

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Town Council virtual meeting held on
Monday 7 December 2020

Present:

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

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

Officers:

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

Apologies:

Councillors: None

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting, as well as Anne-Marie Culhane and Jo Salter, who were attending the meeting to provide a presentation on a new organisation Tidelines.

The Chairman sought, and it was agreed, that item seven of the agenda be considered before item six to enable the presentation to be given before the other council items.

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

C20/077. Council meeting minutes

Councillor J Whipps requested that her name be removed from apologies and confirmed she was present at the meeting, so it was agreed to amend the minutes accordingly.

Councillor B De Saram proposed, seconded by Councillor M Chapman, that the amended minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Monday 9 November 2020 be approved.

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

C20/078. Matters arising from previous minutes

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

C20/079. Declarations of pecuniary interests and dispensations

Item	TIDELINES PRESENTATION
Councillor	T Dumper
Pecuniary or personal	Personal
Reason	Supporter of the Tidelines organisation

C20/080. Exclusion of the Press and public

There were two 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.

C20/081. Presentation on Tidelines

Tidelines is a not-for-profit community organisation, whose primary aims are to focus local curiosity through educational activities and events and bring together science, art and the natural world. This has been a pilot year and plans are in place for the future, including delivering more public events and activities, co-designing research projects and linking to other projects and organisations to raise awareness. Tidelines is keen to work in partnership with Exmouth Town Council and seeks help with advocating Tidelines, promoting the work in the community and having council representation on the advisory group.

A short question time followed, and the following points were made:

- It is important to educate the younger generation through fun activities.
- Tidelines may wish to raise awareness through East Devon District Council's Arts and Culture Forum.
- Other organisations that regularly use the Estuary such as the Sailing Club may be interested in this initiative.
- It fills the gap that the former Rolle College fulfilled successfully.

In response, Tidelines is keen to work with people of all ages and is approaching other organisations, including East Devon District Council, for collaborative working.

C20/082. 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 T Dumper, and it was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council approves the minutes of the meetings held on 26 October 2020 and 9 November 2020 and any recommendations therein.

Finance Committee

Councillor A Sadiq proposed, seconded by Councillor L Elson, and it was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council approves the minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2020 and any recommendations therein.

Town Clerk's Report

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

Deputy Clerk's Report

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

Councillor P Stott thanked the Deputy Clerk and Town Maintenance Team for their help with hanging over 300m of knitted paperchains in the centre of Exmouth which had been made by 200 local people.

Festival & Events Working Party

The notes of the meeting held on 5 November 2020, which had been previously circulated, were noted.

The working party will be meeting early next year to make a decision on the delivery of Exmouth Festival 2021.

Gorfin Hall Management Committee

A verbal update of the meeting held on 16 November 2020 was provided by Councillor F Cullis, and this was noted.

Town Maintenance Contracts TAFF

The notes of the meeting held on 17 November 2020, which had been previously circulated, were noted.

Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Party

The notes of the meeting held on 24 November 2020, which had been previously circulated, were noted.

Work continues with proposals for electric charging in Devon.

Councillor T Dumper confirmed that increasing the number of trees is important to the carbon sink both locally and nationally. A dedicated Tree Task and Finish Forum (TAFF) will bring this together.

The TAFF will need to manage expectations as concerns around saving trees are continually raised by members of the public as part of the planning process.

Councillor F Cullis proposed, seconded by Councillor J Whipps, and it was **RESOLVED** that a dedicated TAFF is established to look at ways to protect and increase trees in Exmouth with the draft Terms of Reference as previously circulated and representation from one Member per ward.

The existing membership of the Climate and Ecological Emergency working party included representation from Withycombe Raleigh, Town and Littleham.

Nominations were received for Councillor M Chapman for Brixington and Councillor B Toye for Halsdon.

Councillor E Beech proposed, seconded by Councillor F Cullis, and it was **RESOLVED** that the member representation for the Tree Task and Finish Forum consist of Councillor T Dumper (Town), Councillor F Cullis (Withycombe), Councillor M Rosser (Littleham), Councillor M Chapman (Brixington) and Councillor B Toye (Halsdon).

Outside Bodies

Councillor A Bailey confirmed that she and Councillor S Gazzard had attended the Queen's Drive Delivery Group as the Town Council representatives. Members were informed that the temporary car park permission had lapsed, and the land will remain for leisure and recreation use. Members were also informed that there were likely to be delays in proceeding with phase three as East Devon District Council's Scrutiny Committee had been tasked with reviewing the complete project costs incurred to date and the project was on hold until this work was completed.

The notes of meetings held on 15 October 2020 and 17 November 2020, which had previously been circulated, were noted. Councillors were keen that the focus should be on delivering phase three and that further consultation takes place, giving the Town Council opportunity to discuss the proposals on behalf of the residents of Exmouth.

The notes of the Woodbury, Exmouth & Budleigh (WEB) Board Health and Well-being meeting held on 5 November 2020, which had previously been circulated, were noted.

The update from Exmouth in Bloom, which had previously been circulated, was noted.

Councillor T Dumper had attended a Devon Association of Local Councils (DALC) meeting earlier in the day where it was agreed to support Northamptonshire response to developing green spaces within the Government's White Paper with National Association of Local Councils (NALC). It was also agreed to support NALC's recommendation to the Government to strengthen the Planning White Paper on the environment and social housing. Furthermore, DALC members were asked to suggest items that they would like Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership to consider.

Councillor O Davey attended the latest Allotment Association meeting where business was as usual. The group will be sending an invitation to Gardener's Question Time. Produce donations were being collected for Friends in Need to supply to those families needing help during these difficult times.

District Councillors' Reports

The Chairman thanked Councillor B De Saram, Councillor J Whibley and Councillor O Davey 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 M Chapman confirmed that she had attended the Poverty Working Panel, where it was agreed that an emergency telephone line will be available until March 2021. Councillor M Chapman also attended the Car Park TAFF and added that she was disappointed that it had been agreed by this group to increase car parking charges as she was concerned for the viability of High Street local businesses.

County Councillors' Reports

Councillor J Trail confirmed that 18 drop kerbs were being added and that these had been funded through the County Councillors Locality budget.

Councillor J Trail also confirmed that the introduction of a parking permit scheme in the Town Ward, primarily in the Colony area, was agreed at the HATOC meeting in December.

County Councillors J Trail, C Channon and R Scott had provided funds to food banks in Exmouth.

C20/083. Agree match funding support of £50,000 for proposed improvements to the highway at the junction of Liverton Business Park and Salterton Road

Devon County Council has been working to develop a low-cost scheme that can be delivered on a short timescale to address the queueing and delays currently experienced by vehicles exiting the Business Park.

The scheme will provide additional capacity by extending the length of two lanes, separating the vehicles wishing to turn left and right onto Salterton Road. The scheme is estimated to cost £200,000; this will ensure the provision of a proportionate, deliverable improvement which addresses the queueing and delays observed when leaving the Business Park.

Devon County Council will provide £100,000 towards the delivery of the scheme.

The scheme requires land owned by Clinton Devon Estates to the west of the current junction. Clinton Devon Estates has indicated support for the scheme and will be asked to contribute to its delivery through the provision of funding (£50,000) and land.

Devon County Council formally requests that Exmouth Town Council consider the proposal to contribute £50,000 of CIL funds towards the delivery of this infrastructure scheme. This will support the continued attraction and growth of Liverton Business Park, in accordance with the Neighbourhood Plan aspirations for this site.

Members were given the opportunity to debate this matter in detail and allow questions to be raised with Devon County Councillors to address their concerns. These included:

- Road surface improvements, additional signs and the extension of double yellow lines, all of which Councillor R Scott confirmed will be delivered using DCC's maintenance budget.

- Highway experts have confirmed that the proposal above will help alleviate the problems at this junction and that installing these infrastructure changes will help with any future improvements.
- Emergency services were also being consulted on these proposals.
- The need for a cycleway will be considered as part of the proposal.

Councillor F Caygill requested a recorded vote and this was agreed.
Councillor M Chapman proposed, seconded by Councillor J Whibley, and it was **RESOLVED** that Exmouth Town Council commits £50,000 of its CIL funding toward the Liverton Business Park junction improvement scheme.

Councillor	For	Against
Aurora Bailey		X
Brian Bailey		X
Eileen Beech	X	
Fred Caygill	X	
Maddy Chapman	X	
Andrew Colman		X
Frank Cullis		X
Olly Davey		X
Bruce De Saram	X	
Tim Dumper	X	
Lynne Elson	X	
Steve Gazzard	X	
Ian Kirvan	X	
Cherry Nicholas	X	
David Poor	X	
Michael Rosser		X
Alex Sadiq	X	
Pauline Stott	X	
Andrew Toye	X	
Brian Toye	X	
Joe Whibley	X	
Joy Whipps	X	
Tony Woodward	X	

C20/084. Allocation of £5,000 to be used to support local not-for-profit organisations with any initiatives aimed at supporting the local community at Christmas

The Town Clerk confirmed that this was a new scheme to enable organisations working with families in need, who would not normally qualify for the main grant scheme, to obtain funding. Due diligence rules will apply.

Councillor P Stott proposed, seconded by Councillor J Whipps, and it was **RESOLVED** that £5,000 be allocated and used to support local not-for-profit organisations with any initiatives aimed at supporting the local community at Christmas and for

delegated authority to be given to Councillor Alex Sadiq and the Town Clerk to administer the allocation of funds.

C20/085. Recommendations to repair the solar lighting on the Exe Estuary Trail between Exmouth and Lypstone

The report, which was circulated in advance of the meeting, was noted. Councillor P Stott proposed, seconded by Councillor J Whibley, and it was **RESOLVED** that:

- The Town Clerk is given delegated authority to seek the necessary permissions from Devon County Council and East Devon District Council to replace defective studs along the section of trail between Exmouth and Lypstone.
- Funding of up to £15,000 is taken from Town Management Reserves to cover associated costs.

C20/086. Dates of meetings in 2021

The meeting dates, which were circulated in advance of the meeting, were noted.

Members of the public and Press left the meeting.

PART B of the meeting.

C20/087. Grounds Maintenance Contract

Councillor I Kirvan, Chairman of the Town Maintenance Contracts TAFF, highlighted the group's recommendation and provided a brief explanation on how the decision was made.

Councillor I Kirvan proposed, seconded by Councillor T Woodward, and it was **RESOLVED** that based on the tenders received, Exmouth Town Council will not be awarding a contract for 2021. Work will now move forward in taking the work in-house and a report will be provided by this TAFF in due course in line with the Town Council's previous decision (Minute Ref C20/017 dated 17 February 2020).

C20/088. Update from the HR Group on the outcome of the recruitment process for the Town Maintenance Team and associated employment offer

Councillor S Gazzard proposed, seconded by Councillor B Bailey, and it was **RESOLVED** that two Town Maintenance operatives be employed on a full-time basis with a starting salary in line with the job evaluation.

C20/089. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Town Council will be held on Monday 11 January 2020 at 6.30pm.

The meeting concluded at 21.51pm.

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

Appendix – East Devon District and Devon County Councillors’ Reports

District Councillor’s Report – Councillor Olly Davey

Since the last Town Council meeting, I have attended three more webinars in the excellent LGA “Decarbonising Transport” series. These dealt with urban design, and how it can contribute to reducing the need to travel, some innovative city solutions, including a workplace parking levy which was used to fund public transport, and how online use can lead to lower transport emissions, something all Councillors have recently become aware of. Certainly my own car mileage has dropped dramatically since Council meetings went online. One concept which intrigued me is the idea of the “15 minute city” where the services and facilities needed for daily life are no more than a 15 minute walk away, i.e. about a mile. There is no reason why this idea should not be applied to our towns and villages, and I shall research further on the critical population numbers required to make certain facilities viable. My only criticism of a couple of the webinars was that they were very city-focused, where mass transportation is easier to organise, and I fed this back to the LGA. I look forward to the last webinar on Growing Cycle Use, something very dear to my heart, and I recently attended the Exeter Cycling Campaign’s AGM so that I could hear an inspirational speaker from the Cambridge equivalent.

I have also attended a Finance Team meeting to be briefed on preparations for the annual budget setting, and a presentation by the developers of the proposed Daisymount A30 service station, the first application having been rejected by the Planning Committee, and had a rare face-to-face meeting with a member of the EDDC Housing team, who briefed me on their procedures and the options for those classed as homeless. As you may recall, I have been involved in trying to help with the case of a rough sleeper in Phear Park. Following two meetings between housing officers and MP Simon Jupp, the second of which I was invited to, the man in question has now been given emergency accommodation in a local B&B.

I attended two meetings of the Car Parks TAFF, where my suggestion that charges be raised to £1.20 per hour was approved for full council ratification. I know this will be unpopular, but EDDC has to raise money somehow, and if it leads to lower car usage then that is also to be welcomed. I noted on a visit to Totnes on Saturday that their car parks charged £1.20 per hour, but with a sliding scale for longer stays, which I did also suggest in the meeting, and hope to pursue.

I attended another meeting of the Queen’s Drive Delivery Group, which again felt as though we were making progress in defining a vision for Exmouth seafront, with a clear commitment to public consultation.

I also attended Cabinet, where a request for funding from LED was approved to go to full Council, and I learned a lot about why LED is not just another leisure gym provider.

I attended a meeting of the SE Devon Habitats Directive, where I heard about measures taken to protect important areas like the pebblebed heaths, which have seen unprecedented visitor numbers, and our own Exe estuary, where wintering birds are still disturbed by thoughtless water users and dog walkers.

Finally, last week I attended Planning Committee, which passed a major development at Winslade Park, Clyst St Mary, despite concerns about additional housing and increased traffic, and my first meeting of the Arts and Culture Forum, where I heard about the many ways in which local arts organisations have been able to reach out to people in East Devon, particularly through the Creative Cabin, which I have seen in Exmouth, and which is set to become a regular part of the Thelma Hulbert Gallery's outreach programme. It was a positive and inspiring morning, and I am full of admiration for the creative people who have managed to keep art activities going during these difficult times.

District Councillor's Report – Councillor Bruce de Saram

On **11th November** as a Panel Member, I spoke at the Poverty Working Panel to help with the formation of the poverty strategy. We looked at the evidence provided by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and agreed 5 strategic objectives would be established.

1. Helping people on low income to maximise their household income and minimise their costs.
2. Strengthening families and communities
3. Promoting an inclusive economy by raising skills and improving access to a range of employment opportunities.
4. Addressing the High cost of housing.
5. Improving health outcomes for people on low incomes.

On **11th November** I also had the opportunity to speak at cabinet on the LED situation and my comments were recorded by Devon Live Cllr Bruce de Saram said *"that closures would be a bad thing, but there was a need to ensure sustainable long term growth and they were fit for purpose in the future. He added: **"We don't want them to close but we need to find the right solution that doesn't commit us to large funding."***-as members will be aware a rescue package of £730K has been approved by cabinet and was supported by Council at the subsequent Extraordinary Council meeting on 24th November which I attended and spoke at as well. It was nice to see that my thoughts on this situation were supported by fellow Exmouth Cllr Steve Gazzard.

On **12th November** I spoke at Overview in support of the current EDDC MTFP Budget and was instrumental in agreeing the recommendation supported by fellow Exmouth Cllr Tony Woodward *"That Cabinet adopts the Financial Plan and commits to endorse the sum of £323,000 allowed in the Plan to ensure that the carbon reduction programme is met and that the Council endeavours to secure the shortfall still to be found from other sources"*. Thereby showing our commitment as a Council to this programme.

On **1st December** I attended the Budget Setting and Capital Allocations Panel and along with fellow Exmouth Cllr Steve Gazzard spoke in favour of the proposed Brixington Open Space Enhancement which most of you will know about and its good to see its going to be actioned.

On **2nd December** I attended Planning along with my fellow Exmouth members and supported the recommendations to approve the following:

1. **20/1399/FUL** Location Seaton Jurassic The Underfleet Seaton Proposal Extension to existing external area to visitor centre to include change of use of part of existing car park; raising of site levels to provide level access path; creation of play and interpretation features (to include 3 metre high earth mound) and seating areas; creation of footpath link to north.
2. And **20/1258/FUL** Location Lower Southmoor Farm Brampford Speke Exeter Proposal Application to replace barn with PDQ consent (20/0129/PDQ) for conversion to 2 no larger residential dwellings, with 2 no detached dwellings. This was an unpopular application which was not supported by the Parish council but because the Applicant had a fall-back position the Committees hands were tied. As the report states "*The case of Mansell v Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council, heard at the Court of Appeal, concluded that the availability of permitted development rights can properly be taken into account as a fall-back position where some alternative form of development scheme is then proposed*"

On **3rd December** I attended along with fellow Exmouth members the Arts and Culture Form Chaired by our own Exmouth Cllr Joe Whibley and we received a report from Charlie Plowden about the impact of the Covid year on the Arts since the committee last met in February. The report was called EDDC culture recovery work (April - October 2020). We also heard about Wild Exmouth/Wild Honiton and the activities of the Thelma Hulbert Gallery including the Art work at Exmouth which my wife took part in. We learnt about Manor Pavilion theatre reopening planning. I was pleased to see so much cultural activity had been happening in Exmouth despite Covid and all its H and S issues. I am sure Cllr Joe Whibley can provide members with a more detailed update should it be required.

District Council Report Joe Whibley

Since the last Full Council I have attended and / or chaired the following EDDC meetings:

Car Parking TAFF: it was agreed that, subject to scrutiny approval, car parking across the district will rise to £1.20 an hour with other ongoing issues to be considered at future meetings. I felt that the one size fits all agreement was a little rushed and poorly timed given that we are trying to help our local businesses, and did not support this recommendation, but the power of democracy won through!

Licensing: as well as the usual updates, many of which were related to how the licensing team are constantly having to evolve their working practice due to changing COVID regulations, we also recommended that cabinet approve the recently-consulted-upon licensing policy for the district.

Finally, a letter has been written to local MP's and relevant cabinet ministers asking them for some financial aid to help taxi drivers in the crisis. They have hitherto managed to slip through the fingers of other aid packages offered. A press release has been, or will shortly be, released to this effect.

IMPORTANT: It was confirmed at Cabinet by officers that drivers CAN apply for discretionary grants, which are to cover **FIXED COSTS ONLY!** This could include, but will not be exclusive to insurance, license fees, and servicing. It cannot cover lost income, hence the letter.

We've lost a small but significant number of drivers in the last year and every tourist area needs taxis!

Arts and Culture Forum: It was my great pleasure to chair this last week. We focused on the activity within the council and heard from Ruth at the Thelma Hulbert Gallery about work there and in the district with the Creative Cabin, the theatre in Sidmouth and heard an excellent presentation from Tim Dafforn at Wild East Devon / Wild Exmouth. He has some incredibly exciting plans for the town which I will ask him to speak about at a future meeting.