

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Exmouth Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, St Andrews Road, Exmouth on Monday 08 August 2022 at 6:30pm

Present:

Councillors:

S Gazzard (Chairman)
A Sadiq (Deputy Chairman)

A Bailey	B Bailey
A Boatright	F Caygill
M Chapman	A Colman
F Cullis	O Davey
B De Saram	T Dumper
I Kirvan	C Nicholas
P Stott	A Toye
B Toye	A Whipps

Officers: Lisa Bowman, Town Clerk

Apologies:

Apologies were accepted from Councillors E Beech, L Elson, D Poor, M Rosser, J Whibley, J Whipps, T Woodward, County Councillor Richard Scott, County Councillor Christine Channon, County Councillor Jeff Trail.

Public Forum: There were no members of the public present.

C22/047. Council meeting minutes

Councillor M Chapman proposed, seconded by Councillor Tm Dumper, and it was agreed that the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Monday 13 June 2022 be approved.

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

C22/048. Matters arising from the Council meeting minutes (for information only)

The Town Clerk updated Members on the outcome of Councillor Mike Rosser's motion at the previous meeting and confirmed that responses had been received from the Environment Agency and South West Water, with the latter agreeing to send a representative to the Council's September meeting. A briefing meeting would be organised imminently for Councillors.

C22/049. To receive any declarations of interest from Members and agree dispensations.

There were no declarations of interest.

C22/050. 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 was one item on the agenda that involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and would therefore be held in private.

C22/051 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.

Councillor Pauline Stott then proposed, seconded by Councillor Joe Whibley and it was agreed that the minutes and notes listed below be accepted en bloc:

Planning Committee: minutes of meetings held on 6th June, 20th June, 4th July and 18th July 2022

Finance Committee: minutes of meeting held on 9th June 2022

Town Clerk's Report

Deputy Clerk's Report

Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Party: notes of the meeting held on 28th June 2022.

Community Organisations Liaison Panel: notes of the meetings held on 27th June 2022.

Exmouth Transport Partnership: notes of the meeting held on 21st June 2022

Festival and Events Working Party: notes of the meetings held on 9th June & 21st July 2022.

Flooding and Land Drainage: notes of the meeting held on 12th July 2022.

Town Maintenance Overview Working Party: notes of the meetings held on 9th June & 7th July 2022.

Reports from members who represent the Council on Outside Bodies

- **Placemaking in Exmouth Town and Seafront Group:** notes of the meeting held on 19th July 2022.
- **WEB Health and Well-being Board:** notes of the meeting held on 7th July 2022.

- **Exmouth Twinning Association:** report from Councillor Tim Dumper appended.
- **DALC County Committee:** report from Councillor Tim Dumper appended.
- **Fairtrade:** report from Councillor Tim Dumper appended.
- **District Councillors' Reports:** reports from Councillor Olly Davey and Councillor Paul Millar were noted and are attached as an appendix to these minutes.

Councillor Maddy Chapman expressed her sorrow at the passing of District Councillor Val Ranger.

C22/052. The Rising Threat of Fire and Heatwaves – motion proposed by Councillor Tim Dumper.

“Recent heatwaves and very dry weather have brought outbreaks of fire in urban Britain reminiscent of conditions in hotter countries. Not only open land has been burnt, but houses and other buildings in urban areas. In the Exmouth area we are used to occasional fires on Woodbury Common but current experience suggests that Exmouth needs to be prepared.

We request that action is taken by Exmouth Town Council in the following ways:

1. That a review be undertaken of our Community Resilience Plan (where necessary in conjunction with other local Emergency Planners) to ensure it takes full account of likely issues in case of a fire emergency or for exceptional heatwaves.
2. That consideration be given to developing a booklet for general public distribution, publicising fire prevention and what to do in fires and heatwaves. This could be similar to the one distributed about flood preparations several years ago, which was based on an existing national template.
3. That the Council's Town Maintenance Working Party consider urgently the issue of blocked and cluttered back lanes, service roads etc to ensure unimpeded access to emergency vehicles. It may be that similar joint operations with DCC Highways and EDDC Streetscene as occurred three years or so ago in the Colony could be arranged to address this issue.
4. That the Town Clerk write to DCC and the D&S Fire and Rescue Service to ask what the current state of preparedness for large fires in the Exmouth area is, and request that arrangements be looked at in the light of current likely climatic conditions.
5. That the Council urges DALC to consider a Devonwide response to extreme heat and fire preparations.”

Councillor Tim Dumper presented his motion and highlighted that it was aimed at addressing the mitigation planning and associated measures needed to cope with the impacts of climate change, with much of the work related to the Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Party. Members had a robust debate about the motion and comments from Members included the following:

- A community resilience plan for Exmouth is already in place;
- DSFRS is the responsible body to deal with fire outbreaks;

- The motion does not have enough emphasis on public health;
- Not just about adaptation, need to address Climate Change as well;
- How does this fit with the new Climate Officer's role?
- Is a review of the Community hubs listed in the community resilience plan needed?
- How does community resilience plan fit into network of District and County emergency plans and the respective management plans?

The motion was subsequently proposed by Councillor Tim Dumper, seconded by Councillor Brian Toye and put to the vote but members voted by majority to reject the motion.

C22/ 053. To consider a report and associated recommendations in respect of the recent public toilet review by East Devon District Council

A report had been circulated with the agenda in respect of the recent public toilet review by East Devon District Council and the associated decisions needed from the Town Council at this time. Members discussed the report and the Town Clerk clarified various aspects of the associated recommendations.

Councillor Tim Dumper subsequently proposed and Councillor Alex Sadiq seconded that the Council:

1. Approves in principle the acquisition of the public convenience at Imperial Recreation Ground and to proceed with reviewing and agreeing draft heads of terms for a long-term lease with the advice from the Town Council's solicitors; and to develop a business plan for a potential Eco Hub, cafe and general community use facility along with publicly accessible toilet(s).
2. Review options and agree actions in relation to the Category C public conveniences at Jarvis Close in Exmouth, and if no options are available, to confirm in writing that the Town Council is not interested in acquiring these.
3. Write to East Devon District Council requesting an update on the plans for the Category C public convenience by the train station in the context of the ongoing car parking review and the Levelling Up (Round 2) Dinan Way/ Gateway proposals.

C22/054. To approve a recommendation from the HR Group that the Council ratify the appointment of the following positions:

Supplementary Town Maintenance Operative

Receptionist / Administrator

Climate and Ecological Emergency / Community Resilience Officer

C22/055. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Town Council will be held on Monday 19 September at 6:30pm.

The meeting concluded at 9.10 pm.

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

DRAFT

Appendix – Exmouth Town & District Councillors' Reports

Exmouth Town Councillor David Poor

Allotments Committee

The Allotment Association held its AGM in April, it was the first face to face meeting since the first lockdown. At present the committee continues to meet via zoom. I was unable to make the meeting because of the effects of Covid, but the Committee felt it went well. Award Certificates for well-kept plots and achievements were presented by site coordinators. These were well received and a thank you email, and certificate will go to artist /designer who gave the Association free use of her work. overall, the finances of the Association remain healthy and as I have said before I think the Association is well run and is something this Council can be very proud of. The Committee has agreed to co-opt an additional member who will start attending meetings in June. The Committee has also agreed to look again at making minor changes to its rules and will distribute these to this Council for it to agree. In May the Details Jesse Collings Community Room which was part of the Shed on Hamilton Lane was opened by Mike Hawkins, a long-term member and previous committee member, who gave a talk about the history of the site and the value of Allotment gardening. It will be used for a variety of activities such as courses, small meetings and presentations of interest to allotment holders.

WEB Community and Health and Well Being Board

Minutes of the May meeting have been distributed and I am more than happy to answer any specific questions.

The minutes show this Board has expanded its co-ordinating role across the NHS, and Primary Care services. There is now a particular focus on the Mental Health and wellbeing of young people, there will be another Fayre organised to which local schools will be invited and there is now a specific multi agency group set up to look at this issue. In addition, the Board now includes two pupils from ECC.

Littleham Health and Well Being Fayre

This was held at the Littleham Leisure Centre on the afternoon of the 25th of May. It was organised by Active Devon and Seachange (based at the Budleigh Hub). There were many groups present such as the Mens Shed, Devon Carers, Age UK, Healthscape and the Mental Health and Well Being team from the local GP surgeries. It was well attended with a number of activities for children and walking rugby for those of us who are a bit older. I hope that it could act as a catalyst for a multi-agency group to look at the specific problems for the Littleham Estate.

David Poor

Exmouth Town Councillor Tim Dumper

DALC County Committee

Attended a rather sparsely attended County Committee this morning. Positive news on membership - this year's campaign to fill Committee vacancies has been successful, although it doesn't so far seem to have resulted in higher attendance figures!

Several Task and Finish and Policy Groups operating, Housing, Social Care, Economy, Climate, Rural Roads (note that Summer Lane is a road in Exmouth which has an active campaign to make it quieter, in addition to the Dinan Way extension proposal). Please feed anything into me that you think might have a wider than Exmouth application for any of these topics.

Hybrid Conference due in October.

Exmouth Twinning Association

We are preparing for visit to Dinan travelling this Friday 17th. This is the 50th anniversary of the link with Dinan in Brittany!

We are hosting a party from Langerwehe for 6 days from July 13th.

On behalf of ETA, I would like to thank Exmouth Town Council for its ongoing financial and other support for these events which are partly civic in nature.

Exmouth Fairtrade

The steering group are preparing for running a stall at the Organ Donation fair in July. We are also putting together the bid for renewal of Exmouth's Fairtrade Town status.

Tim Dumper

Exmouth District Councillor Olly Davey

Since our last meeting in April, these are updates on the EDDC committees I sit on. Strategic Planning: The £400K CIL allocation for the Levelling Up fund Exmouth bid was removed at one meeting, and reinstated at the next, when it became clear that DCC

intended to submit a bid for Round 2. There was an interesting discussion around this, with at least two councillors sounding greener than myself in opposing further road building and suggesting that the Dinan Way extension would simply move congestion to a different point. As we are discussing our contribution this evening, I shall say no more.

We also had a useful digest of the proposed changes to planning and their implications. The proposed "zoning" idea for areas of permitted development has now been quietly dropped, and as this has still to go through Parliament, there may be further amendments.

We also had a very useful and detailed review of employment land in E Devon.

Planning: The permanent use of Queen's Drive space for its current uses of entertainment, leisure, and recreation were agreed. A proposal to develop the Red Cross hall in South St was deferred for further negotiation over the size of the proposed building and some concerns over parking and has now been approved by an officer.

Queens Drive Delivery Group: This met on 3rd May. Leases for pitches have all been agreed, but there have been a few delays in other areas. We continue to press

for cycle parking, which is inadequate along most of the seafront. The Service Lead has promised to investigate providing this. The Group will now be renamed to reflect a slightly changed remit covering more of the general development of the town, though the primary concern will continue to be the seafront, where, as you will know, the new officer is keen to proceed as quickly as possible with consultation to determine what kind of seafront we want and how it should develop.

Outside Bodies:

Allotment Committee: Routine management and improvement of the allotment site continues to take place. Security is still a concern, and holders are being urged not to leave gates open when leaving unless there are others still on site.

Olly Davey

Exmouth District Councillor - Joseph Whibley

Since the last meeting I have attended the District Council Scrutiny Meeting, where a few issues pertinent to the Town Council were discussed.

Public speaking focussed on the John Humphrey investigation at EDDC, and the reasons why it has not yet begun. The chief executive assured the committee that the complexity of the situation meant that he would not be able to present the report until the July cabinet, when further direction will be given. I am keen that all parties, the police, all councils, and any other interest groups are fully involved so as not to repeat any mistakes of the past, but we must, at this point, wait and see. We also discussed the petition system at EDDC and are going to look at more streamlined but legally watertight ways of ensuring these are both accessible to the public but also fair and representative of the population of East Devon.

There have been a couple of Licensing subcommittee meetings, one of which was called after the application for street trading at Pride was deemed to require more scrutiny following some negative comments by a district council colleague. I was not involved with the hearing, as I am both a member of the LGBTQ community and a performer on the day (12pm on the dot... 🥲 ... Be there or be ..er.. somewhere else...), but I was disappointed that such unsubstantiated comments were made in the first place.

I have also undergone Code of Conduct training where we were reminded of our duties with regards to social media, and the new declarations system was outlined.

Aside from that, I have undertaken some casework within the ward, and continue to field questions from Exmouth residents in general, trying to direct them to their ward members. Perhaps a nudge to some of the less visible and accessible district colleagues around the town would be in order - I feel like a secretary sometimes. That also goes for county colleagues with regards to residents parking too.

Joe