

# EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Exmouth Town Hall, St. Andrews Road, Exmouth on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2022.

### Present:

Councillors	A Sadiq	(Chairman)
	A Bailey	
	B Bailey	
	E Beech	
	A Boatwright	
	F Caygill	
	M Chapman	
	A Colman	
	F Cullis	
	O Davey	
	P Stott	
	A Toye	
	B Toye	
	T Dumper	
	C Nicholas	
	M Rosser	
	J Whibley	
	A Whipps	
	T Woodward	

Devon County Councillor Richard Scott.

### Officers:

Lisa Bowman, Town Clerk

Zoey Cooper, Climate and Ecological Emergency / Community Resilience Officer

### Apologies:

Apologies were noted from Councillors Lynne Elson, Steve Gazzard, Ian Kirvan, David Poor, Bruce De Saram, J Whipps.

The Chairman then welcomed all to the meeting.

**Public Forum:** Geoff Skinner, Chairman of Exmouth Community Association (ECA) had registered to speak about item 7 on the agenda, the proposed Public Space Protection Order. Mr Skinner commented that he thought the proposed PSPO was confused, and it was difficult to see what would be achieved from its introduction. Furthermore, ECA believed that the current arrangements are generous and the proposal to allow use of the beach between 6pm and 10am would lead to more confusion and create more issues with enforcement. He urged Councillors not to support the relaxations as proposed.

**C22/073. Council meeting minutes**

Councillor Tim Dumper proposed, Councillor Maddy Chapman seconded, and it was agreed that the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted as a true record.

**C22/074. Matters arising from previous minutes**

Councillor Mike Rosser queried why a supplementary question he had posed of South West Water at the previous meeting had not been recorded in the minutes. The Town Clerk explained that the minutes are not a verbatim transcript of the meeting and only need to record the decisions of the Council, however as much information as practically possible had been included, with a focus on providing answers to those questions which had been published in advance as part of the agenda.

**C22/075. Declarations of pecuniary interests and dispensations**

There were no declarations of pecuniary or personal interest.

**C22/076. Exclusion of the Press and public**

There were no items on the agenda which necessitated the exclusion of the press or public.

**C22/077. Reports and minutes from Committees, Working Parties, other local bodies, the Town Clerk/Deputy Town Clerk, District and County Councillors as appropriate (Standing Order 6.2)**

County Councillor Richard Scott was in attendance and answered questions relating to the Levelling Up Fund bid, recent changes to Stagecoach bus services and the installation of bollards in a stopped-up section of the highway in Windsor Square.

Councillor Joe Whibley proposed, Councillor Brian Teye seconded, and it was agreed that the minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee meetings held on 30<sup>th</sup> August, 26<sup>th</sup> September, 10<sup>th</sup> October and 24<sup>th</sup> October be accepted as a true record.

The following were also noted: Town Clerk's Report, Deputy Clerk's Report, notes of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Party held on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2022, notes of the Community Organisations Liaison Panel meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2022, notes of the Exmouth Transport Partnership held on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2022, notes of the Festival and Events Working Party held on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2022, notes of the Public Rights of Way meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2022 and notes of the Town Maintenance Overview Working Party held on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

**Councillor Tony Woodward proposed acceptance of notes of the Community Resilience Working Party held on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2022 and ratification of the two associated recommendations as follows:**

- 1) the approval of the Exmouth Community Emergency Plan version 1.9; and

**2) agreement that the Town Council produces a leaflet with partners and community organisations on tackling poverty and the energy business (budget £1000)**

The proposal was seconded by Councillor Maddy Chapman and agreed by all.

Councillor Fred Caygill provided a verbal update on the status of the CCTV project and confirmed plans to proceed with a monitoring contract with Torbay Council (as previously agreed). Members asked that the meeting should formally record thanks to Councillor Caygill and the Town Clerk for their work on the project.

Councillor Pauline Stott provided an update on the beach wheelchair project and explained that the service had closed for the winter months but would reopen in the Spring of 2023.

**Outside Bodies**

The notes of the meeting of the WEB Health and Wellbeing Board held on 8th September and attended by Councillor David Poor were noted along with the notes of the DALC County Committee meeting held on 22nd June 2022, attended by Councillor Tim Dumper.

Councillor Olly Davey and Councillor Aurora Bailey provided verbal updates in their capacity as representatives on the Exmouth District Allotment Association and Placemaking in Exmouth Town and Seafront Group, respectively.

**District Councillors' Reports**

Councillors Joe Whibley had provided a written report for circulation prior to the meeting which is appended to these minutes.

**C22/078. Consideration and agreement of a response to the public consultation for East Devon Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO's)**

Members had received details of the proposed revisions to the PSPO as they pertain to dog controls. There was broad agreement among Members that the proposed revisions were not necessary, with discussion including the following points:

- the proposal to provide dog walkers with increased access to the beach was a good idea
- the proposed PSPO is at odds with other legislation relating to dogs on leads
- families using the beach in the evening would be adversely affected
- the beach is not family friendly when dogs roam freely and dogs should be on a lead on the beach at all times
- dog licences should be reinstated
- dogs are a nuisance, unpredictable and scary for children
- enforcement is difficult
- horse riders are allowed on the beach before 10am and after 6pm

Councillor Olly Davey proposed that the Town Council should oppose the proposed changes to the PSPO and that no changes to the current arrangements are necessary. This is on the grounds of cost and inconvenience with particular concerns around clarity and potential problems with enforcement. This was seconded by Councillor Mike Rosser.

Councillor Fred Caygill subsequently asked for a recorded vote, which was seconded by Councillor Maddy Chapman and agreed.

Members voted on the proposed response and votes were recorded as follows:

In favour: A Boatwright, B Bailey, M Chapman, A Colman, F Cullis, O Davey, T Dumper, E Beech, C Nicholas, M Rosser, A Toye, J Whibley, A Whipps

Against: F Caygill, A Sadiq, P Stott

Abstentions: A Bailey, B Toye, T Woodward

**RESOLVED: that the Town Council should oppose the proposed changes to the PSPO and that no changes to the current arrangements are necessary. This is on the grounds of cost and inconvenience with particular concerns around clarity and potential problems with enforcement.**

**C22/079. The adoption by East Devon District Council of its Community Asset Transfer Procedure.**

Duly noted.

**C22/080. Resolution to sign up to the Civility and Respect Pledge**

Councillor Tim Dumper provided some background information to the proposed pledge and explained that this was a new national initiative which provides a mechanism for a Council to demonstrate that it is committed to standing up to poor behaviour across its sector, and to demonstrating positive changes which support civil and respectful conduct.

Councillor Dumper then proposed acceptance of the resolution. This was seconded by Councillor Joe Whibley and agreed by the majority of Councillors present when put to the vote.

**RESOLVED that Exmouth Town Council signs up to the Civility and Respect Pledge.**

**C22/081. Adoption of the model councillor officer protocol agreed by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC), the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) and county associations as part of the Civility and Respect Project.**

**Councillors briefly debated this matter but were in broad agreement that the Council should adopt the protocol. Councillor Brian Bailey subsequently**

**proposed the adoption of the protocol. This was seconded by Councillor Tony Woodward and agreed by the majority of Councillors present.**

**RESOLVED that Exmouth Town Council adopts the model councillor officer protocol with immediate effect.**

**C22/082. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Town Council will be held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at 6.30pm at the Town Hall Council Chamber.

The meeting concluded at 8.05pm.

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

The main focus this month for me has been on Licensing and Enforcement, namely on Taxi fares.

#### Minimum Fare Raises

The committee at EDDC held an extraordinary meeting at the end of October to consider a request that taxi firms be able to increase their minimum charges, both for the first mile and subsequent miles after that, to mitigate against the huge rises in running costs for them. These costs include fuel, but other factors such as insurance, repairs and so on have also increased. We have a better than average number of taxi drivers here but there are a large number of drivers in the upper age range, and many do only contract work. There is a need to preserve the taxi drivers we have working the rank and make the profession more affordable to those starting out.

It's important to note that these are maximum fares – they do not have to raise their prices.

The committee agreed to raise the fares for different aspects of the jobs by differing amounts – I'll send a link to all when it becomes live on the website.

Taxi firms have assured us that they will be sensitive to those in need of the service and will, for example, give discounts to regular elderly customers or those making hospital visits. It is in their interest to retain their customers and we have had to take them at their word.

This change will soon be advertised in the local press and will potentially be confirmed at the December meeting.

#### Spiking

The next issue I want the committee to look at, along with ratifying a new street trading policy, is the issue of spiking and needling in East Devon's pubs and clubs. I'm hearing more and more anecdotal evidence that this is a growing problem and we have some powers as an authority to tie licence conditions in with this. If you hear of any evidence, anecdotal or otherwise, please let me know. I want to build a picture for the committee so that we can gather evidence to make the case for the police, the licensing authority and the pubs working more closely together.

I have once again been asking questions of GWR regarding the shelter at Exton railway station – a popular destination for walkers and cyclists. It's imperative that a shelter which protects against the rain is built. This has gone on for too long.

Councillor Joe Whibley