

## EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Meeting of Exmouth Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, St Andrews Road, Exmouth and virtual via Zoom, on Monday 10 January 2022 at 6:30pm

#### Present:

Councillors:	S Gazzard (Chairman)	
	O Davey	T Dumper
	C Nicholas	D Poor
	A Sadiq	P Stott
	J Whibley	A Whipps

#### Officers:

Lisa Bowman, Town Clerk

#### Participated Remotely via Zoom as non-voting Members:

Councillors: A Bailey, B Bailey, A Boatright, F Caygill, M Chapman, A Colman, F Cullis, L Elson, M Rosser, A Toye, B Toye, J Whipps, T Woodward.

#### Apologies:

Councillors: E Beech, B De Saram, I Kirvan,

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting, including any members of the public and the Press and those Councillors observing the meeting via Zoom.

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

#### C22/001. Council meeting minutes

Councillor Pauline Stott proposed, seconded by Councillor Tim Dumper, and it was agreed that the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Monday 20 September 2021 be approved.

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

#### C22/002. Matters arising from the Council meeting minutes (for information only)

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

#### C22/003. To receive any declarations of interest from Members and agree dispensations.

Item	Councillor	Declaration Type		Reason
		Pecuniary	Personal	
6	P Stott		x	One of the planning applications referenced in the

				Planning notes relates to her son's property.
--	--	--	--	---

**C22/004. 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.

**C22/005. 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.**

It was proposed by Councillor Tim Dumper, seconded by Councillor Pauline Stott and unanimously agreed that the notes, minutes and reports detailed below should be received and approved en bloc:

#### **Planning Committee**

Notes of the informal consultative meetings held on 31 August, 14 September, 27 September, 11 October, 25 October, 8 November, 22 November, 6 December and 20 December 2021, and any recommendations therein.

#### **Finance Committee**

Notes of the consultative meetings held on 2 September and 18 November 2021, and any recommendations therein.

#### **Town Clerk's Report**

#### **Deputy Clerk's Report**

#### **Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Party**

The notes of the meetings held on 13 October and 7 December 2021.

#### **Community Organisations Liaison Panel**

The notes of the meetings held on 18 October and 22 November 2021.

#### **Exmouth Transport Partnership**

The notes of the meeting held on 12 October and 14 December 2021.

#### **Festival and Events Working Party**

The notes of the meetings held on 23 September and 4 November 2021.

#### **Flooding and Land Drainage Working Party**

The notes of the meeting held on 19 October 2021.

### **Town Maintenance Overview Working Party**

The notes of the meetings held on 14 October and 11 November 2021 and an associated resolution to ratify the Heads of Terms for a compound at Phear Park and give delegated authority to the Working Party to approve the lease once professional legal advice has been obtained.

### **Trust Fund Working Party**

The notes of the meeting held on 15 September 2021.

### **Waterfront Working Party**

The notes of the meeting held on 26 October 2021.

### **Reports from members who represent the Council on Outside Bodies**

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

The notes of the meetings held on 19 October and 30 November 2021, which had been previously circulated, were noted.

- **WEB Community Health and Wellbeing Board**

The notes of the meeting held on 4 November 2021, which had been previously circulated, were noted.

- **Exmouth Twinning Association**

A report from Councillor T Dumper, which was circulated in advance of the meeting, was noted. The report has been attached as an appendix to these minutes.

- **DALC**

A report from Councillor T Dumper, which was circulated in advance of the meeting, was noted. The report has been attached as an appendix to these minutes.

- **Fairtrade**

A report from Councillor T Dumper, which was circulated in advance of the meeting, was noted. The report has been attached as an appendix to these minutes.

### **District Councillors' Reports**

Reports from Councillor J Whibley, O Davey and P Millar were noted and are attached as an appendix to these minutes.

### **County Councillors' Reports**

There were no County Councillors present at the meeting.

**C22/006. To approve the formal signature of a ten-year lease agreement with East Devon District Council at the rate of £75.00 per annum for land at Queens Drive to accommodate the beach wheelchair storage unit, as previously circulated.**

Councillor Pauline Stott proposed, seconded by Councillor J Whibley and it was **RESOLVED** to approve the formal signature of a ten-year lease agreement with East Devon District Council at the rate of £75.00 per annum for land at Queens Drive to accommodate the beach wheelchair storage unit.

Councillor Stott update members that the wheelchair facility will open in the Spring of 2022.

**C22/007. To ratify the 2022/23 budget and associated precept.**

The Chairman confirmed that members had received a copy of the proposed budget, which had previously been circulated, as well as the related precept for 2022/23 and asked for approval.

Councillor Pauline Stott proposed, seconded by Councillor David Poor, and it was **RESOLVED that the 2022/23 budget as presented at the meeting and appended to these minutes be approved as well as authorising the Town Clerk to submit the precept request of £733,025 to East Devon District Council.**

**C22/008. To reconfirm the Scheme of Delegation in respect of ongoing Covid-19 restrictions.**

Councillor Pauline Stott proposed, seconded by Councillor Olly Davey, and it was **RESOLVED to reconfirm the Scheme of Delegation in respect of ongoing Covid-19 restrictions.**

**C22/009. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Town Council will be held on Monday 7 February 2022 at 6.30pm.

**The meeting concluded at 7.20 pm.**

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

## **Appendix – Exmouth Town Councillors' Reports**

### **Exmouth Town Councillor Tim Dumper**

#### **Fairtrade Steering Group**

The Group has been meeting face to face for several months now, in a Covid safe way. I attended the one meeting recently, in November, and there is a further meeting taking place on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> January. The pandemic has affected Fairtrade as with most other activities. However, a slightly changed Fairtrade Fortnight will go ahead during the last week of February and first week in March. There won't be a producer visiting us to speak, because of the travel difficulties. We are hoping that a Schools Conference can be organised as usual, along with the now regular Pancake Tea. We will ensure that Councillors and staff hear of the details as several usually attend.

Exmouth is due to apply to renew its Fairtrade Town status this year – there has now been a 6 month extension of the deadline to apply till August, because of Covid. The group will study the new criteria this year, and put together what we hope will be a successful application!

#### **Exmouth Twinning Association**

There has been one full meeting of the ETA Committee since the report to Council in September.

At present, preparations are going ahead for Exmouth's visit to Dinan (Exmouth's French twin town) in June, and the visit by a group from Langerwehe (our German twin town) in July. Many restrictions remain across Europe due to coronavirus, and the omicron variant is surging, but we hope to be able to meet and renew friendships after two years of mainly just contact via messages. The Association still holds occasional social activities, and the AGM is due in April.

#### **Devon Association of Local Councils (DALC)**

This report covers issues dealt with through the County Committee of DALC. Since restructuring last year, Cllr Brian Bailey has been elected as a member of the new Board, and Cllr Steve Gazzard and Lisa Bowman as Town Clerk represent us on the Larger Councils' Committee.

It has been quite a busy period, as with the appointment of the new Policy Officer, Mark Clapham, DALC has become more involved in policy matters. The County Committee meeting I attended in December approved a new Policy making paper, and we now have various policy groups, Housing Emergency, Climate and Ecological and Economy being three of the main ones. Mark is also attending NALC meetings in his policy role, so linking us more closely in with national developments. The Housing group has met for the first time, concerned largely with the difficult situation facing many private renters at present, highlighted first in some North Devon resorts, along with high cost areas of the South Hams. Discussion so far, I understand, has centred on the usefulness of Community Land Trusts. The recent meeting of the Climate and Ecological group, which I was unavailable to attend, looked at recommending support

for the Local Electricity Bill, which is supported cross party in Parliament by over 200 MPs. This would give permission for local generation and sale of electricity, from renewable sources. This caused some controversy when put to the full County Committee, and further evidence was sought, but I am hopeful that it will be supported in line with many County Associations and NALC.

County Committee once again addressed the issue of vacancies – currently there are 11 across Devon, including 2 in East Devon area. The pandemic has prevented much networking, so it may be the situation is worse than it might have been. An active travel policy position was debated, which I felt was encouraging.

DALC facilitated a virtual meeting addressed by Cllr John Hart, Leader of Devon County Council on Budget priorities, specifically for those Councillors and Clerks in East Devon DC area, which was disappointingly attended – although quite well publicised.

.

## **Appendix – East Devon District Councillors’ Reports**

### **District Councillor’s Report – Olly Davey**

Since our last meeting, these are updates on the committees I sit on.

**Strategic Planning:** This is still considering the revision of the Local Plan, and tomorrow we shall be discussing the first draft of that plan. I am pleased by the direction of the plan on Green issues, and the considerations for a sustainable East Devon that run through it. However, as always, the devil is in the detail, and we are still required to build an average of 900 houses a year. The committee will look at options for delivering that, including possibly another new town. Whatever option we pursue, it seems likely that Exmouth will see yet further expansion, though I keep making the point that many new developments are further from the town centre than some local villages. A number of sites have been put forward for viability assessment in the HELAA process, and we expect to hear from a number of developers in two presentation meetings on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> January.

**Planning:** There have been very few Exmouth applications of note. An application for a revised layout at Goodmore’s Farm generated quite a lot of interest, but as the application had already been approved, there were few grounds for objection to minor changes of layout. I took the opportunity to ask about cycling links to Marley Road but the opening suggested by the officer report had not been provided, though I was assured that cycling within the site would be well provided for.

**Queens Drive Delivery Group:** This met on the 19<sup>th</sup> October and 30<sup>th</sup> November. In October, we received a report on progress with the appointment of two officers to work on Exmouth projects, a presentation by Coastwatch on their need for a new observation tower, discussion of the Forward Plan, and a discussion of the future of the Harbour View café in a Part B session. In November, we again heard from Mark Myerson from the Beach Volleyball Club, suggesting that a permanent court could be provided in the fitness space. We also had feedback on the temporary uses from last summer following a meeting with the traders, and discussion of possible uses next year.

**Scrutiny:** at the December meeting, the issue was raised of how sites which were allocated in the Local Plan were actually delivered. Councillor Chapman had proposed this, and while the committee could not revisit recent planning decisions, the Goodmores Farm site came up as an example of how infrastructure assumptions (the need for a primary school) should be capable of revision when the site is actually developed, since circumstances may have changed. The Monitoring Officer has been asked to advise on whether this committee can further consider this planning application and the associated consultation.

### **Outside Bodies:**

**Allotment Committee:** this continues to meet monthly online. Seed orders have now arrived and members can collect their seeds from the allotment shops. Rents have mostly been paid in good time, and finances remain healthy. Maintenance work continues on roads, banks, hedges, water supply and security upgrades.

## **District Councillor's Report – Councillor Joe Whibley**

Hi all,

It's been so long since the last meeting I can't remember what happened when, so if any of the following predates the last meeting, apologies.

As chair of licensing we have continued to meet remotely and have recently taken the next steps to ratifying the new gambling premises policy which retains the bulk of the old one, while adding an intention to create a 'no large casino' policy, something I strongly believe will enhance Exmouth's reputation as a family friendly tourism destination.

I took great pleasure in helping EDDC offer the space in The Strand to local businesses last year and, generally, I have received very favourable feedback from all directions. I hope to begin working with officers towards planning for this year. This year we will look to get maximum value for tax payers as well as increasing business opportunities by charging a reasonable rent for the spaces offered. Last year we very generously gave the spaces for almost no cost in a bid to protect local firms from Covid related closure, and I think that was successful. We were, to my knowledge, one of the few councils anywhere in the UK to be this generous so I feel it only fair this year that we look to at least cover our costs.

I have attended Planning meetings at EDDC on several occasions. The Goodmore's Farm application again came up, this time to change some elements of the layout due to a new ownership structure. People again saw this as an opportunity to block the whole application, which of course it wasn't, and the changes were passed. The recent loss of funding for the Dinan Way Extension makes this situation all the more galling.

I would like to pay tribute too the work of Cllr Gazzard in welcoming our arrivals from Afghanistan. I was delighted I was able to bring together DCC and LED to offer them leisure activities such as soft play and fitness facilities while they await their next, more permanent, move.

I have attended the Queen's Drive Delivery group on a couple of occasions - though I must confess to becoming somewhat disheartened with the lack of progress towards a permanent solution. Given staff shortages at EDDC, this is somewhat understandable but very frustrating, nonetheless.

I attended my first Devon Rail Forum meeting and will continue to report back on that as and when. I also attended the Great Western Railway stakeholder event in Cardiff in November. Sausages. Personally, given the challenges they have been met with since the pandemic began, they have done a pretty good job. They appear approachable to us too, so please ask questions of them if you have any!

Cheers all,  
Cllr Joe Whibley



## **District Councillor's Report – Councillor Paul Millar**



Councillor Paul Millar  
East Devon District Council  
Exmouth Halsdon Ward

**Report to Exmouth Town Council: Q3 2021/22**

**Submission Date: January 2022**

### **Warren View Sports Ground**



Progress continues at Warren View Sports Ground as Exmouth Town Football Club continue to make significant improvements on behalf of the community. They signed a lease with EDDC in the summer last year, after the site went out to tender in the spring. Warren View has also now been allocated some S106 money. Further investment is required to make Warren View the home of youth football in Exmouth. There is hope that the site will in time be shared

with other sporting groups such as the Boxing Club. The Club's size and presence means security hasn't so far been an issue. I recently worked with the Club's Head of Youth to provide free football training for the refugees before they were allocated school places which was a huge success.

### **Support for Afghan refugees**

I have been bowled over as have Devon County senior officers and residents for the ongoing response of Exmouth Town Council following the arrival of the Afghan refugee families (thanks go in-particular the Town Clerk and the Mayor whose generous welcome has made life so much easier for the families that are being supported. Cllr Whibley and myself have worked with Leisure East Devon to provide free classes which was generally very well received by local residents. Now, it is clear that Councils must work together on promoting a family sponsorship scheme to ensure the Afghan refugees who haven't settled elsewhere in the country can start a new life here.



### **Forums for residents**

I am currently assisting residents in my Ward to establish forums. The Avenues Residents Association (TARA) has proven itself to be an effective lobbying group and representative forum for the residents of the area. The Hulham Road and Dinan Way areas are two communities within Exmouth that lack this at present. I am therefore actively working with two groups

of residents to launch what have been provisionally named a Hulham Area Residents Association (HARA) and a Dinan Area Residents Association (DARA). There are a range of pertinent issues in this area and these have been heightened by the passing of the Goodmores Farm planning application and the unsuccessful bid for the Dinan Way Extension.

### **Water Fountains**

As one of the Council-appointed Directors of Queen's Drive Exmouth Ltd, the non-profit Community Interest Company which runs Sideshore, I was very proud to link Sideshore's Centre Manager with Exmouth's Deputy Town Clerk having mooted the idea for a water fountain at Sideshore. Speedy progress was made to install this state-of-the-art refill station thanks to excellent project management by both Simon Findel-Hawkins (Sideshore) and Chetna Jones (ETC).



Water fountains/refill stations help promote reuse rather than recycle, cutting down plastic, and also gives us the opportunity to keep hydrated and promote good public health. This fountain will be popular with local joggers and walkers as well as the town's visitors. I am delighted that the Town Council have shown leadership on this along with Sideshore, and that we have more fountains in other areas of the town (e.g. outside M&S). I am proud to have made a small contribution to this amazing project.

### **Brand new skate park**

Skateboarders and scooter riders are clearly enjoying our new, world-class Olympic-standard skate park facility. Funding for the project came from EDDC's Capital Allocations Budget of £365,000. While led by EDDC, the project would not have been possible without the generous financial contribution from Exmouth Town Council. I have been campaigning internally for EDDC to invest in the facilities standing side-by-side with local users who approached me immediately after I started office. In the summer of last year, I asked our engineer to prepare a bid for



floodlights, which he did, to be considered for the 2022/3 Capital Allocations Budget. At the December 'Budget Setting and Capital Allocations Budget' in which this was considered, I managed to broker a compromise (as Cabinet Members ought to defer the decision) that EDDC would pay for half of the cost of the floodlights and Exmouth Town Council pay for the other half. For a facility which would significantly benefit from lighting on winter evenings, I sincerely hope the Town Council will be amenable for the c£15-20,000 cost.

### **Improving the democratic process in Planning**

A planning application for a new dwelling in Hollymount Close has caused much anger in that a sign was not placed on the lamppost. I had wrongly assumed that officers would place at least one sign on one lamppost for minor applications which propose new dwellings (not extensions per se). However, this is not the case and hasn't been for some time. I have now asked the Council to look at how much it would cost to do so as, while letters to neighbours is welcome, the old-fashioned sign on the lamppost is still the only effective way to alert the attention of a small road like Hollymount Close.

Following discussions with the applicant and objector, I currently feel unable to support the application and have registered my objection due to concerns of the precedent set by a new dwelling and the traffic (not necessarily parking) issues this would cause in the close.

### **Review of public toilets**

Exmouth has in my view got a lot to be excited about regarding the future of public loo provision. I am pleased that officers and Councillors will be looking at the Maer, Imperial Rec and Jarvis Close toilets with a view of creating a café-cum-provision of free community toilets. I am confident that community partners can be found and these old buildings can be renovated (Bumble and Pee, anyone?). Going forward, my only concern is the future of the Station Toilets where I was unconvinced that the water usage figures told a true story of its importance. I hope the Town Council won't shy away from taking the facility on. As a taxpayer, I have no concern with the Town Council owning a public toilet. Unlike Ottery and Cranbrook which don't have one public toilet, I feel we are fortunate.

### **Review of car parking tariffs**

I have recently conducted a benchmarking exercise, which had never been provided by officers, which shows that EDDC's car parking tariffs are significantly lower than adjoining Councils, with Exeter's prime car parks £2.10 an hour, Teignbridge's £2, and Mid Devon's at £2. Ours remain at £1 and I am now supportive of a rise to £1.50 in all prime car parks, and I will be suggesting we go for a £2 charge for car parks in tourist hot spots while we offer monthly direct debit residents permits at around £10 a month. EDDC not only needs to set a balanced budget but invest in areas of the Council neglected by the previous administration, from arts and culture to social housing. It is sensible and prudent to do this and progressive to seek this predominantly from visitors rather than residents.

Car parks likely to be affected by the increase (in brackets are tariff levels I'll be proposing for each) are: Imperial Road (£1.50), Imperial Recreation Ground (£1.50), London Inn (£1.50 – a number of EDDC Cllrs believe this should be a shopping car

park with a two-hour limit; I agree with this and it will be followed up on in the preparation of EDDC's first ever Car Parking Strategy), Queen's Drive (£2.00), Queen's Drive Echelon (£2.00), Foxholes (£2.00) and Beach Gardens (£2.00). Maer Road is likely to remain £1.00.

### **Feedback**

If any Town Councillor has feedback on my work or questions, please contact me on: [pmillar@eastdevon.gov.uk](mailto:pmillar@eastdevon.gov.uk) or 07815 654825 / 01395 741096.