

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Exmouth Town Hall, St. Andrews Road, Exmouth on Monday 03 April, 2023 at 6.30pm.

Present:

Councillors	S Gazzard (Chairman)
	A Bailey
	B Bailey
	A Boatwright
	M Chapman
	O Davey
	I Kirvan
	A Sadiq
	A Toye
	T Dumper
	C Nicholas
	M Rosser
	J Whibley
	B De Saram
	D Poor
	P Stott
	J Whipps

Officers:

Lisa Bowman, Town Clerk

Zoey Cooper, Climate and Ecological Emergency Resilience Officer

Apologies:

Apologies were noted from Councillors Lynne Elson, Alan Whipps, Frank Cullis, Tony Woodward, Brian Toye, Fred Caygill, Eileen Beech

The Chairman then welcomed all to the meeting.

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

C23/107. Council meeting minutes

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

C23/108. Matters arising from previous minutes

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

C23/109. Declarations of pecuniary interests and dispensations

There were no declarations of pecuniary or personal interest.

C23/110. Exclusion of the Press and public

It was noted that there was one item on the agenda which necessitated the exclusion of the press or public and would be considered in Part ii of the meeting.

C23/111. 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 Brian Bailey seconded, and it was agreed that the minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 30th January 13th February and 27th February 2023 be accepted as a true record.

Councillor Tim Dumper proposed, Councillor Joe Whibley seconded, and it was agreed that the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 13th March 2023 be accepted as a true record.

Councillor Olly Davey proposed, Councillor Brian Bailey seconded, and it was agreed that the minutes of the meeting of the Finance Committee held on 23rd February 2023 be accepted as a true record.

The following were also noted:

Town Clerks report

Deputy Town Clerk's report

Notes of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Party held on 7th February 2023

Notes of the Exmouth Transport Partnership Working Party held on 21st February 2023

Notes of the Festival and Events Working Party held on 23rd February and 23rd March 2023

Notes of the Public Rights of Way Working Party held on 8th February 2023. It was also highlighted that Bapton Valley Park project is moving forward.

The notes of the Town Maintenance Overview Working Party held on 16th February 2023 were received as a true record and in respect of the associated recommendations, Councillor Ian Kirvan proposed, Councillor Joy Whipps seconded and it was unanimously agreed to approve the recommendation from the working party that the Town Council works in partnership with East Devon District Council and Seadog Art to deliver the Phear Park shelter art proposal and will contribute

50% of the cost (up to £1600); that any publicity will be equally shared; and that the proposal and success will be reviewed before future on-going annual contributions are agreed.

Councillor Ian Kirvan proposed, Councillor Maddy Chapman seconded and it was carried with one abstention from Councillor Mike Rosser and one objection from Councillor Brian Bailey to approve the recommendation that Exmouth Town Council purchases and erects a 4-armed pole for hanging baskets on the plinth in the Magnolia Centre, in place of the former magnolia clock, in view of the fact that DCC lampposts can no longer be used to hang baskets. Any associated purchase will be covered out of the Town Maintenance revenue budget for 23/24.

RESOLVED: that the Town Council works in partnership with East Devon District Council and Seadog Art to deliver the Phear Park shelter art proposal and will contribute 50% of the cost (up to £1600); that any publicity will be equally shared; and that the proposal and success will be reviewed before future on-going annual contributions are agreed.

RESOLVED: that Exmouth Town Council purchases and erects a 4-armed pole for hanging baskets on the plinth in the Magnolia Centre, in place of the former magnolia clock, in view of the fact that DCC lampposts can no longer be used to hang baskets. Any associated purchase will be covered out of the Town Maintenance revenue budget for 23/24.

Notes of the Town Premises Working Party held on 15th March 2023

Inspection report of the Waterfront Working Party held on 21st March 2023

Reports from members who represent the Council on Outside Bodies

- **WEB Health and Well Being Board:** the notes of the meeting held on 2nd March 2023 were presented by Councillor David Poor for noting.
- **Fairtrade Exmouth:** Councillor Tim Dumper provided a verbal update on Fairtrade Fortnight and the visit by a Rwandan coffee maker. It was noted that the Fairtrade accreditation is pending renewal.
- **Placemaking in Exmouth Town and Seafront Group:** The notes of the meeting held on 14th March 2023 were presented by Councillor Aurora Bailey.
- **Exmouth Twinning Association:** Councillor Tim Dumper confirmed that the Twinning Association will welcome visitors from Dinan in May 2023 and visit Langerwehe in August 2023.
- **Exe Estuary Management Partnership:** the notes of the meeting held on 7th March 2023 were presented by Councillor Bruce De Saram.

District Councillors' Reports: Written reports from Councillor Bruce De Saram and Councillor Joe Whibley had been circulated prior to the meeting and are appended to the minutes.

County Councillors' Reports: No County Councillors were present.

C23/112. To re-affirm the Council's delegation scheme

Councillor Joe Whibley proposed, seconded by Councillor Tim Dumper and it was unanimously agreed to accept an updated scheme of delegation for the Council.

C23/113. To ratify the procurement of electronic devices for new members following the elections on 4th May 2023 and give delegated authority to the Town Clerk to work in conjunction with the Council's IT provider to source the best devices possible within the administration reserves budget of £15,000.00.

Councillor Joe Whibley proposed, seconded by Councillor Ian Kirvan and it was unanimously agreed that the Town Clerk be given delegated authority to purchase electronic devices for Councillors taking up office in May 2023.

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk be given delegated authority to purchase electronic devices for Councillors taking up office in May 2023.

C23/114. To review and approve the Council's risk management policy and risk assessment for 2022/23

Councillor Joe Whibley proposed, seconded by Councillor Maddy Chapman and it was unanimously agreed to approve the Council's risk management policy and risk assessment for 2022/23.

C23/115. To review and approve the Council's investment strategy for 2022/23

Councillor Joy Whipps proposed, seconded by Councillor Tim Dumper and it was unanimously agreed to approve the Council's investment strategy for 2022/23.

C23/116. To review and approve the Council's statement of internal control for 2022/23

Councillor Joy Whipps proposed, seconded by Councillor Joe Whibley and it was unanimously agreed to approve the Council's statement of internal control for 2022/23.

C23/117. To adopt a Climate Plan for Exmouth Town Council

Zoey Cooper presented the Climate Plan and explained that it aims to build on the solid foundation that exists already and showcase what we are doing. The main area of influence is community outreach. Members raised a number of questions about the plan, which Ms Cooper answered. Councillor Tim Dumper then thanked Ms Cooper for her contribution to the Council's climate agenda.

Councillor Joy Whipps subsequently proposed, seconded by Councillor Ian Kirvan and it was agreed by all that the Climate Plan for Exmouth Town Council be adopted.

RESOLVED: that the Climate Plan for Exmouth Town Council be adopted.

C23/118. To confirm the appointment of a new Finance Officer

Councillor Joy Whipps proposed, seconded by Councillor Tim Dumper and it was unanimously agreed to confirm the appointment of a new Finance Officer.

RESOLVED: that the offer of employment for a new Finance Officer is approved.

The meeting concluded at 7.55 pm.

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

Appendix

Councillor Joe Whibley:

The Arts and culture Forum

I chaired the final meeting of this for this term.

We spoke to various stakeholders about their arts offerings and heard about the early steps being undertaken with regards to the new EDDC cultural strategy, such as training now being offered to local arts organisations on fundraising, publicity and other matters which will help them develop.

It has been a pleasure to help oversee the beginning of this strategy and to chair this meeting for the last 4 years. I would urge any town councillors to join this virtual meeting should they wish to do so in the new term. The success of the field will contribute to a resilient tourism industry with a solid base going forward.

Licensing and Enforcement sub committee - Moores Newsagent, The Strand

The sub committee sat to discuss an application to grant a licence which would allow the newly refurbished shop to sell alcohol until 2am, through a hatch.

This was a strange meeting. We all agreed that it probably wasn't desirable, would contribute to problems and wasn't part of how any of us would want to see our town develop.

But the license was, unfortunately, granted - we had little choice. The police had said they didn't see a problem with it, that they could police it. They had reached an agreed position with the applicant, and if this happens, we have no real say on what happens. It was thoroughly demoralising. We have no evidence to go on that there will be trouble, so we can't use that. We can only wait until things go wrong, then revisit the license, only if we can prove problems stemmed from the sale of alcohol at this premises. It just seems to be all the wrong way round.

Members of the wider committee were briefed on this and we agreed to add further discussions with the police to the forward plan in order that we can avoid this situation in the future. There is also talk that the Licensing Act will be revisited at some point soon, so hopefully that's another opportunity to highlight this.

Licensing and Enforcement Committee

Other than that stated above, the main business of this meeting was to update the Street Trading Policy which was passed accordingly. The only issue were some changes to allow more street trading in Sidmouth were removed from the policy following consultation - see, we *do* listen to the public!

Devon Rail Forum

I was unable to attend this meeting but have circulated the notes therefrom - there appeared to be little from East Devon in this month's get together.