Exmouth Town Council

Town Hall, St Andrews Road
Exmouth, Devon, EX8 1AW

tel: 01395 276167
email: reception@exmouth.gov.uk
www.exmouth.gov.uk

This Meeting is open to the Public and Press

5th September, 2019

To: All Members of Exmouth Town Council

Dear Councillors

An Extraordinary Meeting of Exmouth Town Council, to which you are summoned, will be held at Exmouth Town Hall, Exmouth, EX8 1AB on **Tuesday 10th September, 2019 at 7pm** to consider the matters detailed on the Agenda below.

Yours faithfully

Steve Gazzard

Councillor Steve Gazzard
CHAIRMAN

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for absence

The meeting will adjourn for the Public Forum.

PUBLIC FORUM

- Public speaking is limited to a maximum of 3 minutes per person and to a total of 15 minutes;
- Questions should be submitted one clear working day before the meeting to enable them to be answered more fully and precisely;
- The Chairman will usually invite speakers in the order in which requests to speak were lodged. Only if time allows will further speaking from the floor be accepted;
- Where several speakers wish to make similar points the chairman has the right to request one spokesperson;
- As the formal meeting stands adjourned for the Forum, questions or statements from the public are not recorded in the meeting minutes but in an appendix attached to those minutes. This will not be a verbatim report of the Forum, but will record the name of the speaker, brief synopsis of the topic or question and outline of any immediate response or copy of a written reply.

The meeting will reconvene.

2. **Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and Dispensations** – Members to declare any interests they may have on the agenda and agree any dispensations to stay.

3. **To resolve that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of item(s) in Part II of the agenda as it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.**

4. **Proposed changes to Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service**

To consider the following motion, proposed by Councillor David Poor, seconded by Councillor Tim Dumper:

Exmouth Town Council acknowledges work of the Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service in issuing their document Safer Together to put forward proposals to produce a responsive service in line with current trends.

However, this Council notes that the trend for fire related casualties seems upwards over the last three years.

The figures shown give a false picture of the work the service does in that they exclude the large number of non-residential calls, such as fires on Woodbury Common, false alarms (which have to be treated as real until shown otherwise) and calls out of the area.

This Council also notes that the report does not seem to take into account the likely large expansion of housing and other facilities as a result of the forthcoming Greater Exeter review and that the report does not take into account the large seasonal increase in people visiting the area and the large increase in people over 50 moving to the area.

In the current climate emergency, the Council considers it more than likely that the numbers of countryside fires during heatwaves and the number of flood incidents, needing rescues, arising from severe rainstorms will increase.

This Council is also deeply concerned that the proposed changes will lead to insufficient manning and equipment levels and so put the lives of residents and visitors at higher risk of injury and death than now.

This Council also notes that although deemed not to be the overriding issue, all the options involve both staff redundancies and capital savings and that if the changes have to be reversed in the near future then this will take over a year and money to do so.

This Council therefore wishes to record that it resolves:

1) to opposes all 7 suggested options; and

2) to formally request that the Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service produces a new consultation which takes fully into account the concern of this and other councils, community organisations and local residents in the area; and
3) this Council also expresses an urgent need to actively collaborate with other councils and groups in the area to oppose the proposed changes.