

## EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD AT THE TELFER CENTRE, EXMOUTH COMMUNITY COLLEGE, GYPSY LANE, EXMOUTH ON MONDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2018 AT 7.00 P.M.

#### PRESENT:

Councillors:	B Cole (Mayor)	J Trail (Deputy Mayor)
	B Bailey	S Gazzard
	A Sadiq	J Humphreys
	R Masding	C Nicholas
	P Stott	M Chapman
	B Nash	K Norton
	R Scott	M William

Lisa Bowman, Town Clerk and Chetna Jones, Deputy Town Clerk  
R Bourgein, Town Crier, and approximately 23 electors of the Town of Exmouth and member of the Press.

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors F Caygill, B de Saram, T Dumper, L Elson, P Garbutt, D Nicholas, C Gough, T Hill, B Taylor and B Toye

Exmouth's Town Crier, Roger Bourgein, introduced Councillor Brian Cole, Mayor of Exmouth and Chairman of the Town Council.

#### 1. Opening and Welcome by the Mayor

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and as a departure from the agenda Joshua Lees, a pupil at the Community College, played a few songs from a concert he will be performing at the school.

#### 2. Minutes

The minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on Monday 20th March 2017 were proposed by Councillor S Gazzard, seconded by Councillor R Masding, and approved.

#### 3. Annual Report of the Town Council

Having been elected to serve Exmouth as its Mayor for a further 12 months, the Mayor embarked on a programme of work where he was to represent the town at more than 65 events during a period of 40 weeks. As Chairman of Exmouth Town Council work continued through numerous meetings and administrative work.

Having been privileged to serve as the Town Mayor since May 2016 he had met some amazing people. This town would not function in the way that it does without the support of the dedicated volunteers who tackle all sorts of jobs in a cheerful and friendly manner. We are so fortunate to have the services of these people who work, many of them behind the scenes, not seeking any acknowledgement or thanks.

On Christmas morning the Mayor visited Manor Lodge Residential Home; Fernihurst Nursing Home and Open Door as well as various other duties.

The Mayor had chosen to support Brain Tumour Research as his Charity this year.

The Mayor highlighted the tremendous effort made each year by Exmouth in Bloom Volunteers. They ensure, in all types of weather, that our Town remains a colourful, tidy,

welcoming place for both residents and visitors. The Mayor also acknowledged the support the town received throughout the year by the staff of StreetScene.

None of these activities would have happened without assistance from Lisa Bowman, the Town Clerk, and all the staff at Exmouth Town Council Office.

The Mayor has been proud and privileged to serve the town, supported wholeheartedly by his Consort and wife Beryl.

#### **4. Town Crier's Report**

Roger Bourgein, Exmouth's Town Crier, reported that he had attended approximately 200 events and enjoyed having the freedom to welcome visitors to the Town. He continued to take part in Town Crier competitions at which he had won many awards. He was grateful to the people of this town for the donations he received, enabling him to attend a prestigious 3-day Town Crier event in Bermuda. He thanked Exmouth for the opportunity to represent the Town and councillors and staff of Exmouth Town Council for their continued support.

#### **5 Presentations from local organisations in receipt of grants and support from Exmouth Town Council**

The following organisations each gave a presentation explaining how the grants received from Exmouth Town Council had been used to support their organisation.

**Health And Local Food for Families (HALFF).** Laura O'Rourke gave a presentation describing how they can teach families how to cook healthy and nutritious meals through hands-on cookery sessions, cooking demonstrations and monthly newsletters. The organisation engages primarily with EDDC tenanted families and the current sessions, which are free, are attended by 24 family members. It is anticipated that the grant funding provided by the Town Council will pay for these sessions over a 6-month period.

The organisation also works with the EDDC youth group providing healthy eating cooking sessions.

**Exmouth Pride.** David Marston gave a presentation on how rich the community was through its varied events put on throughout the year. Events such as Exmouth Pride can be attended by anyone and help to raise the profile of the town in a positive way. The group were grateful to the Town Council and local businesses for all the help and support they provide. Exmouth Pride is to be held on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018.

**National Coastwatch.** Gordon Betteridge gave a presentation on Exmouth NCI. National Voluntary service—one of 50 stations around the UK - whose role is to be the eyes and ears looking for individuals and vessels around the coast and along the beaches who find themselves in difficulty. Search and rescue services are alerted to instigate a rescue operation. This was an entirely voluntary run service and was dependent upon financial support from the public and commercial supporters.

The organisation was grateful for the support that Exmouth Town Council gave financially. The recent financial support has allowed the group to carry out repairs to the Tower as well as purchasing new VHF radio equipment. The VHF radios allow for communication with vessels for radio checks, weather reports and local information.

**South West Brass Band.** Rob Teagan gave a presentation on how the group started, with the first meeting being held in 1946 with just 11 bands. Membership now stands at just over 60 bands. An Executive Committee organised an annual competition event in Torquay where 78 bands entered as well as the Exmouth Festival concert in Manor Gardens. The grants and

sponsorships obtained helped to support these events and the organisation was grateful to all those who had contributed.

**DYS Space.** Claire Richardson gave a presentation on behalf of the youth centre. Despite the cutbacks at Devon County Council, Exmouth fought for its youth centre and managed to safeguard "The Hive". The Hive hosts open access sessions for youths aged between 11 and 19 including those with special needs and almost 100 young people attend each week. A short video produced by one of the attendees was shown, highlighting the activities on offer. The group were grateful to Exmouth Town Council for the financial contribution which funded team-building activities, gigs in Manor Gardens, photography printing, part funding of the Bronze Arts Award for several members, and a Christmas party.

**Pete's Dragons.** Alison Jordan, CEO and founder thanked the Town Council for the financial contribution to assist in providing bereavement support to over 200 families, many of whom reside in Exmouth. Approximately £1,200 was needed to support a family from 48 hours after a suicide bereavement right up to when they were able to support themselves. Help was provided in many ways including sending young people on outbound trips, women to well-being retreats, and providing suicide preventative advice. The group was expanding and more volunteers as well as paid staff were needed.

**EDAA.** Tony Hunter sent his apologies due to poor health.

**East Devon Support for Parkinson's.** Rosemary Hacker gave a presentation on behalf of the group about the illness. The number being diagnosed was expected to increase to 168,000 with over 50 diagnosed each day for this incurable neurological disease. It was believed that by staying fit and active the risks were being reduced and funding provided by the Town Council has helped set up exercise classes in Exmouth and Sidmouth. A member gave first-hand knowledge about the disease having been diagnosed with Young Onset Parkinson's Disease in her late forties. The group was providing advice and training to family, friends and work colleagues, who often struggle to know how to help.

**Brixington Community Church.** A short presentation was given by Revd Simon Atkinson and his wife on 'The Parent Pop In', which runs weekly in term time on a Thursday between 1 pm and 3.15 pm in the heart of Brixington at the Community Church. This was a new venture that had been asked for by the parents of Exmouth/Brixington. It was a warm safe place to bring children to play and socialise, with an opportunity for adults to use the community cafe and have lunch or cake and a refreshing drink. There were bargains to be had with a clothes swap and some opportunities to buy things. Most weeks there was a craft table including activities like card making, decorating biscuits, play dough or painting for all to enjoy. "Parent Pop In" has had over 50 different families attending it at different times. Some of these parents have asked for a helping hand and assistance has been given in different ways through our staff. Support has also been provided with housing issues, financial planning, parenting advice and many other issues through the family support worker. Parents with very young babies have ventured in to find a friendly face and a warm welcome. Isolation can be a big problem for new mums and this is a perfect place to visit free.

**Exmouth Museum.** Peter Cowper gave a short presentation on the possibility of the museum acquiring its building from South West Water as the Trustees of the museum have put in place an agreement to get first refusal on the property. A recent Open Day which was attended by over 300 people, provided an opportunity for the trustees to look at making improvements such as better signs to help visitors find the museum and longer opening hours. More visitors were needed as evidence that the museum was a much-needed asset to the town as well as serving as an information point for enquiries and research. This evidence would demonstrate that more time was needed to raise funds to acquire the building.

## **6. Public Forum – Priority was given to those questions notified in advance to the Town Clerk.**

The Chairman reminded members of the public that questions should directly relate to Exmouth Town Council business and questions that related to East Devon District Council, Devon County Council, Devon and Cornwall Police and the NHS would be redirected or answered in writing. He invited members present who had previously submitted questions to the Town Clerk to speak.

Ann Membery spoke of her concerns regarding the amount of plastic waste that might be generated in Exmouth in the future. Lyme Bay was a conservation area and it was important to protect the wildlife and environment. Businesses should be encouraged to reduce use of plastics and switch to using sustainable products instead.

Cllr R Masding confirmed that as a member of the East Devon branch of the Green Party, he will be requesting such a motion to be considered by the Town Council. Cllr M Williamson confirmed that EDDC as a landlord stipulated that their tenants reduce the use of single-use plastics.

Cllr Kristine Norton confirmed that businesses were being encouraged to participate in the REFILL scheme. Refill is a national, practical tap water campaign that aims to make refilling your bottle as easy, convenient and cheap as possible by introducing refill points on every street.

Mr N Hookway was concerned about cars parking in pedestrianised areas in Tower Road and Bath Road and asked what was to be done about this.

Cllr J Trail, as one of Exmouth's 3 County Councillors, confirmed that all 3 councillors were working together to help address parking concerns around the town and that they had signed off parking restrictions for over 40 sites. These amendments were currently under consultation and would be followed by a meeting in April to review any objections. It was hoped work would commence shortly after.

Mr N Hookway asked about the progress of Exmouth's Neighbourhood Plan as he felt the community were unaware of what was happening. Councillors, as members of the steering group, confirmed that the Plan was in its final phase and currently going through a 6-week consultation period before being submitted to East Devon District Council's Planning Authority to check for conflicts with the Local Plan. Following this all documentation from the start of the process right up the Planning Authority's comments will be sent to the Planning Inspectorate. Feedback would be provided to the NP steering group that not many were aware of the consultation taking place.

Ann Membery commended the beautiful wild flowers in the London Inn car park as well the flowers around the town. However, she was concerned about the stand in London Inn car park being an eyesore and asked if something could be done about it. Mrs Membery also raised concerns about the graffiti around the town being particularly bad.

The Town Clerk confirmed that work to remove the graffiti on public assets such as street furniture was being addressed and work on the Underpass would be commencing shortly. A liability issue existed when addressing private property.

A member of the public raised his concerns regarding the number of potholes that were not being repaired by DCC Highways and that when reported, Highways did not agree with it.

Cllr J Trail confirmed that potholes needed to be a certain depth before they were repaired. He suggested that each defect be reported separately and by as many people as possible. The same contractors were involved in gritting, clearing drains and roads as well as repairing pot holes. Despite funds in the region of £6.5 M being available to repair roads across Devon, there

was insufficient manpower, hence the delays. DCC were withholding payment if contractors work was not of a high standard.

Cllr C Channon confirmed that road repair work in Exmouth has been agreed.

Ann Membery asked if the repair work in Imperial Road Car Park was in preparation for the Campervan parking. Cllr B Nash confirmed that the work at the car park was planned maintenance work. Additionally, Traffic Orders from Devon County Council and East Devon District Council were available for consultation and when approved will enable campervans to park overnight in car parks rather than the seafront.

The meeting concluded at 9.05 pm.

Signed .....  
(Chairman)

Date .....