

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, ST ANDREWS ROAD, EXMOUTH, ON MONDAY 20TH JANUARY 2020 AT 7.15PM

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

Devon County Councillors: R Scott, C Channon and J Trail

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

APOLOGIES: Councillor J Humphreys, M Rosser, A Colman and O Davey

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

Councillor A Sadiq proposed, seconded by Councillor P Millar, and it was agreed, to consider the reports from the County Councillors and item 7 of the agenda relating to the Devon and Somerset Fire Service proposals prior to considering the other reports.

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

C20/001. COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Councillor P Stott proposed, seconded by Councillor J Whipps, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Monday 9th December 2019 be approved.

The minutes of the meeting (previously circulated) were received and signed as a true record.

C20/002. MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES

There were no matters arising.

C20/003. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

Item	Councillor	Declaration type		Reason
		Pecuniary	Personal	
C20/007	P Stott		X	Campervan Owner

Councillor A Toye informed members he was no longer a trustee of CAB. The Town Clerk reminded him and other councillors to review their declaration of interest register forms for accuracy. The requirement to keep this up to date was incumbent on individual councillors, although the office can send them onto East Devon District Council on their behalf.

C20/004. 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.

C20/005. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Councillor J Trail congratulated Jill Elson on receiving her MBE award.

Councillor J Trail confirmed he has been working with the Exmouth Sea Scouts to ensure essential agreements were in place with East Devon District Council to enable them to proceed with the refurbishment work.

Councillor J Trail confirmed that the road along the seafront from Carlton Hill Road roundabout to Orcombe Point was closed to enable sand to be cleared following the recent stormy weather.

Councillor J Trail added that details of a Stagecoach consultation had been provided to the Town Clerk and this included amendments to bus services 56, 57, 57N, 58, 58C and 257.

Councillor J Trail also confirmed that he was actively involved in ensuring that Exmouth fire station retained its 24/7 service for the time being. He confirmed that amended proposals were agreed whereby Budleigh firefighters will be deployed to Exmouth and Budleigh Fire Station will close. The Fire Authority was clear in its needs and focused on the following areas:

1. Improving the on-call terms & conditions and pay. Discussions on firefighter terms and conditions remained with the Union, outside of the Fire Authority's remit.
2. Gauging the responses to the recent Safer Together consultation and proposing changes which will enable the Service to move resources to the areas where they are most needed
3. Relocation of existing fire stations and building new improved stations
4. Greater investment in prevention and protection work to try to prevent incidents occurring

Visits on a personal basis were made to speak with staff affected by relocations or closures. Fire engines from the closed stations will be deployed where needed most but it was important to recognise there were not enough vehicles to cover the whole area. The headquarters at Clyst St George will monitor and manage the situation including deploying the roving fire engines and putting other stations on standby if additional help is needed.

Councillor J Trail confirmed that this is not a decision that has been made lightly and has involved firefighters and residents alike.

Cllr P Millar left the meeting.

Councillor J Trail confirmed that Devon County Council were considering a proposal for the introduction of 2 lanes at the junction with Salterton Road for traffic to leave Liverton Business Park as well as flashing hazard lights for when the fire and ambulance service is deployed.

Cllr P Millar returned to the meeting.

Councillor C Channon confirmed that at the last East Devon HATOC meeting in December the Traffic Order to remove the caravans on Douglas Avenue was agreed. Councillor C Channon confirmed that she had received complaints about caravans emptying their contaminated toilet waste in the East Devon District Council car parks and requested that this item be added to the next Campervan TAFF agenda. Road re-surfacing matters for the Avenues were being considered with the Highways Neighbourhood Officer.

Councillor R Scott confirmed that due to time constraints he will submit his report in writing as there were matters needing a response from town councillors.

The Mayor thanked the county councillors for attending and for providing reports.

Councillors C Channon, R Scott and J Trail left the meeting.

C20/006. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF THE MOTION PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR D POOR AND SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR P MILLAR REGARDING THE PROPOSALS BY THE FIRE AUTHORITY

Councillor D Poor confirmed that this motion was being considered as it was felt that not enough had changed. In principle, the Fire Authority's decision was understood but there was concern it relied on matters not yet defined. Councillor D Poor suggested that these should be agreed before any decisions were made. Additionally, there was concern about the loss of a fire engine in this area. Councillor P Millar re-iterated these concerns adding that over 95% of the responses did not agree with any of the options originally proposed in the consultation document.

This motion was debated with councillors raising the following:

- Sympathising for those affected by closures at Budleigh and Topsham
- A decision to close Budleigh fire station had been made and that we should move on
- Exmouth fire station, when originally set up with 2 fire engines, served half the size of the current town
- Exmouth Town Council had originally agreed to support Budleigh Town Council
- Firefighters felt it was appropriate to close Budleigh fire station – this was later raised as hearsay as there was nothing in writing
- If the Exmouth fire engines were taken elsewhere this would leave Exmouth exposed with the two nearest stations closing
- The statistics were generally felt to be questionable and it seemed doubtful that the Fire Authority had factored these concerns.
- The overall number of fire engines was still cut, and this was felt to pose a risk
- The concept of roving fire engines was unfavourable
- The effects of climate change in raising temperature levels leading to heatwaves and possibly more fires in the open countryside
- Having a specialist appliance and trained crew at Exmouth, means they are quite often called away to distant locations, and therefore not available for local callouts.

Councillor D Poor proposed, seconded by Councillor P Millar and it was **RESOLVED** (12 in favour, 2 against and 6 abstentions) **that the Town Council**

- **Notes the decision on Friday by the Devon and Somerset Fire Authority and reaffirms its stated opposition to the closure of the Budleigh Fire Station, transfer of the Topsham Fire Station and the continuing risk to Exmouth Fire Station as the final decision has only been deferred until the end of March 2020.**
- **Thanks the MP for East Devon for his opposition to the proposals**
- **Notes that the proposals as passed means that Exmouth Fire station will be supporting Budleigh Salterton area, with possible additional crew but no additional fire engines. The reduction in fire engines also does not take into**

account the risk of major fires on Woodbury Common which is part of the East Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and is a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

- **Would like assurances that the proposals as agreed mean that the retained fire fighters at Budleigh Salterton are able to get to Exmouth Fire Station within the legal time limit.**
- **Supports the Fire Brigade Union in its continuing attempts to safeguard our fire service.**

C20/007. REPORTS AND MINUTES FROM COMMITTEES, WORKING PARTIES, OTHER LOCAL BODIES, THE TOWN CLERK / DEPUTY TOWN CLERK as appropriate (Standing Order 6.2)

- **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 25th November, 9th December and 16th December 2019 be accepted and adopted.**
- **Town Clerk's Report**
The Town Clerk's report, which had previously been circulated, was noted. The Town Clerk brought to councillors' attention the update on the beach wheelchair project, in particular the continued support it will need to achieve the full funding. Councillor P Stott thanked the Town Clerk for her help in submitting the grant applications.
- **Deputy Clerk's Report**
The Deputy Clerk's report, which had previously been circulated, was noted. It was noted that Councillor Chapman confirmed that Streetscene were reviewing the grass verges they were cutting.
- **Town Maintenance Contracts TAFF**
The notes of the meeting held on 19th December 2019, which had been previously circulated were noted.
- **Community Organisations Liaison Panel**
The notes of the meeting held on 6th January 2020, which had been previously circulated, were noted.
- **Community Resilience Working Party**
The Emergency Plan v1.4, which had been previously circulated, were noted.

Councillor F Caygill's request to stand down from the working party was noted.

Councillor T Dumper proposed, seconded by Councillor B Toye and it was **RESOLVED that Councillor D Poor be added to the working party.**

Councillor J Whipps proposed, seconded by Councillor B de Saram and it was **RESOLVED that Councillor M Chapman be added to the working party.**

Councillor T Dumper asked that it be formally recorded that the Deputy Town Clerk had arranged a first-class volunteer training session and that the important work being carried out by the working party needed support from all councillors.

- **Plastic Reduction Working Party**

The notes of the meeting held on 13th January 2020, which had been previously circulated, were noted.

Councillor T Dumper confirmed that work continued with the SAS who were well on the way to qualifying for the Plastic Free Communities accreditation.

Councillor Sadiq confirmed that work was in hand in delivering the water bottle refilling stations and that locations had been identified and agreed.

- **S106 and CIL Working Party**

Councillor F Caygill provided a verbal update of the meeting held on 14th January 2020

Sport project proposals were reviewed by the working party and all suitable projects will be subject to public voting.

- **Flooding and Land Drainage Working Party**

Councillor B de Saram provided a verbal update of the meeting held on 14th January 2020

A positive meeting was held where East Devon District Council confirmed that they will be responsible for all the flood gates and that help may be needed by the Community Resilience Team to open and close some of the flood gates.

- **Outside Bodies**

Councillor D Poor confirmed he had attended the WEB Health and Wellbeing Board meeting held on 9th January 2020 and added that the minutes of that meeting will be provided when they become available.

Councillor T Dumper confirmed that Fairtrade Fortnight will be taking place from Monday 24 February - Sunday 8 March 2020 and Exmouth Fair Trade will be holding its Schools Conference again as well its annual Pancake Day event on 25th February. He confirmed that Exmouth Fair Trade will be celebrating its 10th Anniversary on 30th April. He added that all councillors were invited to attend these events.

Councillor F Caygill left the meeting.

Councillor T Dumper confirmed that the Twinning Association will be holding its AGM on 12th March 2020. There will be a visit from the Langerwehe guests to help celebrate the 35th Anniversary at a special dinner on 30th April as well as the annual visit to Dinan in June.

Councillor T Dumper confirmed he will be attending the first meeting of the newly established Climate Emergency Taff as the DALC County Committee representative.

- **District Councillors' Reports**

District Councillors gave brief reports in their areas of responsibility.

Councillor P Millar confirmed he had attended the Car Parking Forum along with five other Exmouth Councillors where they considered the viability for winter half-day parking as well removing the cost for the initial half hour stay. He also attended the Asset Management meeting, which has been considering acquiring a major building. Additionally, concerns were raised about the state of Brixington Park and the need to enforce the Play Pitch Strategy.

Councillor B de Saram attended the Overview and Scrutiny meeting as well as the Queens Drive Delivery meeting where it was agreed that a meeting will be arranged for all the Exmouth councillors.

Councillor M Chapman confirmed that the Events Officer at East Devon District Council will be arranging for a big screen to be added to the Strand. Councillor Chapman suggested that the Campervan TAFF considered the chemical toilet waste as mentioned previously and consider designating a place to dispose of this safely. Councillor M Chapman advised that the Car Parking TAFF at East Devon District Council were reviewing the parking charges for Campervans.

Councillors J Whipp and D Poor left the meeting.

C20/008. COUNCILLOR M ROSSER REPLACES COUNCILLOR O DAVEY ON THE PLANNING COMMITTEE AND THAT COUNCILLOR O DAVEY REPLACES COUNCILLOR MIKE ROSSER ON THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Councillor T Dumper proposed, seconded by Councillor B De Saram, and it was **RESOLVED** that **Councillor M Rosser replaces Councillor O Davey on the Planning Committee and that Councillor O Davey replaces Councillor Mike Rosser on the Finance Committee**

C20/009. RESPONSE TO THE REMOVAL OF FURTHER PUBLIC PAYPHONES IN EXMOUTH AS IDENTIFIED IN THE ATTACHED CONSULTATION DOCUMENT FROM BT

Councillor B Bailey left the meeting.

Councillor T Dumper proposed, seconded by Councillor I Kirvan, and it was **RESOLVED** that **the Town Clerk responds by requesting that BT retains all payphone boxes where there has been more than 1 call per week made.**

C20/010. 2020/21 BUDGET AND ASSOCIATED PRECEPT REQUEST

The chairman confirmed that members had received a copy of the proposed budget, which had previously been circulated, as well the related precept for 2020/2021 and asked for approval.

Councillor L Elson proposed, seconded by Councillor B de Saram, and it was **RESOLVED** that **the 2020/2021 budget of £853,945 as presented at the meeting be approved as well as authorising the Town Clerk to submit the precept request of £771,394 to East Devon District Council.**

Councillor B Bailey returned to the meeting.

C20/011. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Town Council will be held on Monday 17th January 2020 at 7.15pm at the Town Hall Council Chamber.

The meeting concluded at 9.13pm.

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