

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Exmouth Town Hall, St. Andrews Road, Exmouth on Monday 12 June, 2023 at 6.30pm.

Present:

Councillors

O Davey	(Chairman)	N Hookway
A Bailey		I Kirvan
B Bailey		C Nicholas
A Boatwright		M Rosser
F Caygill		P Stott
M Chapman		A Toye
A Colman		J Whibley
G Deasy		J Whipps
T Dumper		M Williamson
S Gazzard		D Wilson
M Hall		A Woodward

Officers:

Lisa Bowman, Town Clerk

Apologies:

Apologies were noted from Councillors David Poor and Alex Sadiq

The Chairman then welcomed all to the meeting.

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

C23/141. Council meeting minutes

Councillor Nick Hookway proposed, Councillor Ian Kirvan seconded, and it was agreed by all that the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted as a true record.

C23/142. Matters arising from previous minutes.

The Town Clerk advised that the minutes from the previous meeting had been amended to expressly include the name of the internal auditor who will be conducting the audits on behalf of Westcotts Chartered Accountants.

C23/143. Declarations of pecuniary interests and dispensations

There were no declarations of pecuniary or personal interest.

C23/144. Exclusion of the Press and public

There were no items on the agenda which necessitated the exclusion of the press or public and would be considered in Part ii of the meeting.

C23/145. 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)

Planning Committee: There were no planning committee minutes to approve but in respect of the associated agenda item, Councillor Steve Gazzard proposed, Councillor Matt Hall seconded, and it was agreed that Councillor Andrew Woodward will join the Planning Committee as the Councillor representative for Withycombe Raleigh ward.

There were no written reports from the Town Clerk or Deputy Clerk, but the Town Clerk explained that most of her focus recently had been on the completion of the year end accounts and associated internal and external audit matters. Thanks were expressed to the Clerk and Deputy Clerk for their efforts in the busy post-election period.

The notes of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Party held on 4th April 2023 were accepted as a true record and Councillor Tim Dumper, in his capacity as Chair of the Working Party, provided a verbal update on the outcomes of the extraordinary meeting held on Tuesday 6th June 2023, which had considered progress on the concept development for an Eco-hub on the site of the Imperial Recreation Ground toilet block. The project had been borne out of East Devon District Council's public toilet review and the Town Council had been offered a 99 year lease for the toilet block at a peppercorn rent on the basis that a publicly accessible toilet would have to be provided at the site if it was redeveloped for alternative uses. Scoping work for a potential Eco-Hub had included the involvement of architects and business planners, working alongside the Council's Climate and Ecological Emergency Resilience Officer, Zoey Cooper, and Nicky Nichols from Transition Exmouth and this was in the spirit of the Town Council accepting that its greatest role is as an advocate /influencer. However, it was felt that the project was too risky reputationally and financially for the Council to take forward at this time within the constrained framework of the public toilet review. There was a consensus that the project needed support from the District Council and Councillor Steve Gazzard had subsequently raised the matter at the District Council's recent cabinet meeting.

Full Council debated the matter at length and questions were raised regarding lines of communication with the District Council, the potential loss of toilets on the Imperial Recreation Ground, cost, and viability of the Eco-Hub. It was noted that the concept had been well received by East Devon District Council's Cabinet and that the project has the potential to tie in well with the District Council's Plan regarding Climate Change. It was also reported that the Town Council had been asked to formally write to East Devon District Council to request that the project be considered outside the framework of the public toilet review.

Councillor Steve Gazzard subsequently PROPOSED:

that the Town Council writes to East Devon District Council's Assistant Director for Place, Assets & Commercialisation and the Chair of the District Council's Asset Management Forum to ask that the potential opportunity for an Eco-Hub on the site of the Imperial Recreation Ground toilet block is considered outside the framework of the public toilet review and that the scope for the District Council to be involved as a project partner is investigated as a matter of priority. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Joy Whipps and put to the vote, where it was supported by a majority of nineteen Councillors (with five abstentions).

Councillor Tim Dumper also provided an update on the Exmouth Cup project – a sustainable cup solution for Exmouth which would be free of charge for cafes and users. Sideshore had agreed to partner the Town Council on the project and provide £9000 in funding with the Town Council being asked to provide an investment of £3000 (plus officer time to promote the scheme).

Members discussed the project and Councillor Tim Dumper proposed that the Town Council contributes £3000 towards The Exmouth Cup project. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Steve Gazzard and subsequently approved by a majority of sixteen votes in favour of the project, three abstentions and three votes against.

The following meeting notes were also accepted as a true record and noted:

Notes of the Community Organisation Liaison Panel Working Party held on 20th February 2023

Notes of the Festival and Events Working Party held on 20th April 2023

Notes of the Flooding and Land Drainage Working Party held on 18th April 2023

Notes of the Town Maintenance Overview Working Party held on 20th April 2023

Reports from members who represent the Council on Outside Bodies

- **Placemaking in Exmouth Town and Seafront Group:** The notes of the meeting held on 30th May 2023 were presented by Councillors Graham Deasy and Olly Davey. Members expressed disappointment at the lack of progress with plans for the seafront redevelopment and the lack of information being provided by East Devon District Council compared to the past. Questions were raised about the status of Harbour View Café, the NCI Coastwatch Tower and the dinosaur play area. After discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Maddy Chapman, seconded by Councillor Pauline Stott and agreed unanimously that the Town Clerk be authorised to write to East Devon District Council to request that an update on the status of Harbour View Café, the NCI Coastwatch Tower and the dinosaur play area be added to the next agenda for the Placemaking in Exmouth Town and Seafront Group meeting and that regular briefings be provided to the Town Council. The proposal was put to the vote and carried.

- **Exmouth Twinning Association and Fairtrade Exmouth:** Councillor Tim Dumper had provided a written report which had been circulated separately.
- **WEB Health and Well Being Board:** the notes of the meeting held on 18th May 2023.

District Councillors' Reports: Councillors Tim Dumper and Joe Whibley had provided written reports which had been circulated separately.

County Councillors' Reports: There were no County Councillors present.

C23/146. To review and adopt the Annual Accounts for 2022/2023

The Annual Accounts for 2022/ 23 were presented to Members. Councillor Fred Caygill proposed, seconded by Councillor Joy Whipps and it was unanimously agreed to approve the Annual Accounts for 2022/2023.

C23/147. To review and adopt the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2022/2023

The Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2022/2023 was presented to Members for review and adoption.

Councillor Steve Gazzard subsequently proposed, seconded by Councillor Graham Deasy and it was unanimously agreed to accept the Annual Internal Audit Report for 2022/23.

Councillor Joy Whipps proposed, seconded by Councillor Tim Dumper and it was unanimously agreed to approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2022/2023.

Councillor Steve Gazzard proposed, seconded by Councillor Joy Whipps and it was unanimously agreed to approve the Annual Accounting Statements for 2022/2023.

The meeting concluded at 8.10 pm.

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