

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Exmouth Town Council held at Ocean, The Ocean Suite, Top Floor, Queen's Drive, Exmouth, EX8 2AY on Monday 20 September at 6:30pm

Present:

Councillors:

S Gazzard (Chairman)

A Bailey	B Bailey
E Beech	A Boatwright
F Caygill	M Chapman
A Colman	B De Saram
T Dumper	L Elson
C Nicholas	M Rosser
P Stott	A Toye
B Toye	J Whibley
A Whipps	J Whipps
T Woodward	

Devon County Councillors: R Scott

Officers:

Lisa Bowman, Town Clerk

Apologies:

Councillors: A Sadiq, F Cullis, O Davey, I Kirvan, D Poor

Devon County Councillors: C Channon, J Trail

The Chairman started by reading a short statement regarding the Afghan refugees who arrived in Exmouth on Friday 17 September 2021 and are temporarily being housed in a local hotel whilst arrangements are made for their permanent resettlement in the UK. He explained that he had been present at the hotel to greet the refugees on arrival and had welcomed them to Exmouth on behalf of the Town Council and the local community. He thanked members and the community for the numerous offers of help and donations, which are being managed through public communications by the Town Clerk in conjunction with Devon County Council.

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting, including any members of the public and the Press. In particular, he wanted to welcome newly-elected members, Councillors A Boatwright and A Whipps, to their first meeting of the Town Council. He also stated that he was pleased to welcome all present to the first face-to-face Council meeting in 18 months, and he thanked members for their forbearance, adaptability and patience over this period. He also passed on special thanks to the Town Council staff who have adapted so quickly to their changed working situation.

Public Forum: Nicky Nicholls from Transition Exmouth was given permission to speak on *Call of Nature*, an idea for a community hub building which would incorporate a public toilet. She explained that this idea had come about from a discussion about future steps at the Climate and Ecological Emergency Working

Party, as a way of providing a physical representation of the *Our Place, Our Planet* website, a space for community groups to meet, a café and a public toilet. This would address the issue of the possible closure of public toilets in Exmouth as well as provide a useful community resource, and she wondered whether the Town Council would be interested in working together with Transition Exmouth on this possible project. She shared a handout with full details, which has been attached as an appendix to these minutes.

C21/050. Council meeting minutes

Councillor P Stott proposed, seconded by Councillor J Whipps, that the minutes of the Annual Town Council meeting held on Tuesday 4 May 2021 be approved.

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

C21/051. Matters arising from the Council meeting minutes (for information only) and to receive an apology from Councillor Bruce De Saram

Councillor B De Saram read a short statement, which had been agreed by the East Devon District Council (EDDC) Monitoring Officer Henry Gordon-Lennox, in which he apologised for comments he had made about Councillor J Whibley, as well as Extinction Rebellion, during a debate on the Climate Emergency at the last meeting. He apologised in particular to Councillor Whibley and the Chairman for any offence his comments may have caused, and stated his commitment to observing the Code of Conduct in all meetings and dealings with other members. He thanked members for the opportunity to make this apology.

The Chairman noted Councillor De Saram's apology and expressed his thanks.

C21/052. To receive any declarations of interest from Members and agree dispensations.

Item	Councillor	Declaration Type		Reason
		Pecuniary	Personal	
C21/054	B Bailey		X	Member of Transition Exmouth
C21/054	T Dumper		X	Member of Transition Exmouth and ALRUG
C21/059	B Bailey		X	Standing for DALC election
C21/059	T Dumper		X	Member of DALC

C21/053. To agree any requirement 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.

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.

The Chairman sought permission to bring forward two agenda items, the Public Toilet Review and Devon County Councillor reports, to which members agreed.

C21/054. To review East Devon's Public Toilet review and agree a response.

The Chairman referred members to the Town Clerk's report on the Public Toilet Review (previously circulated). The Town Clerk reminded members that the purpose of this discussion was to answer the questions set by EDDC as part of the public consultation, and not to make any decisions at this stage about whether the Town Council would want to take on ownership of any public toilets. If appropriate, this could be expressed at a future stage.

The Chairman sought members' views on the 9 public consultation questions, which the Town Clerk noted with a view to providing EDDC with an agreed Town Council response. Key concerns raised during the discussion included the following:

- Members were keen to retain as many toilets as possible, and to do their utmost to achieve this, although were divided on the core principle of whether ETC should or should not take on responsibility for any toilets if EDDC decided not to continue to manage them;
- Members disagreed with some of the core principles/criteria in EDDC's data, such as the time stated to walk between toilets, which they felt was unrealistic;
- Members felt that the railway/former bus station toilets should be considered a priority and recategorized from B to A, as well as (especially if the station toilets remain category B) the Imperial Recreation Ground toilets;
- Some members felt that the Jarvis Close toilets should be recategorized from category C to B. It might also be possible to adapt the site (eg to incorporate a café) by using some of the car park space;
- Members did not feel it was appropriate to answer questions relating to which toilets they might be interested in taking on without a better understanding of the details and practicalities involved;
- Most members accepted that, in order to retain more toilets, a charge of some kind was necessary, whether through raising the precept by a small amount or charging for toilet use. Some members felt that EDDC's future car parking charges rise should be used to pay for the toilets;
- Some members felt that all toilet access should be free, although the majority felt that a small charge (between 20-40p) was acceptable;
- Members felt that payment by card or contactless device was fine but that users should also be able to pay by cash;
- Members felt that free access cards were a good idea.

C21/055. To receive and consider reports and minutes of committees, working parties, other local bodies and the Town Clerk/Deputy Town Clerk, District and County Councillors as appropriate.**County Councillors' Report**

The County Councillors' report was read out by Councillor R Scott and was noted. The report has been attached as an appendix to these minutes.

Members raised questions relating to a number of issues: Japanese knotweed, the traffic management plan for the Goodmores Farm development, the Levelling Up Fund bid and the Liverton Park traffic lights. Councillor Scott provided interim

answers to these questions and offered to forward further information and relevant documents after the meeting.

Planning Committee

Councillor L Elson proposed, seconded by Councillor B Bailey, and it was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council approves the notes of the informal meetings held on 26 April, 10 May, 24 May, 7 June, 21 June, 5 July, 19 July, 2 August, 16 August and 31 August 2021 and any recommendations therein.

Finance Committee

Councillor LE proposed, seconded by Councillor Nicholas, and it was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council approves the minutes of the meeting held on 6 May 2021 and the notes of the informal meeting held on 2 September 2021 and any recommendations therein. It was also **RESOLVED to ratify that Councillor Alan Whipps is appointed to the Committee.**

Councillor R Scott left the meeting.

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.

In response to questions regarding town maintenance arrangements, the Town Clerk confirmed that the new lease vehicles will not be available until October at the earliest due to a national shortage. She also confirmed that the team is already using the Phear Park compound, however the lease has not yet been finalised due to ongoing concerns regarding notice periods and the impact of ETC upgrading the site, which are currently being pursued by ETC's solicitors.

CCTV Working Party

Councillor F Caygill proposed, seconded by Councillor M Chapman, and it was **RESOLVED to adopt a CCTV Policy for the Town Council**, as previously circulated.

Councillor Caygill briefly updated members on the progress and success of the CCTV project to date. Members thanked Councillor Caygill, the Town Clerk and the CCTV Working Party for all their hard work in bringing this project to fruition.

Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Party

The notes of the meetings held on 11 May and 3 August 2021, which had been previously circulated, were noted.

Councillor T Dumper proposed, seconded by Councillor M Rosser, and it was **RESOLVED to adopt an Environmental Policy for the Town Council**, as previously circulated.

Members thanked Councillor Dumper and the Deputy Town Clerk in particular for their hard work in developing the new policy.

Community Organisations Liaison Panel

The notes of the meetings held on 17 May, 28 June and 23 August 2021, which had been previously circulated, were noted.

Councillor B De Saram proposed, seconded by Councillor P Stott, and it was **RESOLVED to ratify revised Terms of Reference for COLP**, as previously circulated.

Exmouth Transport Partnership

The notes of the meeting held on 22 June 2021, which had been previously circulated, were noted.

There followed a short discussion about the links between environmental policy and transport issues. Councillor T Dumper welcomed further thoughts from members on this.

Festival and Events Working Party

The notes of the meetings held on 20 May and 1 July 2021, which had been previously circulated, were noted.

Councillor J Whipps explained that there had also been an informal meeting to welcome new maternity cover Arts Manager Charlie Tapp, who has settled into the role well.

Flooding and Land Drainage Working Party

The notes of the meeting held on 27 July 2021, which had been previously circulated, were noted.

There followed some discussion about the **recommendation from the Working Party that Exmouth Town Council resolves to address the concern for the safety of residents and takes responsibility (any liabilities) for the area alongside Withycombe Brook (between Bradham Lane and Wood Lane) by blocking the entrance and exit to this unofficial path.** Councillor F Caygill raised concerns about the Town Council taking on liability for the path in the absence of a known landowner. Councillor B De Saram suggested clarifying the legal position before bringing the issue back to the working party for further consideration. The Town Clerk confirmed that land searches to date had confirmed that there was no legal owner but she would seek further legal advice and revert.

Gorfin Hall Management Committee

The notes of the meeting held on 6 September 2021, which had been previously circulated, were noted.

S106 and CIL Working Party

The notes of the meetings held on 17 June and 12 August 2021, which had been previously circulated, were noted.

Councillor P Stott proposed, seconded by Councillor J Whipps, and it was **RESOLVED:**

- To ratify that Councillor Cherry Nicholas is appointed to the S106 and CIL Working Party.
- To ratify the Town Council's contribution of £60,000 to the Phear Park improvements from its accrued CIL funds,
- To ratify a match funding commitment of £158,000 from the Town Council's accrued CIL funds towards Devon County Council's Levelling Up Fund Bid for the Dinan Way extension and Exmouth Gateway project.
- To ratify that S106 play receipts accrued by EDDC are allocated for improvements to Ashfield play area, The Crescent, Carter Avenue, Thomas Close play area, Redgates and Brixington.

Councillor L Elson raised the fact that there is also a play area at Byron Way; the Town Clerk agreed to clarify the position regarding its improvement at the next working party meeting. Councillor Stott clarified that the Exmouth Community College and Brixington Park projects have not yet started, following EDDC's decision to complete the skate park first.

Town Maintenance Overview Working Party

The notes of the meetings held on 6 May, 10 June, 8 July and 9 September 2021, which had been previously circulated, were noted.

Councillor S Gazzard proposed, seconded by Councillor M Chapman, and it was **RESOLVED to ratify that Councillor Brian Bailey is appointed to the Town Maintenance Overview Working Party as the Littleham ward representative.**

There followed some discussion regarding the recommendation from the Working Party **to resolve that the Town Council writes to Devon County Council and demands that they take the necessary action to remove the Japanese knotweed from the Marine Way bank.** The Town Clerk clarified that Devon County Council owns the bank but that the Town Council has responsibility for maintaining it, which is now actioned by the Town Maintenance team (having previously been subcontracted to EDDC's StreetScene). Members agreed that responsibility for dealing with the Japanese knotweed remains the responsibility of the landowner, Devon County Council, and that the Town Council should seek advice before maintaining any part of the bank in the meantime until Environment Agency (EA) advice has been sought, in order to avoid inadvertently worsening the problem. Members recommended that the Deputy Town Clerk seek EA advice before allowing further work on the bank.

Councillor L Elson proposed an amendment to the resolution, seconded by Councillor F Caygill, and it was **RESOLVED to include the phrase 'as landowner' to the resolution.**

Councillor F Caygill proposed, seconded by Councillor J Whipps, and it was **RESOLVED that the Town Council writes to Devon County Council as landowner and demands that they take the necessary action to remove the Japanese knotweed from the Marine Way bank.**

Town Team

The notes of the meetings held on 16 June and 8 September 2021, which had been previously circulated, were noted.

Councillor B De Saram thanked Liz Oram for organising the recent successful Town Clean.

Tree Task and Finish Forum

The notes of the meetings held on 20 May, 15 June and 22 July 2021, which had been previously circulated, were noted.

Councillor T Dumper proposed, seconded by Councillor M Rosser, and it was **RESOLVED that the final report from the Forum be accepted**, as previously circulated.

Trust Fund Working Party

The notes of the meeting held on 3 June 2021, which had been previously circulated, were noted.

Councillor L Elson proposed, seconded by Councillor J Whipps, and it was **RESOLVED to ratify that Councillor Angela Boatright is appointed to the Trust Fund Working Party.**

Waterfront Working Party

The notes of the meeting held on 29 June 2021, which had been previously circulated, were noted.

Reports from members who represent the Council on Outside Bodies

- **Exmouth Queen's Drive Delivery Group**

Councillors A Bailey and B De Saram provided verbal updates of the meeting held on 7 September 2021. Councillor Bailey noted that the Queen's Drive Space had a successful summer, although feedback suggested that it would have been useful for the temporary food outlets to stay open longer in the evenings. The former car park grassed area has not been well-used yet, but its future usage will be reviewed. Councillor De Saram expressed disappointment that proposals for the site will struggle to meet the Local Plan timetable.

The Town Clerk confirmed that the formal minutes of the meeting would be circulated once available.

- **WEB Community Health and Wellbeing Board**

The notes of the meeting held on 8 July 2021, which had been previously circulated, were noted. In Councillor D Poor's absence, the Chairman noted and thanked him for his written report, which was circulated in advance of the meeting and has been attached as an appendix to these minutes.

In response to a query from Councillor F Caygill regarding bus transportation to Budleigh Hospital, members clarified that this was the responsibility of Stagecoach.

- **Exmouth Twinning Association**

The Chairman thanked Councillor T Dumper for his written report, which was circulated in advance of the meeting and was noted. The report has been attached as an appendix to these minutes.

- **DALC**

A report from Councillor T Dumper, which had been previously circulated, was noted.

- **Fairtrade**

A report from Councillor T Dumper, which had been previously circulated, was noted.

District Councillors' Reports

Councillor F Caygill thanked Town Council staff for organising the meeting at Ocean. Councillors M Chapman and B De Saram provided brief updates on recent EDDC meetings. The Chairman thanked them for their verbal updates, as well as Councillors O Davey and J Whibley 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.

C21/056. To ratify that Councillors Pauline Stott and Tim Dumper (as Chairs of Waterfront WP and Climate and Ecological Emergency WP respectively) are appointed as the Town Council's representatives on East Devon District Council's "Exmouth Beach Management Plan Advisory Group".

Councillor L Elson proposed, seconded by Councillor E Beech, and it was **RESOLVED to ratify that Councillors Pauline Stott and Tim Dumper (as Chairs of Waterfront WP and Climate and Ecological Emergency WP respectively) are appointed as the Town Council's representatives on East Devon District Council's "Exmouth Beach Management Plan Advisory Group".**

C21/057. To note that the Mayor's Charity for 2021/2022 is the Quiet Mind Centre.

This was noted by members. The Chairman explained that the Mayor's Autumn Charity Dinner will be held on Saturday 27th November 2021.

C21/058. To nominate a Council representative and reserve to East Devon Arts & Culture Forum.

Councillor J Whibley proposed, seconded by Councillor L Elson, and it was **RESOLVED that Councillor Joy Whipps is appointed as the Town Council's representative on the East Devon Arts & Culture Forum.**

Councillor T Dumper proposed, seconded by Councillor L Elson, and it was **RESOLVED that Councillor Eileen Beech is appointed as the Town Council's reserve on the East Devon Arts & Culture Forum.**

C21/059. To agree that the Town Clerk can respond on behalf of the Council to the advance poll for the election of board members to the Devon Association of Local Councils. Member councils have been invited to submit their votes, for up to 3 candidates, by 9am, on Monday 4 October 2021 and there is only one vote per council.

Members agreed that the Town Clerk could respond on behalf of the Council to the advance poll for election of board members to DALC. The Town Clerk explained that she would share a Google poll and the candidate profiles with members. She also explained that the Council needs to nominate a voting representative for the DALC AGM in October. Councillor T Dumper is the Town Council's representative on the DALC County Committee and would be attending the AGM, along with Councillor B Bailey, so she suggested it may be appropriate for him in that capacity to be the voting member for the Council, to which members agreed.

Councillor B Bailey proposed, seconded by Councillor E Beech, and it was **RESOLVED that the Town Clerk can respond on behalf of the Town Council to the advance poll for the election of board members and that Councillor Tim Dumper is appointed as the Town Council's voting representative at the DALC AGM in October.**

C21/060. To agree to give £250 contribution to the Exeter Harbour Master to help support the fuel costs of the patrol boat over the winter period.

Councillor F Caygill proposed, seconded by Councillor L Elson, and it was **RESOLVED to give £250 contribution to the Exeter Harbour Master to help support the fuel costs of the patrol boat over the winter period.**

C21/061. To note the satisfactory completion of the limited assurance review by PFK Littlejohn LLP for the year ended 31 March 2021 (Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR) and the external auditor report / certificate.

This was noted by members. Councillor L Elson thanked Accounts Manager Julie Gregory for her hard work in managing the Town Council's accounts.

C21/062. To consider a motion from Councillor Mike Rosser:

"Exmouth Town Council has been frustrated by seemingly avoidable delays in trying to install several water re-fill stations in Exmouth. The Council recognises that all levels of local government need to work together for the benefit of the town and to respond to the climate crisis. All local authorities have declared a climate emergency and, as such, projects that will reduce the carbon footprint need to be prioritised and actioned without delay. Consequently, Exmouth Town Council requests that the Leader of East Devon District Council ensures that officers are identified who have responsibility to authorise, within acceptable time frames, projects on land that is owned by the District Council within Exmouth; projects that are initiated by Exmouth Town Council; that would be beneficial to the community of Exmouth and that may reduce the carbon footprint of the town. Accordingly, the Town Clerk is authorised to write to the Leader of EDDC to ask for assurance that the District Council will support any such projects initiated by Exmouth Town Council and will identify officers that are responsible for authorising these projects within reasonable timescales."

Councillor Rosser summarised his motion and the background and explained that he had already received a response from EDDC leader Councillor Paul Arnott, although he did not feel that this was satisfactory. There followed some discussion amongst members. Many supported the principle of the motion and seeking greater engagement from EDDC, however felt that the action proposed was misdirected and, since Councillor Arnott had already responded, the motion as drafted was less

beneficial. Members suggested that focusing on greater engagement with EDDC's chief executives would be a better strategy.

Councillor J Whibley left the meeting.

Councillor M Rosser proposed the motion, seconded by Councillor B Bailey. Following a vote, the motion was **DENIED** (with 6 in favour, 9 against and 1 abstention).

C21/063. To agree to register the Town Council's involvement in the Queen's Platinum Jubilee beacon lighting ceremony on 2 June 2022 and to give the Town Clerk / Deputy Town Clerk delegated authority to make any associated arrangements.

The Town Clerk clarified that, as the celebration coincides with the Exmouth Festival, arrangements will be organised through the Festival and Events Working Party.

Councillor F Caygill proposed, seconded by Councillor J Whipps, and it was **RESOLVED to register the Town Council's involvement in the Queen's Platinum Jubilee beacon lighting ceremony on 2 June 2022 and to give the Town Clerk / Deputy Town Clerk delegated authority to make any associated arrangements.**

C21/064. To agree to reconvene the Town Council Premises Working Party and receive nominations for membership.

Members agreed that it would be useful to have two councillors per ward represented on the working party. The Town Clerk further suggested that it would be helpful for some members to have been involved in the previous lease negotiations. She also clarified that revisiting the terms of reference would be one of the first actions of the reconvened working party, which would probably meet in the daytime.

Nominations for membership were agreed as follows:

- Councillors Eileen Beech and Steve Gazzard (Withycombe)
- Councillors Pauline Stott and Brian Toye (Halsdon)
- Councillors Tim Dumper and Angela Boatwright (Town)
- Councillors Brian Bailey and Bruce De Saram (Littleham)
- Councillors Maddy Chapman and Chery Nicholas (Brixington)

Councillor L Elson proposed, seconded by Councillor T Woodward, and it was **RESOLVED to reconvene the Town Council Premises Working Party with membership as stated above.**

C21/065. Date of next meeting

The Chairman thanked Town Council staff for setting up the meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for 1 November 2021 (date and location to be confirmed).

The meeting concluded at 9.40pm.

Signed..... Date.....

(Chairman)

Appendix – Devon District Councillors' Reports

Devon County Councillor Report – Councillor Richard Scott

RE-OPENING OF GW WARD AT EXMOUTH HOSPITAL FOR PRE AND POST OP CARE FOR ORTHOPEDIC DAY CASE SURGERY.

TEAM DEVON DEVOLUTION BID

[Devon bids for devolution deal from Government - News centre \(devonnewscentre.info\)](https://www.devonnewscentre.info)

UPDATE FROM CCG ON COVID VACCINES AND DATA

REMINDER THAT ALL COVID DATA AVAILABLE ONLINE

[Coronavirus dashboard and data in Devon - Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](https://www.devon.gov.uk/coronavirus)

CONSIDERABLE WORKFORCE ISSUES IN ADULT SOCIAL CARE.

GP'S – DATA ATTACHED.

MANDATORY VACCINATION OF CARE HOME WORKFORCE 11/11/21. UPDATE BELOW FROM SCRUTINY REPORTS.

[Composite Paper HAC Scrutiny Committee 15 Sept 2021.pdf \(devon.gov.uk\)](https://www.devon.gov.uk/composite-paper-hac-scrutiny-committee-15-sept-2021.pdf)

EXETER ROAD PAVEMENT REPAIRS START 18/10/21 FOR 6 – 8 WEEKS.

ALL CARAVANS REMOVED FROM POUND LANE.

COLONY AND SURROUNDING AREA PARKING PERMITS. CLLRS SCOTT AND TRAIL SUBMITTED FINAL AMENDMENTS TO DESIGN CONSULTANTS 23/7/21.

CLLR TRAIL AND CLLR SCOTT MET WITH DEVELOPERS OF GOODMORES TO DISCUSS AND AGREE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE DEVELOPMENT.

DINAN WAY LEVELLING UP FUND EXPECTED UPDATE OCTOBER 21.

HIGHER MARLEY WORK IN PROGRESS AND ONGOING.

CLLR CHANNON HAS ASKED THE TC TO CONSIDER CAREFULLY THE PLANNING APPLICATION AT DEVONCOURT FOLLOWING CONSIDERABLE CONCERN FROM RESIDENTS. THE OBJECTION IS HIGHWAY RELATED AMONGST OTHERS.

THERE IS A CONCERN ABOUT LARGE TANKERS ON MAER LANE BRINGING SEWAGE INTO EXMOUTH ON BEHALF OF SWW. CLLR CHANNON IS WORKING WITH SIMON JUPP MP TO PREVENT THE MOVEMENT OF EXCESS SEWAGE INTO EXMOUTH.

Appendix – Exmouth Town Councillors' Reports

Exmouth Town Councillor David Poor

I would like to report on the Finance Committee, 3 three COLP meetings, the allotment committee, two WEB board meetings and to give my views on East Devon DC Public Toilet Review and the arrival of refugees from Afghanistan in Exmouth this weekend.

Finance Committee.

I am not a member of this committee but I am a member of the Committee and a volunteer for the Littleham Larder/Fridge so I would have declared an interest if I was present at this council meeting. I would like to record my personal appreciation for the financial help the Town Council has given to this community organisation. By providing an advance in August we were able to open during the school holidays and the grant provided to us at the September meeting has enabled us to bring in 100 Kg of food a week (plus other donations). We have no say in what we receive and some of it is food nearing a use by date but virtually all of it gets used. Usage started low but last week in 2 two hour sessions we had 41 visitors and most of the food went out. You can tell by the reaction of some of the people that they had little or nothing in the house at the time. We have developed strong links with EFIN and the foodbank.

COLP

There have been three meetings since the last Council meeting and the notes are part of the agenda bundle. I am sorry that I am unable to attend this council meeting. I am more than happy to answer in writing any queries members may have. There should have been a meeting this morning but this was cancelled due lack of business. There were no agenda items requested by the community organisations and there had been few WP meetings during August. I would draw your attention to the proposed amendments to the Terms of Reference this is to open attendance to more organisations to attend if they wish, this could include Residents Associations like TARA, representation from WI groups. I would ask that you support the changes.

Allotments Committee

The AGM was last Saturday, and was the first face to face meeting for a long time. Unfortunately I had to miss it for the same reason as I had to miss this council meeting. I can assure the Town Council that the Committee is being well run, financially sound and is always looking to expand its work particularly in their Environmental initiatives, and their education and community initiatives that the Association is now taking. I think the Committee and Association are credit to this Council and to Exmouth.

WEB Board

There have been two meetings since the last full council with the last one taking place last Thursday afternoon. Unfortunately the minutes for that are not available yet but I will arrange for them to be distributed as I receive them. I am more than happy to answer in writing any queries members may have. I can tell you that the booster campaign for the Covid and flu vaccinations is due to start on the 9th October. It will be run only on the weekends to allow our GPs to maintain their normal surgeries during the week and is expected to run until at least Xmas. It will be run in Exmouth Leisure Centre this time and there will be no car parking volunteers this time but I understand there will be volunteers providing help within the building. Once again Councillor Woodward is organising the volunteers and I would like to thank him for doing this.

East Devon District Council Public Toilet Review Consultation

Most of these toilets are of course in Littleham. I know that at least two community organisations are interested in taking over two toilet blocks and think that it would be good if they could be repurposed for community use - with some toilet facilities. A community organisation in Littleham has declared an interest in acquiring the Jarvis Close toilets for possible conversion to a community cafe which I endorse. However my one concern I have is that this route is actually an indirect way of the Town Council taking over the control of these toilets as it is probable that these community organisations will then ask the Town Council for financial help. If the town council goes down that route then I think we should take full control to safeguard our investment but let them be run by the organisations themselves. I think Orcombe Point toilets need to be kept open, that part of the beach is used mainly by families who would find it difficult to get the Foxholes toilet 'in time'. We also know the public health 'realities' when these particular toilets were closed.

I am in favour of charging for the toilets otherwise the full cost of supporting these will fall only on the Council Tax payers of Exmouth

Afghan Refugees

Finally I would like to record my great appreciation of the work done our Mayor and the Council officers in helping the refugees from Afghanistan this weekend. I am pleased as a councillor and resident that we have made them so welcome and I am happy to help in any way I can

Exmouth Town Councillor Tim Dumper

Twinning Association Report

After two years without visits between Exmouth twinnings and those of either Dinan or Langerwehe, our French and German twin towns respectively, the Association is looking forward hopefully to 2022. Exmouth twinnings are due to visit Dinan to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of our partnership, a real landmark in the relationship. We are also preparing to host our friends from Langerwehe in July – that will also be the 35th anniversary, delayed from last year.

Recently, Langerwehe and neighbouring areas in the two states of North Rhine Westphalia and Rhineland Palatinate have been affected by the catastrophic flooding. Fortunately, Langerwehe itself got off relatively lightly and with no loss of life – some cellars flooded etc. Other areas however suffered terribly, and Exmouth Twinning Association immediately decided that we should do something practical to help, sending a substantial cash donation to help those most in need. We asked Langerwehe's Committee to decide precisely the best use of the money, but we asked for some of it to be used to help people in the wine growing Ahr Valley. At our last visit in 2019, we spent a pleasant afternoon and evening in the small town of Dernau in the valley, and have been there on several previous occasions. A couple of photos illustrate some of the damage. There was considerable loss of life, with many people still missing.

Attached is also a message of thanks from the Burgermeister (Mayor) in Langerwehe.

Tim Dumper, Town Council's representative, Exmouth Twinning Association

Devon Association of Local Councils (DALC)

DALC's long-serving Chairman, Cllr Ken Browse (Halbeton Parish Council) has stood down after overseeing a major restructure of the organisation to create a Board to oversee all DALC's management functions. Cllr David Chalmers of Northam Town Council has been elected as the new Chairman.

DALC's Annual Conference and AGM is back in virtual form this year, on October 5th – 7th. All Councillors from member councils are invited – so far only two of us from Exmouth have registered. Those registering can choose which talks, workshops etc they attend. I would encourage others to register – there is a "bulk discount", the more who register, the cheaper it is for the Council per person! The agenda, as always, covers a wide variety of topics, key themes this year seem to be recovery from coronavirus, wildlife issues, climate change, and developments in neighbourhood plans, as well as management topics. Chetna, our Deputy Clerk is on a Panel presenting and discussing various Councils' actions and planning on climate and ecological issues on Thursday 7th at 2.30pm. The AGM is on Wed 6th at 9.30am.

Exmouth Town Council has participated strongly in DALC activity throughout the year, with our Mayor and Town Clerk attending the Larger Councils' Group, and I am a member of the County Committee. DALC is working to ensure that member Councils continue to make good use of the training and advice services it continues to provide

(training has, of course) been on a virtual basis during the pandemic). To strengthen that work, a new Policy Officer, Mark Clapham, has recently been recruited, and a large part of his work will be support for specialist working groups, of which there are several.

A new Group is being set up to assist Towns and Parishes as they respond to what Ilfracombe Town Council has described as a housing crisis, with many residents in real difficulties. The Climate and Ecological Emergency group has just reconvened, with new energy brought by several keen new members. I was honoured to be elected chair of this group. We hope to be able to provide a menu of options for Councils large and small to give substance to their declarations of a climate emergency.

Tim Dumper, Town Council's representative, DALC

Fairtrade

Fairtrade Exmouth's Steering Group has started meeting physically again as restrictions have been eased. At their recent meeting (both Cllr Tony Woodward and I gave apologies) it was noted that next year's Fairtrade Fortnight will focus on rice. The group in Exmouth will start putting together events for the fortnight in February / March 2022. The Group also had a stall at Steve Gazzard's Transplant Fair in July.

Appendix – East Devon District Councillors’ Reports

District Councillor’s Report – Councillor Olly Davey

It’s been so long since our last Council meeting that I will simply report on the committees I sit on, and progress made.

Strategic Planning: this is mainly taken up with various aspects of the revision of the Local Plan. At the moment, this is to do with the practicalities of the timetable, consultation, settlement hierarchy, links with Neighbourhood Plans, the composition of the HELAA (Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment), Town Centre policies, and environmental and landscape protection. On settlements, Exmouth is now proposed to sit in a category of its own, reflecting its greater size and range of facilities, but I cautioned against seeing this to mean that further large amounts of development could therefore be sited here. I was pleased to note that officers have undertaken a great deal of work to ensure that any potential conflicts with Neighbourhood Plans can be picked up early by creating an interactive database of NP themes and policies. On Town Centres, there was a feeling that perhaps rather than trying to resist change and loss of retail, we may have to accept more housing, and may indeed wish to. In any case, the introduction of a new Class E use class now grants permitted development to allow change of use without planning permission between shops, offices, catering, certain services and facilities, even light industry, and within certain restrictions, housing.

Planning: I was pleased that councillors unanimously rejected plans for a further care home along Salterton Road, but this may yet go to appeal. We have also so far rejected plans to create self-contained apartments out of garages which back on to service roads behind terraced housing. I am not against all garage conversions, but I feel that this is an inappropriate location for it. I accepted the Goodmores Farm application, having been assured that provision for walking and cycling would be part of the development, but I felt that an opportunity had been missed to design something more visionary and 21st century, rather than an uninspiring rehash of 20th century urban design.

Queens Drive Delivery Group: local people continue to take a keen interest in the deliberations of this group, which I welcome. The temporary attractions put in place this summer have been very successful, and generated income for EDDC. Various temporary planning permissions have now expired, and I was pleased that the most recent meeting accepted my suggestion of an application for planning permission for a permanent temporary events space, allowing for pop-up events and attractions. The popular “dinosaur” playpark looks likely to be retained. The grassing of the previous temporary car park for a fitness area has been less successful and use of this space needs a rethink. There are plans to bring in consultants (yet again!) to advise on the future development of the area, but I would prefer to see something more community based, as I believe that local people and visitors probably have as many ideas for what they would like to see as yet another firm of consultants, and I shall suggest this at the next meeting. While the Watersports Centre has arguably been a popular and successful addition to the seafront, I have yet to see any sign of any watersports based there.

Housing TAFF: this continues to explore ways of delivering more social and affordable housing, and I was very interested to see a housing delivery model which can be built above car parks, retaining the parking area but building high-spec housing above it.

Scrutiny: the most recent meeting was concerned with Council Plan, one of the points in this being the importance of collaboration and cooperation with other bodies, including Town and Parish Councils. I felt obliged to point out that this was easy to say but had not been our experience as a Town Council, without going into specifics, but with the difficulties in delivering the water bottle filling stations in mind. I was not satisfied with the response of the Chief Executive that capacity issues and the pressure on officers meant that they could not always help Town and Parish Councils to achieve their ambitions, and reflecting on this afterwards, it seemed that he was saying that this aspiration could not actually be delivered. This makes me wonder how many more of the aspirations in the Council Plan may also not be achievable because of resourcing and capacity issues.

Cabinet: I attended the meeting where the plan for closure of some toilets was presented. This has generated a great deal of public anxiety, and while I accept that many of the existing toilets needs upgrading, and that this is simply not viable for all, I am concerned about the loss of toilets along the seafront and at the train station, and I am unconvinced by some of the walking times and distances quoted. I wish you luck in your debate this evening.

Outside Bodies

Allotment Committee: this continues to meet monthly online. The allotments are well run and maintained, with issues being picked up quickly. There is sound financial management, and the accounts have just been presented at the AGM last Saturday, though I was unable to attend due to family commitments. Rents were all paid promptly this year, with many using online payment methods. The “shed” has been refurbished, and a well-stocked shop allows allotment holders to buy supplies at very reasonable prices. Seed catalogues have been distributed and allow holders to order seeds at discounted prices.

District Councillor's Report – Councillor Joe Whibley

With much of EDDC business being postponed until the introduction of consultative, virtual meetings which have, it seems, been going well, my direct business with the council has been limited to attendance at planning meetings and chairing the following licensing sub committees (which affect Exmouth)

19th May - The Grand Hotel - Change to operating hours / spaces. Approved.

7th July - Hang Time Cafe - Application for a licence to serve alcohol from the cafe to be consumed on the premises (seating outside the cafe). Granted with conditions.

I have also been in conversation with various groups, as chair of Licensing regarding lobbying MP's to consider looking again at the licensing objectives to include a 5th - so panels can consider the environmental impact that may be caused when granting a licence. Currently we are not able to do so.

The Licensing Committee itself has recently discussed the review of the EDDC Gambling Policy, which this council, via planning, has been asked to make representation. It has been an onerous piece of work in busy times and I thank officers for producing such a tome in a timely manner. Changes agreed by the committee for consideration include a recommendation to prevent 'super casinos' from being built within the district, so if you disagree with this idea please make your feelings known. I must also stress that we have no remit over online gambling - so any comments thereon would be disregarded.

I have had the pleasure of meeting so many happy faces over the summer, many of them in the Strand which has been universally (amongst those I've spoken to) praised. Locals suggest that it has finally become what it was meant to be and I take great pride in having played a part in making that happen. Discussions continue as to how this may look going forward, and I welcome any comments from members via email / phone.

I have carried out various pieces of casework over the period between this and the last meeting and have, in the course of that time, noticed a few trends. Protection for leasehold residents when dealing with free holders and, especially, property management companies, are non existent and I think need urgent review. Secondly, I think that we need to remember that advice given to residents is trusted and there is a need to make sure we signpost to others if we do not have an answer. Unregulated community groups take note...

I have met, written an article on, and bought jam from Exmouth in Bloom. They do a magnificent job which benefits the town to a huge degree. I will speak to EDDC about how we can work more closely with them in future, and about funding streams that would mean they don't have to spend more time raising money than tending to their flowers.

I look forward to my first meeting of the Devon Rail Forum - a subject close to my heart as a daily rail user.