over a six-week period to demonstrate to the Planning Inspector that the consultation took place.

- The Plan with supporting documents will be submitted to East Devon District Council in May.
- The Planning Inspector will decide if it is a “sound” plan and has taken appropriate account the comments made by the community and consultees.
- It is anticipated that the referendum will take place in October.
- The Neighbourhood Plan will compliment the Local Plan and will produce a vision for the next 13 years when the Local Plan will be replaced in 2031.
- There will be a need to ensure that the plan is implemented and that community action points are addressed. This will be an opportunity for the Town Council to lead in achieving the aspirations of local people.

It was confirmed that applications already with planning consent and planning proposals as identified in the Local Plan cannot be changed.

Cllr P Garbutt joined the meeting at 19.32.

Roy Pryke and the Neighbourhood Steering Group were thanked for their dedication and hard work on the development of the Neighbourhood Plan.

The Plan’s seven chapters were discussed in detail.

1. The Natural Environment

Valley Parks and Green Wedges were high on the priority list as areas of great landscape value.

- It was agreed that the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group will contact Tim Dafforn (Wild Exmouth) and that Millennium Wood will be included as an area to protect and enhance for future use.
- Concern was raised that the map of Bapton Valley Park may not be accurate and it was agreed that this will be reviewed.

2. Biodiversity

A biodiversity plan should be implemented in line with Government aspirations. Any action should avoid making flooding issues worse and the Flood Defence work proposed by the Environment Agency was crucial.

- Cllr T Dumper confirmed that the most recent major fluvial flooding occurred in Autumn of 1960 and not Winter as stated in the Plan.

3. The Built Environment

Exmouth was an interesting town with diverse buildings and significant conservation areas. A number of areas have been specified for improvement.

- Cllr L Elson was concerned that the Neighbourhood Plan did not take into account the views of disabled people in relation to pedestrianisation in the shopping area.
- Christ Church in Windsor Square had not been included in the list of prominent buildings.

4. Economy and Employment

It was crucial that a balance was maintained in the community across the different age categories and sufficient local employment was available for all. It was important to protect employment land and prevent residential development on such land.

- Stronger wording was needed to maintain and protect Employment Land in EE1.

- People within the town were the biggest asset to this section especially the younger generation and it was important that there was reference to employment for young people when they leave school. It was agreed that Cllr K Norton would provide a few sentences specifically around young people for Economy & Employment para 6.

5. Housing

This had been the most difficult section to put together and many of the concerns were around the definition of affordable housing.

- Concern was raised that paragraph 11 and Policy H1 were inconsistent in terms of number of units for residential development.

Cllr Bailey left meeting at 20.22.

6. Getting About

The use of public transport was good although there was concern for the future as the number of residents and visitors increased.

- It was agreed to add that the Town Council, as well as DCC, provided support for bus service
- Concern was raised about paragraph 19 which stated that community transport was for members of the community who could not afford taxis. It was agreed that Cllr L Elson will provide more appropriate wording.
- Roy Pryke asked if anyone could provide different wording to paragraph 30 to replace "DCC stated the road will not be widened"

7. Community Facilities

Community facilities were considered reasonable but to fulfil the vision work would be needed to make improvements in education, library, health & well-being services, leisure & sports, town assets (including the need for a not for profit community centre and arts centre), shopping, public toilets, allotments and refuse & recycling.

- It was agreed that the second objective following paragraph 18 should be amended to "Exmouth retains a hospital" rather than keep the existing hospital which may not be suitable in ten years.

Councillor S Gazzard proposed seconded by Councillor R Masding that the Neighbourhood Plan be endorsed with the amendments as described above.

RESOLVED that the draft neighbourhood plan is endorsed and should proceed to the pre-submission consultation; and be publicised as necessary

C18/016. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Town Council would be held on 5th February 2018 at 7.15pm. at the Town Hall Council Chamber.

The meeting concluded at 8.55 pm.

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

APPENDIX

Mr Nick Hookway was concerned that the Neighbourhood Plan did not account for the whole of the seafront or the concerns raised by residents regarding the long-term strategy. The Plan should make allowance for the proposed development as Policy EE5 was wide open to interpretation. He added that the Plan did not make allowance for residential development which he believed would alter the seafront and that we should appreciate what we have already.