

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Town Council virtual meeting held on
Monday 3rd August 2020

Present:

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

East Devon District Councillor: P Millar.
Devon County Councillors: R Scott and J Trail.

Officers:

Lisa Bowman, Town Clerk.
Chetna Jones, Deputy Town Clerk.

Apologies: Councillors: J Whipps and I Kirvan.
Devon County Councillor: C Channon

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

Public Forum: There were no questions from members of the public.

C20/038. Council meeting minutes

Councillor P Stott proposed, seconded by Councillor M Chapman, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Monday 6th July 2020 be approved.

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

C20/039. Matters arising from previous minutes

The Chairman advised that the Exmouth Transport Partnership had not yet met to progress the matter relating to promoting active travel.

C20/040. Declarations of pecuniary interests and dispensations

Item	
Councillor	Councillor P Stott
Pecuniary or personal	Personal
Reason	Member of EDDC Standards Committee

C20/041. 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.

C20/042. Reports and minutes from Committees, Working Parties, other local bodies, the Town Clerk/Deputy Town Clerk, District and County Councillors as appropriate (Standing Order 6.2)

Planning Committee

Councillor L Elson proposed, seconded by Councillor J Whipps, and it was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council approves the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd June 2020 and 6th July 2020 and any recommendations therein.

Town Clerk's Report

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

The Town Clerk advised that no decision had been made with regards to the possibility of staff continuing to work from home in the future, although the Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Party will consider the impact of travelling by staff and councillors to attend meetings. Much investment was made initially to ensure all office-based staff were able to work from home and this has worked well for the majority. Some had encountered problems with poor broadband strength or childcare issues. The Town Council will review the need for a face to face presence when the District Council re-opens the Town Hall, as well as review holding face to face council meetings. The Town Council will be guided by NALC.

Deputy Clerk's Report

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

Councillor M Rosser thanked the Deputy Clerk for her persistence in the work to deliver the water bottle refilling stations and looked forward to receiving updates on the delivery of this project.

Councillor M Chapman asked if Jonathan Rhind can be chased to progress the matter relating to the Jubilee Clock Tower.

Gorfin Hall Working Party

The notes of the meeting held on 29th June 2020, which had been previously circulated, were noted.

Flooding and Land Drainage Working Party

The notes of the meeting held on 14th July 2020, which had been previously circulated, were noted.

Councillor P Stott proposed, seconded by Councillor T Dumper, and it was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council approves the amended Terms of Reference for the Flooding and Land Drainage Working Party.

Community Organisations Liaison Panel (COLP)

The notes of the meeting held on 20th July 2020, which had been previously circulated, were noted.

Councillor P Stott confirmed that East Devon District Council engineers had surveyed the damaged wall at Gunfield Gardens and confirmed that the matter was in hand with the insurers.

Members noted their disappointment in the appearance of graffiti over the artwork painted by local artists in their efforts to make the beach shelters more attractive.

S106 & CIL Working Party

The notes of the meeting held on 21st July 2020, which had been previously circulated, were noted.

Councillor F Caygill confirmed the process of consulting with the community, and the timings were debated at length. The working party agreed that, due to the time limitations in spending s106 funding, the work should continue to ensure projects were delivered and that the number of households to be consulted should be increased from 3,000 to 5,000. The cost of consultation will be equally shared by both the Town Council and East Devon District Council.

The Town Clerk clarified that there were seven projects in total that met the criteria and all seven will form part of the consultation. The top three projects will be awarded funding.

Town Team

The notes of the meeting held on 22nd July 2020, which had been previously circulated, were noted.

Concern was raised that grass was not being cut around trees and benches making it difficult to sit. Councillor M Chapman will raise this with StreetScene and ask for a list of all the areas which have been designated under the re-wilding scheme.

Exmouth In Bloom were thanked for their efforts in keeping the “dinosaur paddocks” in the Strand clear of weeds.

Town Maintenance Contracts Task and Finish Forum

The notes of the meeting held on 16th July 2020, which had been previously circulated, were noted.

Outside Bodies

The Chairman thanked Councillor T Dumper and Councillor D Poor for their written reports which were circulated in advance of the meeting and were noted.

Councillor T Dumper provided an update on two virtual meetings he had attended, one on Electric Vehicles and Charging Points organised by Devon County Council and Energy Saving Trust and the other on Devon's Local Outbreak Management Plan (Covid 19) organised by Devon Communities Together.

Councillor D Poor provided details and minutes of the meeting of the Woodbury, Exmouth and Budleigh Health and Wellbeing board which was held on 9th July.

Councillor O Davey confirmed that the Allotment Association had met virtually to review the amendments to the constitution, and which required endorsing by the Town Council.

Councillor A Bailey confirmed that, as a previous member of the Queen's Drive Delivery Group, she had asked for an update on the resurrection of this group but had not received a response.

Councillor B Bailey confirmed that he had contacted East Devon District Council about the use of the temporary car park adjacent to the Queen's Drive Space when the temporary planning permission expires in September. A decision on this was yet to be made by the District Council.

District Councillors' Reports

The Chairman thanked Councillor B De Saram, Councillor O Davey, Councillor J Whibley and Councillor T Woodward for their written reports, which were circulated in advance of the meeting and were noted. The reports have been attached as an appendix to these minutes.

Councillor P Millar confirmed that the composition of the Queen's Drive Delivery Group had been agreed by Cabinet and will need to be ratified at the next Full Council meeting.

County Councillors' Reports

The Chairman congratulated Councillor J Trail on becoming the Vice-Chairman of Devon County Council and Councillor R Scott on the birth of his daughter.

The County Councillors' report, which had previously been circulated but only just prior to the start of the meeting, was read out by Councillor R Scott and was noted. The report has been attached as an appendix to these minutes.

C20/043. Response to The Local Government Association's consultation on a new model member code of conduct

This motion was discussed by councillors prior to the meeting as follows:

Recognising that the LGA Draft Model Code of Conduct is acceptable in terms of its content, but that without meaningful sanctions against those who breach the code it

will remain toothless. Across local government there is widespread poor conduct, in particular, bullying, harassment, and disrespect. Exmouth Town Council supports NALC's response to the consultation to empower local Standards Committees to impose a sanction of up to six months suspension for councillors found in breach. The Council therefore requests that the Town Clerk writes to NALC conveying this view.

Councillor T Dumper proposed, seconded by Councillor M Chapman, and it was **RESOLVED** (two abstentions) that the Town Clerk provides this response as detailed above on behalf of the Town Council.

C20/044. Review and endorsement of the revised constitution and rules for Exmouth and District Allotment Association (EDAA)

The rules needed amending due to recent problems, highlighting the need for clarification and conciseness.

Councillor O Davey proposed, seconded by Councillor D Poor, and it was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council endorses the revised constitution and rules for Exmouth and District Allotment Association.

C20/045. Review of request for funding from Exeter Port Authority for the purchase of marker buoys at Maer Rocks

The matter was debated at length and the following points were raised:

- Concern over the colour and wording of the buoys.
- The area for the marker buoys should be extended up to Sandy Bay.
- The delineated markers should be clearer.
- More presence of the Harbourmaster was needed.
- The channel was continually changing, which will result in the need to continually move the buoys.

Councillor F Caygill proposed, seconded by Councillor F Cullis, and it was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council invites the Harbourmaster to the next Town Council meeting to provide additional information and to defer voting on this matter.

C20/046. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Town Council will be held on Monday 14th September 2020 at 7.15pm.

The meeting concluded at 8.42pm.

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

Appendix – East Devon District and Devon County Councillors' Reports

District Councillor Report – Cllr Joe Whibley August 2020

Since the last town council meeting:

- I have taken over as chair of the Licensing and Enforcement Committee and chaired meeting of both the committee itself and the sub-committee.
- The licensing committee pertained to pavement licenses, which have been thrown within the remit of EDDC at incredibly short notice. As each establishment now applies to renew them, they will do so to EDDC not DCC, and will be charged £100 instead of more than £200 currently. The new condition in place is a requirement to serve drinks outside in reusable polycarbonate glasses, which, given the number of establishments who will have licenses on extended areas, will mitigate any concerns about public safety. Please note, this will not apply to The Grapevine despite some protestations that we are making things difficult for them. This is for pavement space adjacent to the pub / bar applying and The Grapevine has no such space. The Grapevine issue is complicated and not as social media may have given the impression. Suffice to say that, where possible within the bounds of licensing law, if cooperation exists from all sides, we are looking to support local businesses as best we can in this difficult time.
- In other, less fraught, news, progress is being made on the semi-temporary artwork at the Abode of Love on the seafront. I was part of a selection committee for one element of the project and, among others, Mrs. de Saram was chosen to contribute, for which Bruce graciously thanked me. A wonderful example of cross party working and co-operation.
- I have continued to be involved in numerous pieces of casework, involving planning enquiries, the environmental health dept and representing a parent in Social services / education meetings.
- I also attended my first meeting of the Antisocial Behaviour Forum, which stated that, despite what some elements of the press would have you believe, antisocial crime since lockdown in the town was, at the time of the meeting, comparable to that Of any other year.
- There are some very interesting motions coming up at the next full council, one of which I am involved in. More news next month!

Councillor Olly Davey – District Councillor's Report

Since our last meeting, I have attended a Chair's briefing, a Finance Team Meeting, three

Planning meetings, a Strategic Planning meeting, and a Chief Executive's briefing on Regional Relationships. Of greatest interest to Exmouth councillors might be the fact that the Planning Committee voted almost unanimously to approve the redevelopment of Sam's Funhouse, etc into retail outlets on the ground floor with apartments above, of which 35% are scheduled to be "affordable" (i.e. sold or let at 20% below market rate). The adjoining Youth Centre would also benefit from new premises. Officers had recommended refusal on the grounds that the development is in a flood zone, and they did not feel that the Sequential Test had taken a wide enough area into account, and the fact that no Registered Provider had currently expressed a firm interest in taking on the rented affordable apartments. However, after a persuasive appearance by the local developer, and a considerable debate and questions asked, members felt that these shortcomings were outweighed by the benefit of the redevelopment. It also weighed heavily that ETC Planning had approved the proposal, having refused some of its earlier iterations.

As many of you know, EDDC is facing a shortfall in its finances, and there may be implications for the Town Council in being asked to take responsibility for more local facilities and functions, but at this stage that is only speculation. The Chief Executive's briefing also raised the possibility of an enforced conversion of existing council structures to a Unitary model in the future, which again might have implications for Town and Parish Councils, but again, despite the government's apparent enthusiasm for this model on cost grounds, this is only a speculative possibility.

The Strategic Planning meeting lasted a gruelling 4 hours of lively and passionate debate, at the end of which the committee voted to withdraw from the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan, and to inform our partners, Exeter City Council, Mid Devon DC, and Teignbridge DC of our intention, but to assure them of a continuing desire to cooperate. This will now have to be approved by Full Council on the 20th, and I expect further lively debate. This, however, has few implications for Exmouth since none of the proposed development sites were in this area.

Olly Davey, 3/8/20

ETC Full Council - 3 August 2020 Tony Woodward Notes on EDDC and outside bodies

Age Concern

I have been in contact with the Chair, George Eamer, over the lockdown period and he informs me that they are plotting a way forward as we move out of lockdown but there are still challenges.

Devon Communities Resilience Forum 29/30 July

I attended an event held by Devon Communities Together on lessons learned in the response to Covid 19 and how the various Devon Town and Parish Councils coped with the pandemic. There were some valuable insights which we can consider in relation to our own Emergency Plan.

Exmouth Mutual Aid Group Covid -19

The neighbourhood areas (in which many Town Councillors were involved) have now been reduced from 15 to 5. Although the overall requests for support each week is about half the number from 8 -10 weeks ago (a peak of 48 to down to 22) 2 weeks ago, there was a slight increase last week up to 26 thus reversing the downward trend.

EDDC - Planning Committee

There have been EDDC Planning Committees over each of the last 3 weeks which included approvals for the canopy and EV charging points at the Watersports Centre (Sideshore) and approval for development at Sam's Funhouse.

EDDC – Licensing Committee

We had training on the new arrangements for pavement licences which may have some impact on the use of outside sitting areas in places such as The Strand.

Residents

- I have had correspondence with a resident and EDDC about where to put cans and glass in respect of seafront bins to enable those items to be recycled.
- Also, a query about the continued use of glyphosate on pavements.

Tsw

1 August 2020

Bruce De Saram District Council Report to the Town Council for 03/08/20

I participated along with my other fellow Exmouth Members at the 3 meetings held so far of the EDDC Planning Committee and in fact my comments about the Watersports retractable glass canopy were duly noted by the relevant news media outlets *"Cllr Bruce de Saram said the use of the terrace all-year-round will be of significant benefit and there will be no harm to visual impact in the town"*.

I participated at Cabinet and firstly I raised a question about the recent sitting out licencing issue which members of the public raised with me as there were concerns around the actions that EDDC took in this matter. However subsequently a Press Release by EDDC was issued which explained the rationale behind what actually happened, and members can read this at their leisure. Those who contacted me were pleased that I brought the subject forward for discussion at Cabinet. Later that day a member's Q and A about this was issued as well so members have a full understanding about what happened.

Secondly, I also spoke about the **Healthy Weight Declaration** which I was hoping EDDC Cabinet would sign up to, but it will now need to come back to Overview to look at again for additional scoping. So, a disappointing response from Cabinet to a proposal put forward by our DCC member Richard Scott through his report to our Town Council in February time.

I attended the Devon Rail Forum and asked a question about GESP and the implications for the railway network.

I participated at Strategic Planning and put forward a positive suggestion to work with our partners within the GESP. However, a subsequent motion was put forward to reject the GESP by Committee Members and so Full Council will now determine what happens next.

I joined Mark William's briefing for members on Regional Relationships and asked a question I felt was relevant in relation to the savings to be made if One Somerset proceeds as is indicated and the similar potential saving for Devon should we go down a Unitary route. Members felt overall that a Unitary route would not suit Devon at this time due to its unique geography and the potential loss of contact with the public locally due to unitary increase in the number of electors who we all irrespective of our Party allegiances try to serve in a positive way currently as a District Council.

I assisted a resident with a Housing Query.

DCC Cllr Channon, Scott and Trail - ETC 3/8/20 Report.

Short report for information – questions to be taken by Cllr Scott.

GESP – likely withdrawal of EDDC and possibly Mid Devon. In effect the scheme will end if one of the partners withdraws. The implication for DCC relates to infrastructure such as roads, rail, schools etc. Events look likely to overtake the district decisions.

Plumb Park – Douglas Avenue road repairs due late August or early September. Cllr Channon and Trail continue to work productively with the developer to alleviate issues in Littleham.

Sideshore – no work to take place on the Highway until the end of September.

Health, public health and social care. Steve Brown has been appointed the new Public Health Director for DCC and Devon. Dr Pearson retires in November. All Covid related and health updates are on the DCC website. Any residents that requires help or guidance can be directed to Cllr Scott.

Health scrutiny – public health director presented and was questioned on the new powers for local lockdowns 31/7/20. There is a lot of noise in the national media about 'R' rates in the SW, scrutiny members were keen for DCC public health team to increase effectiveness of comms to residents in Devon that the number in isolation is not helpful.

Unitary authorities – government white paper due in September. Cllr Hart will not speculate on Devon until there is some detail.

Cllr Trail was elected Vice Chairman of DCC 23/7/20. Congratulation to Cllr Trail who will represent Exmouth Rural and Coastal with distinction.

Recent fires – Cllr Trail is leading on this through his role on the Fire Authority.

Confirmed at HATOC 10/7/20 that the colony consultation figure will be brought to the December committee.