Exmouth Town Council
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EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
This meeting is open to the Public and Press

Wednesday 6th December 2023

To: All Members of Exmouth Town Council

Dear Councillors,

A Meeting of Exmouth Town Council, to which you are summoned, will be held in the Town Hall, First Floor, Exmouth, EX8 1AW on Monday 11th December 2023 at 6:30pm to consider the matters detailed on the agenda below.

Members of the press and public are welcome to observe the meeting and should register in advance by emailing townclerk@exmouth.gov.uk

By registering as an observer, members of the public will not automatically be permitted to speak; anybody wishing to address Members during the public speaking session will need to register separately with the Town Clerk.

Yours faithfully

Lisa Bowman
TOWN CLERK

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence

The meeting will adjourn for the Public Forum.

Public Forum:

• Public speaking is limited to a maximum of 3 minutes per person and to a total of 15 minutes

• Questions should be submitted one clear working day before the meeting to enable them to be answered more fully and precisely

• The Chairman will usually invite speakers in the order in which requests to speak were lodged. Only if time allows will further speaking from the floor be accepted.
• Where several speakers wish to make similar points, the chairman has the right to request one spokesperson.
• As the formal meeting stands adjourned for the Forum, questions or statements from the public are not recorded in the meeting minutes but in an appendix attached to those minutes. This will not be a verbatim report of the Forum, but will record the name of the speaker, brief synopsis of the topic or question and outline of any immediate response or copy of a written reply.

The meeting will reconvene.

2. **Council Meeting Minutes:**
   To confirm and sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 13th November 2023 (attached).

3. **Matters arising from the Council Meeting minutes (for information only).**

4. **Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and Dispensations:**
   Members to declare any interests they may have on the agenda and agree any dispensations to stay.

5. **To resolve that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of item(s) in Part II of the agenda as it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.**

6. **To receive and consider reports and minutes of Committees, Working Parties, other local bodies and Town Clerk/Deputy Town Clerk, District and County Councillors as appropriate:**
   - **Planning Committee:** minutes of meeting held on 6th November and 20th November 2023 (attached).
   - **Finance Committee:** minutes of meeting held on 16th November 2023 (attached).
   - **Climate and Ecological emergency Working Party:** notes of the meeting held on 7th November 2023 (attached), a verbal update from the meeting held on 6th December 2023 **and to ratify that the Town Council**
     1) adopts the Plant Based Treaty and 2) the Terms of Reference for a Tree Forum.
   - **Community Organisation Liaison Panel:** notes of the meeting held on 20th November 2023 (attached).
   - **Exmouth Transport Partnership Working Party:** to receive a verbal update of the meeting held on 4th December 2023.

- **Flooding and Land Drainage Working Party:** to agree to give the Deputy Clerk delegated authority to sign the tri-party memorandum of understanding for the operation of the tidal defence scheme flood gates.
- **Festival and Events Working Party:** notes of the meeting held on 9th November 2023 (attached).
- **Town Maintenance Overview Working Party:** notes of the meeting held on 16th November 2023 (attached) **and to ratify the purchase of a weed ripper, funded from Town Maintenance reserves, at a cost of £4994.92.**

- **Reports from members who represent the Council on Outside Bodies**
    i. **DALC Larger Councils Forum:** Councillor Olly Davey to prove an update (notes of the meeting held on 16th November 2023 attached).
    ii. Exmouth & District Allotment Association Committee Meeting: Councillor Olly Davey to provide an update (notes of the meetings held on 18th October & 15th November 2023 attached).
- **District Councillors' Reports** (to be circulated separately)
- **County Councillors' Report** (to be circulated separately)

7. To receive and discuss a motion from Councillor Mike Rosser:

Devon County Council's (DCC) stated carbon reduction policy includes promotion of active travel (cycling and walking). However within Exmouth, DCC is doing little, if anything to promote active travel. There no plans to invest in creating a network of safe cycle and pedestrian routes around the town. Meanwhile, DCC is planning to invest £4.5 million in the Gateway project that, while possibly making some improvements to the pedestrian area near the station, will do little if anything to promote active travel around the town.

On 13th June 2022, Exmouth Town Council agreed by majority to contribute £400,000 from its CIL budget (the largest payment made from this budget) towards the cost of extending the Dinan Way and creating the Gateway project. During this meeting, concerns were raised about the Gateway Project – specifically about filling in the underpass by the station. Assurances were sought and made that the views of the Town Council would be considered when developing this project.

The Town Council also asked DCC to ensure that the Littleham housing estate would not become a 'rat run' for traffic coming from Dinan Way and heading towards Sandy Bay. The Town Council is disappointed that it appears that this request has not been actioned.

The Town Council considers that any benefits from the Gateway project do not justify the cost of £4.5 million, the loss of an underpass and carbon emissions resulting from this work.

The Town Council is disappointed that the County Council has not explored the possibility of using land owned by EDDC next to the leisure centre to create more space for pedestrians and cyclists without incurring the expense of filling in the underpass.

The Town Council believes that the town is served best when all levels of local government cooperate and work together.

As such :-

- *The Town Council will write to the leader of DCC and EDDC and ask for a commitment to work in partnership and with ETC to ensure that the benefits, both globally and to the town, of projects within the town are of best financial and environmental value;*
- *The Town Council has acknowledged that there is a climate crisis and, as such, asks that projects that will most effectively reduce carbon emissions, are prioritised for funding;*
- *The Town Council will ask that all levels of local authorities commit to regular ward meetings of councillors to facilitate communication and working together;*
- *The Town Council will issue a press statement concerning its position regarding the Gateway project.*

8. To note that the meeting scheduled for 10th March 2025 is the Annual Town Meeting.

Date of next meeting: Town Council Meeting to be held on 22nd January 2023 at Exmouth Town Hall.