

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Exmouth Town Hall, St. Andrews Road, Exmouth on Monday 09 January, 2023 at 6.30pm.

Present:

Councillors

S Gazzard (Chairman)
A Bailey
B Bailey
F Caygill
A Colman (arrived at 6.40pm)
O Davey
L Elson
A Sadiq
P Stott
A Toye
T Dumper
C Nicholas
M Rosser
J Whibley
T Woodward
B De Saram

Officers:

Lisa Bowman, Town Clerk

Apologies:

Apologies were noted from Councillors Angela Boatwright, Maddy Chapman, Alan Whipps, Joy Whipps, Frank Cullis, Eileen Beech, Brian Toye, David Poor

The Chairman then welcomed all to the meeting.

Public Forum: There were two members of the public present who wished to speak in relation to agenda item 7 – the Council's proposed response to the Draft local Plan.

C23/090. Council meeting minutes

Councillor Pauline Stott proposed, Councillor Brian Bailey seconded, and it was agreed that the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted as a true record.

C23/091. Matters arising from previous minutes

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

C23/092. Declarations of pecuniary interests and dispensations

There were no declarations of pecuniary or personal interest.

C23/093. Exclusion of the Press and public

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

C23/094. 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)

Councillor Joe Whibley proposed, Councillor Tim Dumper seconded, and it was agreed that the minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 5th December and 19th December 2022 be accepted as a true record.

The following were also noted: notes of the Climate & Ecological Emergency Working Party held on 6th December 2022, notes of the Community Organisation Liaison Panel Working Party held on 28th November 2022, notes of the Festival and Events Working Party held on 8th December 2022, notes of the Flooding and Land Drainage Working Party held on 29th November 2022, notes of the Town Maintenance Overview Working Party held on 8th December 2022.

In respect of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Party, Councillor Tim Dumper provided a verbal update on the proposed tree planting dates in February 2023 at Yonder Oak Wood by the Woodland Trust, Motion for the Ocean, the status of the proposed Tree Forum which would be established by the Town Council and progress to date with the Eco Hub.

It was also agreed that the Exmouth Ecos Group from Exmouth Community College should be invited to provide an update to the Town Council on its achievement of Plastic Free Status for the College.

Outside Bodies

- **Placemaking in Exmouth Town and Seafront Group:** the minutes of the meeting held on 13th December 2022 were noted.
- **Exe Estuary Management Partnership** – it was noted that the Partnership has secured funding to cover initial costs of an Exe sedimentation project, including some costs of an intern, analysis of existing data, core sampling of sediment and a LiDAR survey. The aim of the project is to better understand sources of sedimentation in the Exe Estuary, evaluate sediment transport and identify locations in the catchment where work could be targeted to help address issues of sedimentation in the Exe. The potential to tie in this piece of work with the District Council's beach management plan for Exmouth was queried and the Town Clerk confirmed that, according to her understanding,

the officer from the Exe Estuary Management Partnership is in touch with the officer responsible for the beach management plan.

- **Exmouth BMP Steering Group:** the progress of scope report which was discussed at the meeting held on 14th December 2022. Concerns were raised by Members about the erosion of the cliffs at Rodney Bay and it was queried whether this was being addressed through the beach management plan.

District Councillors' Reports: there were no additional District Council reports.

County Councillors' Reports: Councillor Richard Scott responded to a question about pothole repairs and explained that Devon County Council crews had been working all over Christmas and as fast as possible to repair potholes but some had only had first fixes and would be revisited.

There were further questions about the residents parking scheme proposed for Town Ward and Councillor Scott confirmed that a decision had been taken at HATOC ON December 9th NOT to implement the whole scheme as initially proposed. This was due to the fact that public support had only been clear in certain zones. This decision had been with consternation by some residents in Zone B due to the potential detrimental impact of a partial scheme introduction and it had been agreed that the decision would be reviewed in December 2023.

In response to a question about the scope for the County Council to reinstate convalescence homes in the context of the health service crisis, Councillor Scott confirmed that the direction of travel is to provide the right support for people to be able to stay in their homes. This prompted a further question about the number of care workers employed by the County Council, which Councillor Scott said he would look into.

C23/095. Agreement of the Council's response to East Devon District Council's Draft Local Plan Consultation

This agenda item was brought forward and debated at the beginning of the meeting.

Highlights of the debate included:

- The scope for EDDC to put the Plan on hold whilst clarification is sought about housing number targets in the context of the recent announcement in Parliament by Michael Gove MP, the Government's Housing Secretary, that the target will instead be a "starting point" and become "advisory";
- The role of officers and the Leader of the District Council during the Plan making process and their apparent commitment to push new plan through;
- The broader context and need for a Local plan to control development in the District, especially in the absence of a five year land supply;
- The disappointing timing of the consultation (i.e. over the Christmas and New Year Period);

- Broad objection to the development sites proposed for Exmouth and the fact that the process for nominating sites is developer-led;

Notwithstanding numerous concerns about the emerging Local Plan, it was noted that Members and officers of the Town Council had spent considerable time on the draft response and it was felt that the opportunity to respond should not be missed. Councillor Tim Dumper subsequently proposed, Councillor Mike Rosser seconded and it was agreed that

RESOLVED: that the draft response to the Local Plan consultation be adopted and submitted to East Devon District Council.

C23/096. Ratification of the 2023/24 budget and associated precept

The draft budget had been circulated prior to the meeting. Further clarification was sought regarding CCTV costs (revenue versus capital), the proposed Festival budget and roundabout sponsorship income but Members agreed that it was a balanced budget.

Councillor Pauline Stott subsequently proposed, Councillor Fred Caygill seconded and it was agreed that the budget be approved and a precept request for £761,125 should be submitted to the District Council.

RESOLVED: that the budget be approved and a precept request for £761,125 should be submitted to the District Council.

C23/097. It was noted that the Mayor's chosen charity for 2022/2023 is Littleham Community Fridge and Exmouth Food Bank

The meeting concluded at 8.20pm.

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