

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Exmouth Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, St Andrews Road, Exmouth on Monday 03 October 2022 at 6:30pm

Present:

Councillors: S Gazzard (Chairman)
A Sadiq (Deputy Chairman)

B Bailey
E Beech
A Boatright
M Chapman
A Colman (arrived at 6 :48pm)
F Cullis
O Davey
T Dumper
C Nicholas
M Rosser
P Stott
A Toye
J Whibley
A Whipps
J Whipps

Officers: Lisa Bowman, Town Clerk

Apologies: Apologies were accepted from Councillors D Poor, T Woodward, F Caygill, Bruce De Saram, L Elson, I Kirvan, A Bailey and B Toye.

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

C22/056. Council meeting minutes

Councillor Brian Bailey proposed, seconded by Councillor Joy Whipps, and it was agreed that the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Monday 08 August 2022 be approved.

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

C22/057. Matters arising from the Council meeting minutes (for information only)

There were no matters arising.

C22/058. To receive any declarations of interest from Members and agree dispensations.

There were no declarations of interest.

C22/059. 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.

It was noted that there was one item on the agenda which involved the likely disclosure of exempt information and the Chairman, Councillor Steve Gazzard, therefore moved that the press and public be excluded from that part of the meeting. Councillor A Sadiq seconded this motion and it was approved by all.

C22/060. 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.

Planning Committee: Councillor Joy Whipps proposed, Councillor Tim Dumper seconded, and it was agreed by all present that the minutes of the meetings held on 1st August, 15th August and 30th August 2022 be accepted as a true record.

Finance Committee: Councillor Olly Davey proposed, Councillor Brian Bailey seconded and it was agreed by all present that the minutes of the meeting held on 18th August 2022 be accepted as a true record.

The Town Clerk's report and Deputy Clerk's report were noted with thanks being expressed specifically to Chetna Jones for her work on the Phear Park compound.

The notes of the following working parties were also accepted as a true record:

CCTV Working Party: meeting held on 11th August 2022.

Community Organisations Liaison Panel: meeting held on 22nd August 2022.

Town Council Premises Working Party: meeting held on 23rd September 2022.

Waterfront Working Party: meetings held on 13th September 2022.

A recommendation had been put forward with the notes from the **Festival and Events Working Party** held on 8th September 2022 regarding the future format and timing of Exmouth Festival.

The matter was debated and individual Members expressed broad support for the recommendation based primarily on rising infrastructure costs and anticipated capacity constraints within the Town Council's paid staff team. It was felt that a more modular approach and change of venue / date would be beneficial in terms of future viability and risk mitigation. The recommendation was subsequently put to the vote and carried unanimously.

Councillor Joy Whipps proposed, Councillor Alex Sadiq seconded, and it was subsequently RESOLVED that the Exmouth Festival 2023 will

- **be a cross-town arts festival held over the weekend of July 28-30th 2023.**
- **be held at various locations around Exmouth, utilising existing infrastructure as well as parks and public spaces**
- **represent a move away from the predominantly music festival model towards a focus on family-friendly, mixed arts**
- **have a diverse programme to include music, theatre, film, visual arts and community activities**
- **remain free to attend (with potential for some paid activities)**
- **be scaled up or down depending on funding**

Reports from members who represent the Council on Outside Bodies

- **WEB Health and Well-being Board:** the notes of the meeting held on 8th September 2022 were forwarded by Councillor David Poor for noting.
- **Devon Association of Local Councils:** Councillor Tim Dumper provided an update on recent work by the County Committee as part of his written report (appended)
- **District Councillors' Reports:** Written reports from Councillors Joe Whibley and Tim Dumper had been circulated prior to the meeting and are appended to the minutes. Councillor Maddy Chapman provided a verbal update on the progress of the Local Plan.
- **County Councillors' Report:** Councillor Richard Scott attended on behalf of the County Council and provided a verbal update on the status of the Levelling Up Fund application for the Dinan Way extension and the Residents Parking scheme.

C22/061. Limited Assurance review (Annual Governance and Accountability Return) by PFK Littlejohn LLP for 2021/22.

The outcome of the Limited Assurance Review was noted.

C22/ 062. To approve the revised rules for the Exmouth District Allotment Association

Councillor OD proposed, seconded by Councillor JW and it was RESOLVED to approve the revised rules for the Association.

C22/063. To ratify that Exmouth Town Council continues as part of the SAAA sector-led auditor appointment regime

Councillor Joy Whipps proposed, seconded by Councillor Cherry Nicholas and it was RESOLVED to continue as part of the sector led auditor regime.

**C22/064. To confirm the appointment of one voting representative and one non-voting representative to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Devon Association of Local Councils Ltd on Wednesday 5th October 2022
Part B**

Councillor Eileen Beech proposed, seconded by Councillor Joe Whibley and it was RESOLVED that Councillor Tim Dumper would attend the Annual General Meeting of the Devon Association of Local Councils as the Council's voting representative.

Councillor Steve Gazzard proposed, seconded by Councillor Joe Whibley and it was RESOLVED that Councillor Steve Gazzard would attend as the Council's non voting representative.

C22/065. To approve a recommendation from the HR Group that the Council ratifies the permanent appointment of Charlie Tapp to the post of Arts Manager

Councillor Joy Whipps proposed, seconded by Councillor Maddy Chapman and it was RESOLVED to ratify the appointment of Charlie Tapp to the post of Arts Manager.

C22/066. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Town Council will be held on Monday 17th October at 6:30pm.

The meeting concluded at 7:20pm.

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

Appendix – Exmouth Town & District Councillors' Reports

Councillor Joe Whibley

Good evening all. This month has, as has been a common denominator of many during the past 3 and a half years, been a strange one. The death of Her Majesty paused many of the things that were planned but some went ahead nonetheless. I commend the way the town marked the monarchs passing - it remained tasteful and proportionate. The mayor's proclamation ceremony on the Strand was particularly lovely. Well done all. One of the consequences of the adjournment of proceedings meant that the town council had to fit two planning meetings into one and it included several controversial applications. I have, I'm pleased to report, finally caught up on my sleep after the 63 hour marathon session came to a close. Because of the cancellation of meetings I'll highlight what's coming up this month. In late October I'll be chairing an extraordinary meeting of the Licensing and Enforcement Committee to discuss a request by East Devon taxi drivers to allow them to raise taxi fares. The numbers of taxi drivers leaving the profession nationally has been growing but fortunately here we have managed to keep numbers fairly stable. We need to maintain that and given the recent rises in fuel costs it's only fair we hear their arguments and make a decision accordingly. Earlier in the month I'll be chairing the Arts and Culture forum where we'll be hearing updates from the various projects around the district and no doubt discussing the first steps of implementation of the Arts and Culture plan which was agreed last month at cabinet. It's exciting that we're trying to look beyond the current economic situation and plan for long term growth of a hugely important factor in maintaining tourist numbers to the region. Also over the next month, I hope to raise enough money to buy Councillor Millar a bike lock (oh and some for the Children's Hospice South West too).

Joe

Councillor Tim Dumper

Devon Association of Local Councils (DALC):

I have recently attended a County Committee meeting. Work has been ongoing in the following areas: Housing issues - many areas have had serious problems with evictions of tenants mainly for financial reasons. This has been exacerbated by the cost of living crisis. DALC is coordinating with others via the national association (NALC). Social Care - DALC has been exploring opportunities for Town and Parish Councils to take action to help the very difficult situation that the care sector is currently in. Work is at an early stage. Rural Roads - DALC has submitted a motion to be discussed by NALC, specifically in respect of encouraging speed reduction on single track roads (this could be of interest for us in terms of Courtlands Lane and Summer Lane, for instance. Climate Change - Our final report from the Task and Finish Group has been accepted by County Committee and depending on wider issues the work will continue in a 6 monthly standing committee. The AGM and Conference are on Wednesday, to be attended by our Clerk and Deputy, and 4 Councillors.

East Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

I attended their recent very interesting annual meeting at the Froginwell Vineyard at Woodbury Salterton, along with Councillors Brian and Aurora Bailey, the main theme being rewilding various areas, but reports on project progress. Since the meeting, there has been a letter drafted asking serious questions of South West Water in relation to sewage, with concerns similar to ours. If I have any update on that, I will give it verbally.

Exmouth Fairtrade Steering Group

Renewal of Exmouth's Fairtrade status has been delayed by national decision till 2023, so the Group is starting work during the Autumn - there is a lot of catch up work to do with local businesses, because of the pandemic. A delayed 10th Anniversary Dinner of Exmouth's becoming a Fairtrade Town is being held on October 13th at the Imperial Hotel. Details available in the September 30th Bulletin.

Plastic Free Exmouth

Great news - Exmouth has gained the Plastic Free Community accreditation from Surfers Against Sewage. This has taken several years of work, and was a key aim of our Plastics Reduction Working Party.