

# EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

## Town Premises Working Party

Notes of the meeting held at 10.00am on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March virtually via Zoom.

### Present

Councillor Cherry Nicholas	CN	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Brian Bailey	BB	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Steve Gazzard	SG	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Tim Dumper	TD	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Maddie Chapman	MC	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Bruce De Saram	BDS	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Angela Boatwright	AB	Exmouth Town Council
Lisa Bowman	LB	Town Clerk/Officer
Mollie Carey	MC	Admin/note taker

### Apologies

Councillor Alex Sadiq	AS	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Brian Teye	BT	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Frank Cullis	FC	Exmouth Town Council

### Election of Chairman

TD proposed and AG seconded that SG be elected as Chair in his capacity as Chairman of the Town Council. BDS nominated MC and this was seconded by CN. The matter was put to the vote and SG was subsequently elected as Chairmen of the Town Hall Premises Working Party with MC elected as Deputy Chairman.

### Welcome and apologies

SG welcomed members to the meeting and apologies were noted.

### Discussion about the Town Council's tenancy arrangements at Exmouth Town Hall in the context of ongoing operational restrictions and its current lease, which is due to expire on the 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2023

LB gave an update on the current tenancy arrangements for Exmouth Town Hall and outlined some of the issues and considerations relating to the decision by the Town

Council to enter into a lease with EDDC in 2018 for a period of five years, initially. The lease will expire on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2023 and Members need to decide whether to renew the lease or find alternative premises, in line with previous aspirations of the Council to own and occupy its own freehold premises.

LB had shared details of several vacant premises in the Town but all were leasehold and none of them met the Council's needs.

Members then discussed potential options moving forward, including accommodation options outside the immediate Town centre and the need to find facilities which can potentially host community group meetings. Members felt that the ideal scenario would be for the District Council to transfer part of the Town Hall to the Town Council or that the Town Council should try to achieve ownership of the entire building under an asset transfer.

TD proposed, BB seconded and it was unanimously agreed that LB should investigate the conditions for an asset transfer of the Town Hall to Exmouth Town Council and if that is unsuccessful, investigate an outright purchase using a public works loan board loan.

The meeting finished at 10:46.