

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, ST ANDREWS ROAD, EXMOUTH, ON MONDAY 8TH JULY 2019 AT 7.15PM

PRESENT: Councillors: S Gazzard (Chairman)
B Bailey (Vice Chairman)
J Humphreys C Nicholas
M Rosser F Caygill
B Toye P Millar
J Whibley A Toye
T Dumper A Colman
D Poor O Davey
J Whipps I Kirvan
M Chapman B De Saram
P Stott L Elson
A Bailey A Sadiq

Devon County Councillor: J Trail and R Scott

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

APOLOGIES: Councillors F Cullis & T Woodward

Past councillors, B Cole, R Masding, D Nicholas, K Norton, R Scott, B Taylor, J Trail and M Williamson were welcomed and thanked for their work during their time with the Town Council and presented with a past councillor badge.

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and informed members that he and Councillor B Bailey had already attended many events and wanted to bring to the Council's attention three events in particular: Exmouth Pride, Beat Retreat and the Royal Opera House live showing of Carmen at the Queen's Drive Space.

The Chairman sought and obtained permission to write to Dinan, one of the two twinned towns, to express the Town Council's deepest sympathy and wish them well with any restoration works following the recent tragic fire which ravaged many historical buildings.

The Chairman sought and obtained permission to bring the County Councillors' reports agenda item forward to after the Plastic Reduction Working Party agenda item, prior to receiving reports and minutes of committees and other working parties.

PUBLIC FORUM: There were no questions from members of the public.

C19/066. COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of Exmouth Town Council, held on Monday 10th June 2019, which had previously been circulated, were received and signed as a true record.

C19/067. MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES

The Town Clerk confirmed that a meeting of the Climate Change Task and Finish Forum was arranged and that Terms of Reference for this working party will be available for review at the Town Council meeting in August.

C19/068. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

Item	Councillor	Declaration type		Reason
		Pecuniary	Personal	
C19/070	Cllr B De Saram		x	Private Sector Landlord
C/19/070	Cllr P Millar	x		Employee of SW Water
C19/070	Cllr L Elson		x	Employer hires venues as identified in the PRWP notes

C19/069. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

There was one item 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.

C19/070. REPORTS AND MINUTES FROM COMMITTEES, WORKING PARTIES, OTHER LOCAL BODIES, THE TOWN CLERK / DEPUTY TOWN CLERK as appropriate (Standing Order 6.2)

- **Plastic Reduction Working Party**

Councillor A Sadiq as Chairperson of the working party confirmed that Scott Burgan, Community Leader for Surfers Against Sewage, sent his apologies for not being able to attend. Councillor A Sadiq confirmed that the notes highlighted two aspects of the recommendation, one being the new policy to enable the Town Council to work towards reducing single-use plastics within its own business, and the other supporting the work of the Exmouth Plastics-Free Community Steering Group to obtain Plastic Free Community accreditation from Surfers Against Sewage. Councillor A Sadiq highlighted that the policy, as previously circulated, had been amended slightly to soften the wording by adding 'where possible' instead of 'requiring'.

A debate followed in which Councillors discussed:

- Influencing East Devon District Council's Licensing department to work towards requiring all event holders to ban use of single-use plastics at their event;
- That appropriate wording within the policy had been used
- Investigating the installation of water fountains around the town, thereby drastically reducing the number of plastic bottles needing to be used
- Informing MPs of the need for a change in Government Legislation
- Encourage use of bottled milk deliveries

Councillor A Sadiq proposed, seconded by Councillor J Whipps, and it was

RESOLVED that the Town Council:

- **Adopts the newly drafted Single-Use Plastic Policy to support the Town working towards becoming a single-use plastic-free town**
- **Pledges to act by example and enforce the policy in all its business matters**
- **Supports all plastic free initiatives within the town**
- **Assigns Councillor T Dumper as the council representative on the Plastics-Free Community Steering Group to support the group in its work towards obtaining Plastic Free Community Accreditation from Surfers against Sewage.**

- **County Councillor Reports**

Councillor R Scott provided a report on the following:
The toucan crossing is now operational on the A376.

Significant re-surfacing is taking place and there is more to come in this financial year. It is also likely that hot weather will delay it.

All line markings within Exmouth are to be completed this financial year.

County Councillors C Channon, J Trail and R Scott have supported Marpool Primary with traffic control measures, an issue that had no previous traction, and was now resolved.

They also continue to press the police on speed watch and pavement parking.

Councillor R Scott drew attention to two reports from The Corporate Scrutiny meeting on 25th June 2019 that were worth reading. One on Vegetation Management and the other on Speed. Both will appear on the Cabinet Agenda for 10th July for a decision. If adopted as policies, there will be a big change in the Highways culture and how parish communities are engaged with on speed and local requirements. Both policies will have consequences relating to spending decisions. If the speeding report is accepted, Newton Abbott will be used as a trial for 20mph zones, and the consequence will likely be that all other traffic orders for on-street parking will be cancelled to pay for it. Landowners will also see a big change in their responsibilities.

Councillors R Scott and J Trail are currently working on a spotlight review into unpaid carers. This report will come before the Committee in November. Councillor R Scott felt the current system was not working in many instances and the solution had to come from the community. Devon County Council would also like to hear from anyone in the division who is a full-time volunteer carer. Listening to the experience of some carers has been difficult and as a community we need to understand what carers are going through so we can help.

Devon County Council are looking for community groups to volunteer to be dementia-friendly. If the Town Council is interested, Councillor R Scott will be happy to provide details on the scope.

The Woodbury Exmouth Budleigh (WEB) area ICS continues to develop and there has been a big change in Primary Care with networks established Devon-wide. All GPs in the WEB area now work as one unit under one director, which makes it easier to drive change in patient care and particularly in Health and Wellbeing provision. WEB Board members have met with the new director twice to discuss issues in its division.

Regarding suicide, Councillor Scott would be interested to know if there are any volunteer groups in the area that deal with it. He is aware of Pete's Dragons and Open Door. He has, so far, challenged Devon County Council to get its own house in order, but felt it was not enough, and we need to find Devon-wide solutions to deal with this problem.

On 21st October, Devon County Council will be running a Planning Workshop/Presentations for Parish and Town Councillors with the major statutory consultees.

The Climate Strategic Coordinating Group, although not Devon County Council-run, has started and will have an independent Chairperson.

There were three groups requesting to speak at future Town Council meetings: South West Ambulance Service Trust, DC Loneliness and Dementia.

It was noted that County Councillor C Channon sent her apologies.

Councillor J Trail confirmed, on behalf of Councillor C Channon, that overhanging trees in the Avenues area will be cut back by East Devon District Council's Streetscene. Devon County Council is aware of the wall on the junction of Portland Avenue and Douglas Avenue as well as the dip in the road on Cyprus Road.

Councillor J Trail reported that, as a representative of the Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service Authority, he had since joining visited 8 of the 85 fire stations and completed training to get a better understanding of the role of a fire fighter. Councillor J Trail confirmed that consultation on the proposed changes to the fire service had started and was disappointed to discover that there would not be a 'public drop-in' exhibition in Exmouth. As a consequence, another date has been added and a drop-in exhibition is to be held on 23rd July at the Town Hall between 3 and 7pm. Full details on the 7 options will be made available at this and all the other events, as well as providing an opportunity to complete a survey.

A debate followed where councillors queried and discussed how this new date was going to be publicised, what format it will take, which officials will be attendings and whether any statistics will be available.

The Town Clerk confirmed she had received a letter from Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service providing details of the consultation and will arrange for this to be added to the next Town Council agenda to enable, if desired, for the councillors to agree a collective response on behalf of the Town Council.

The Town Clerk also confirmed that a special meeting had been arranged, by invitation only due to limited space, to enable Exmouth Town Council and Budleigh Town Council representatives to be informed of the proposed changes.

Councillor J Trail was thanked for his hard work and persistence.

Councillor R Scott, having been asked if there was any training provided on dealing with mental health to help identify crucial early warning signs, confirmed that he was unaware if this training was delivered to anyone other than staff and councillors directly involved.

Councillor R Scott was thanked for his very informative report.

Councillors R Scott and J Trail left the meeting.

- **Planning Committee**

Councillor L Elson proposed, seconded by Councillor T Dumper, and it was

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 10th June 2019 and 24th June 2019 be accepted and adopted.

- **Town Clerk's Report**

The Town Clerk's report, which had previously been circulated, was noted.

It was confirmed that work was progressing in identifying the work needed for the Jubilee Clock Tower prior to any submission for Listed Building Consent.

- **Deputy Clerk's Report**

The Deputy Clerk's report, which had previously been circulated, was noted.

- **Community Organisations Liaison Panel**

Notes of the meeting held on 24th June 2019, which had previously been circulated, were noted.

- **Festival and Events Working Party**

Notes of meetings held on 14th March 2019 and 19th June 2019, which had previously been circulated, were noted.

A verbal update of the meeting held on 4th July 2019 was provided by the Chairperson, Councillor J Whipps, who confirmed that the working party were making enquiries into the possibility of organising a Friday evening Christmas Fayre. Nothing had been agreed and concerns (such as consulting with schools for better participation, Friday being a working day meaning the charity volunteers may not be available to man stalls, and the additional working hours expected of staff) will all need to be considered prior to any plans being agreed.

- **Flooding and Land Drainage – response to EA survey on Flooding and Coastal Risk Management Strategy**

The response to the Environment Agency's survey on Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy submitted by the Flooding and Land Drainage Working Party on 24th June 2019 was noted.

- **LAG**

Notes of the meeting held on 8th May 2019, which had previously been circulated, were noted.

Councillor B Bailey confirmed that the police had reported that crime figures were stable, but they were dealing with more cases relating to mental health. The Inspector had confirmed that Exmouth, although fully staffed, was debating the need for an extra officer.

Councillor Gazzard added that the police had requested that parents be encouraged to report all theft of bikes as this was not currently happening.

The issue of graffiti on the lower beach shelters was raised and it was agreed that this will be raised in the Waterfront meeting on 9th July 2019.

- **Devon Association of Larger Councils County Committee**

Notes of the meeting held on 13th June 2019, which had previously been circulated, were noted.

Councillor T Dumper, who attended on behalf of the Chairman, Councillor S Gazzard, commented that these meetings provided a useful networking opportunity.

- **Reports from Members who Represent the Council on Outside Bodies**
Councillor B De Saram confirmed he had attended the Chamber of Commerce networking meeting where East Devon District Council provided an update on the work planned for phase three of the seafront development.

Councillor O Davey confirmed he had attended his first meeting of the Allotment Association Committee and praised their dedication across both sites.

Councillor T Dumper confirmed that visitors from Dinan and District of France had recently visited and enjoyed their stay despite the very wet weather.

- **District Councillor Reports**

District Councillors gave brief reports in their areas of responsibility.

Councillor B De Saram confirmed that he had attended the Overview meeting where they had reviewed the 4-year Forward Plan proposals.

Councillor M Chapman confirmed that she had attended the Licensing meeting where taxi tariffs had been discussed and, due to conflicting views, it was agreed that further consultation was required.

Councillor O Davey confirmed he had attended two planning meetings and that, in general, the Development Management Committee had taken on board officers' advice.

Councillor A Colman asked if it could be clarified at what time toilets around Exmouth closed during the summer months as some were being closed as early as 8.30pm.

Councillor J Whibley's report, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, was noted.

Councillor P Millar's report, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, was noted.

Councillor B De Saram asked that it be noted that there were often other circumstances to why tenants were homeless and in most cases tenants chose to leave for personal reasons rather than because of "Landlord Bashing".

Councillor F Caygill did not have anything to report as a District Councillor. With the Chairman's permission he highlighted his concerns relating to the Fire Service proposals.

Councillor J Humphreys gave his apologies and left the meeting.

C19/071. ADDITION OF A TOWN WARD MEMBER TO THE COMMUNITY RESILIENCE WORKING PARTY

Councillor A Sadiq proposed, seconded by Councillor A Toye, and it was

RESOLVED that Councillor T Dumper be appointed as a member of the Community Resilience Working Party as a Town Ward Representative.

Councillors A Sadiq and D Poor gave their apologies and left the meeting.

C19/072. REPORT FOLLOWING THE MAINTENANCE AND SERVICE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL-OWNED FLAGPOLES

The report following the maintenance and service of the Town Council-owned flagpoles, which had previously been circulated, was noted.

Members of the public and Press left the meeting.

PART B of the meeting.

C19/073. HR Group Update

The notes of the HR Group meeting held on 27th June 2019, including decisions therein, were ratified.

It was agreed that Councillor B De Saram will ask East Devon District Council's Neighbourhood Planning Officer for additional training and advice for the Planning Committee now that the Neighbourhood Plan was made. This will enable members to have a better understanding of how the Planning Authority will use the Exmouth Neighbourhood Plan in all planning applications.

The Town Clerk confirmed that she will be completing the work on the Neighbourhood Plan Implementation Strategy for the Town Council to review in the August Town Council meeting.

Recruitment proposals for the Supplementary Town Maintenance Team will be discussed by the HR Group before any decisions are agreed.

C19/074. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Town Council will be held on Monday 5th August 2019 at 7.15pm at the Town Hall Council Chamber.

The meeting concluded at 9.24pm.

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