

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Exmouth Town Hall, St. Andrews Road, Exmouth on Monday 21 August, 2023 at 6.30pm.

Present:

Councillors

O Davey	(Chairman)	M Hall
A Bailey		N Hookway
B Bailey		C Nicholas
F Caygill		P Stott
M Chapman		A Toye
A Colman		J Whibley
G Deasy		M Williamson
S Gazzard		A Woodward

Officers:

Lisa Bowman, Town Clerk

Apologies:

Apologies were noted from Councillors Angela Boatwright, Tim Dumper, David Poor, Mike Rosser, Alex Sadiq, Joy Whipps, Louise Venables and Daniel Wilson.

The Chairman then welcomed all to the meeting.

Public Forum:

Mr Kathro and Mr Spall had registered to speak during the public session in respect of the recommendation from the Campervan TAFF. They raised a number of concerns and issues in relation to the current arrangements for overnight parking of motorhomes in the Town's car parks but also the need for an open and transparent review of future options which takes into account a full cost benefit analysis of any proposed changes and any relevant planning and campsite legislation. It was also highlighted that there are spaces available on commercial campsites nearby.

C23/161. Council meeting minutes

Councillor Mark Williamson proposed, Councillor Steve Gazzard seconded, and it was agreed by all that the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted as a true record.

C23/162. Matters arising from previous minutes.

There were no matters arising but Councillor Brian Bailey asked for confirmation of the proposer and seconder of the most recent planning meeting minutes.

C23/163. Declarations of pecuniary interests and dispensations

Councillor Olly Davey and Councillor Joe Whibley declared a pecuniary interest in respect of their paid contribution to Exmouth Festival (as performers). This was in the context of the Festival and Events Working Party under C23/165.

C23/164. Exclusion of the Press and public

There was one item on the agenda relating to staffing matters that necessitated the exclusion of the press and public. It was therefore proposed by Councillor Fred Caygill, seconded by Councillor Graham Deasy and resolved that the press and public would be asked to leave at the appropriate point on the agenda.

C23/165. 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 Aurora Bailey seconded, and it was agreed that the minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 17th July and 31st July 2023 be accepted as a true record.

The following were also noted:

Deputy Town Clerks report

Notes of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Party held on 25th July 2023.

Notes of the Community Organisation Liaison Panel Working Party held on 17th July 2023.

Notes of the Festival and Events Working Party Working Party held on 13th July 2023.

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

In respect of the notes of the Campervan TAFF held on 24th July 2023 and the associated recommendation that the Town Council should write to East Devon District Council to request that the previously requested scoping exercise for fully serviced motorhome parking at Foxholes carpark should be completed as soon as possible, Councillor Fred Caygill explained the background to the establishment of the TAFF in the context of the District and County Councils' policies on overnight parking of motorhomes. He explained that the subsequent pilot scheme had seen the introduction of overnight parking of motorhomes in three of the District Council's carparks (Maer Road, Echelon and Imperial Recreation Ground) but the facility had been withdrawn from the Imperial Recreation Ground after two years' trial due to associated problems. The matter of overnight parking had also been considered by the District Council's carparking TAFF and more recently by Devon County Council.

Members debated the recommendation and the following aspects were highlighted during the discussion:

- Shortcomings in enforcement need addressing before any changes to the existing regime are discussed;
- Economic value to the town of additional spend associated with overnight parking is unclear;
- Scoping exercise needs to be completed by East Devon District Council as it is responsible for the Town's car parks;
- Initial concept for overnight parking in car parks was based on properly serviced European style aires but Maer Road car park and the Echelon carpark are not being used in this intended way;
- Scoping exercise should set a limit on number of overnight camping spaces, safety issues etc;
- There is widespread antisocial behaviour associated with some overnight campers;
- There are ongoing issues relating to the disposal of grey water and toilet waste, use of barbecues, gas bottles and picnic tables;
- The stringent health and safety legislation which applies to campsites is not being adhered to;
- There is significant impact on local residents;
- Scope for Estuaryside carpark to be used for overnight stays instead of lorry park, in the context of the government policy to support truck parks?

Councillor Pauline Stott subsequently moved an amendment to the recommendation that the scoping exercise should not be limited just to Foxholes Carpark but expanded to include alternative carpark sites within the District Council's jurisdiction. Councillor Steve Gazzard seconded the amendment and it was put to the vote and carried by a majority.

The substantive motion was then proposed by Councillor Steve Gazzard for adoption; seconded by Councillor Pauline Stott and carried by a majority when put to the vote:

RESOLVED that the Town Council writes to EDDC to request that the (previously requested) scoping exercise for fully serviced motorhome parking at Foxholes carpark, or alternative sites, within the District Council's jurisdiction is completed as soon as possible.

Beach wheelchairs: Councillor Stott verbally reported that there have been 139 wheelchair bookings so far this year. The service is still looking for volunteers. Also that new swim lockers have been installed beside the RNLI building for public use.

Reports from members who represent the Council on Outside Bodies

- **Placemaking in Exmouth Town and Seafront Group:** The notes of the meeting held on 25th July 2023 were presented by Councillor Graham Deasy who confirmed that WSP has now been appointed and is taking up the reins. A workshop had been held with key stakeholders in July and another is planned for September.

District Councillors' Reports: There were no reports from District Councillors.

County Councillors' Reports: Councillor Richard Scott answered queries relating to the residents parking permit scheme, Exmouth Gateway project / Levelling Up Fund and pot-holes.

C23/166. To ratify the appointment of Councillor Louise Venables to the following working parties:

- Climate and Ecological Emergency
- Public Rights of Way
- Waterfront
- Flooding and Land Drainage
- Community Organisation Liaison Panel

Councillor Steve Gazzard proposed, Councillor Graham Deasy seconded and it was agreed that Councillor Louise Venable be appointed to the respective working parties listed above.

C23/167. HR Group

Councillor Steve Gazzard proposed, Councillor Fred Caygill seconded and it was agreed that the contracted working hours of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Resilience Officer should be increased to 30 hours per week with effect from September 1st 2023.

The meeting concluded at 7.55pm.

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