

# EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD AT THE TELFER CENTRE, EXMOUTH COMMUNITY COLLEGE ON 27<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2014 AT 7.00pm

**PRESENT:** Councillors: D Chapman (Chairman) C Nicholas (Vice Chairman)

B Cole B Nash  
T Cope P Stott  
T Dumper B Taylor  
V Duval-Steer B Toyne  
L Elson M Williamson  
P Graham S Wragg  
J Humphreys

**APOLOGIES:** Cllrs S Gazzard, A Greenhalgh, I Stewart, E Wragg & Julie Gregory, minute taker, her place was taken by Sue Cody.

The Chairman welcomed the incoming Town Clerk, Lisa Bowman, appointed to replace Colin Poole, who was in attendance for his last meeting.

### Public Forum

There were no members of the public wishing to speak at the Public Forum

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### F14/025. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 24<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2014

The Minutes of the meeting held on 24th March 2014 were approved and signed as a correct record.

Proposer: Cllr P Stott

Seconder: Cllr L Elson

### F14/026. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND DISPENSATION

The following Councillors declared interests:

Item	Councillor	Declaration type		Reason
		Pecuniary	Personal	
7b	B Nash		X	National Coastwatch member
	L Elson		X	Employer has a stall at Country Fayre
	V Duval-Steer		X	Country Fayre – Parish Cllr.
	P Graham		X	Exe Sailing Club member
11	L Elson		X	Works with Mrs L Renouf, who is the Chairman of the Resthaven Executive Committee

**F14/027. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

None.

**F14/028. URGENT BUSINESS**

None.

**F14/029. REPORT FROM THE RESPONSIBLE FINANCE OFFICER**

- a) The Committee had before them a Financial Report (previously circulated) which included a Year-To-Date Budget Report and Bank Reconciliation for the financial period ending 30th April 2014.
- b) Cllr S Wragg checked the printed bank statements against the bank reconciliation on behalf of the Committee and confirmed they matched the funds reported.
- c) The oldest un-presented cheque was for B Higgins an artist who performed at Christmas Cracker 2013.
- d) The finance Admin Officer had secured free banking at Barclays for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015.
- e) Share prices for Mondelez, item 4 in the report, had recently risen and consideration should be given to the possible sale of those shares.
- f) There was currently £7,243.20 held on behalf of the Coast Hopper service which was not in service. The Transport Partnership would need to decide how the money would be spent and consideration would need to be given to its usage from the donors of the money. Councillor M Williamson would investigate this request on behalf of members once he had received additional information from Councillor T Dumper.
- g) There were no questions arising in respect of the Financial Report which did not contain a narrative as it was the first month of the New Year.

**F14/030. GRANTS**

- a) Acknowledgements of receipt of grant and SLA payments had been received from:

Exmouth Musical Theatre Company	Exmouth Museum
Exmouth Swimming & Lifesaving	Exmouth in Bloom
Exmouth Carnival	St John the Evangelist Church Hall
East Devon CAB	Littleham Family Activity Centre
Exmouth Beach Rescue	
- b) Determination of Grant applications received was held over to Full Council on 9<sup>th</sup> June to enable the information on the applicants' reserves to be provided to Councillors.

**F14/031. SUPPORTING NATIONAL EVENTS IN EXMOUTH**

The Committee considered the request for £6,500 for the provision of flags, banners and bunting to dress Exmouth for the nationally significant sporting events that were taking place in Exmouth. The Chairman commented that it was important that flags were in good order and not old and tatty. It was confirmed that this purchase would enable flags to be regularly rotated so that no flag would be up for the whole season, which greatly helps extend their useful life.

**RESOLVED that £6,500 be allocated for the provision of flags, banners and bunting to dress Exmouth.**

Proposer: Cllr V Duval-Steer

Seconder: Cllr L Elson

It was noted that any contribution to the main Tour of Britain event in the Strand was to be considered separately.

**F14/032. TOURIST INFORMATION PROVISION**

The Committee considered a budget of £3,500 from the Town Management budget for the provision of a 'tourist information beach hut' to be sited on the Strand. It was confirmed landowner's permission had been obtained to site it there. Discussion took place on the infrastructure needed to provide a tourist service from the hut. The Chamber of Trade and Commerce were to furnish the hut and the Town Team Partnership had agreed to contribute £1500 towards IT provision. £20,000 had been provided by EDDC for the Economic Development of Exmouth which would be used to fund staffing. Councillor T Cope questioned the lack of a business plan. The Town Clerk advised the meeting that the Council was following the recommendations in the report by former Mayor Darryl Nicholas and speed was of the essence, if a service was to be provided in summer 2014.

A vote was taken which resulted in 10 for, 2 against and 3 abstained.

**RESOLVED that a budget of £3,500 be allocated for the provision of a tourist information beach hut on the Strand.**

Proposer: Cllr B Nash

Seconder: Cllr J Humphreys

**F14/033. IT SYSTEM AT EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL**

The Committee were asked to consider a capital budget of £6,325 to upgrade the IT system to a faster system using the latest technology and to enable the use of tablets within the Town Hall. Councillor T Cope was supportive of the choice of system but wished the projected maintenance cost to be further investigated. All members supported the proposal.

**RESOLVED that a budget of £6,325 be allocated from general reserves for the costs of upgrading the IT system within the Town Council.**

Proposer: Cllr L Elson

Seconder: Cllr T Cope

**F14/034. REPORT FROM THE TRUST FUND WORKING PARTY**

Confirmation received that a grant of £1,675 from the Williams Adams Westwood Trust Fund to improve the access at Resthaven Residential Home had been authorised by the Trust Fund Working Party on 16<sup>th</sup> April. A request was made that the new Town Clerk be asked to draft a revision to the Trust deed to enable funds to be given for support to older people with disabilities who lived in their own homes. The Trust Fund Working Party would write on the Town Council’s behalf to request if that option would be considered.

**F14/035. GARTH GIBSON MEMORIAL FUND**

The Committee noted that the residual funds had been passed to the Bursary Fund.

**F14/036. REPORTS FROM OTHER LOCAL BODIES, COUNCILLORS AND THE TOWN CLERK AS APPROPRIATE**

- a) Councillor Humphreys reported that steps from Madeira gardens had collapsed into the Beacon and had been cordoned off by EDDC and should be repaired within the week.
- b) Councillor S Wragg reported that EDDC are to reduce the length of Development Management Committee meetings on a trial basis in response to requests from EDDC Members, by reducing the amount of time available for public speaking.

The Town Clerk thanked all present for the support they had given him over the last 2+ years he had been in post. The Chairman in response wished to place on record his appreciation for his work, thanked him and wished him well on his return to Suffolk.

**F14/037. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be held on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2014 at 7.00 pm.

**The meeting closed at 8.10pm**

SIGNED.....  
**Chairman**

**DATED.....**