

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Exmouth Town Hall, St. Andrews Road, Exmouth on Monday 13 November, 2023 at 6.30pm.

Present:

Councillors

O Davey	(Chairman)	C Nicholas
A Bailey		D Poor
B Bailey		M Rosser
F Caygill		A Sadiq
A Colman		P Stott
G Deasy		A Toye
T Dumper		L Venables
S Gazzard		J Whibley
M Hall		M Williamson (left at 8pm)
N Hookway		A Woodward
I Kirvan		

Officers:

Lisa Bowman, Town Clerk

Apologies: Apologies were noted from Councillors Angela Boatwright, Maddy Chapman, Joy Whipps

The Chairman then welcomed all to the meeting.

Public Forum:

No members of the public had registered to speak.

C23/177. Council meeting minutes

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

C23/178. Matters arising from previous minutes.

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

C23/179. Declarations of pecuniary interests and dispensations

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

C23/180. 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.

C23/181. 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 11th September, 25th September, 9th October and 23rd October 2023 be accepted as a true record.

Notes of the Campervan Task and Finish Forum held on 18th September and 1st November 2023 were also accepted as a true record. to EDDC CabinetCampervan Task and Finish ForumFred CaygillMark Williamson and it was agreed (by majority) that the Town Council:

1. Endorses the proposal that funding for proposed improvements to the Estuary side car park is reallocated to fund improvements at Maer Road carpark.
2. Supports the proposed improvements being taken forward as a two phased plan.

It was confirmed that the proposal for Phase one will capture three elements:

- The provision of fresh water and grey waste disposal
- Provision of some offset car parking on the Estuary side car park to mitigate the loss of car parking spaces in the Maer Road car park.
- Introduction of a new policy relating to charges and management.

Phase two will need to include:

- The provision for accessible toilet facilities.
- Designated parking bays for motorhomes with electrical hook ups.

The following were also noted:

Town Clerks report

Deputy Town Clerks report

Notes of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Party held on 3rd October 2023 and a verbal update of the meeting held on 7th November 2023.

Notes of the Community Organisation Liaison Panel Working Party held on 25th September 2023.

Notes of the Community Resilience Working Party held on 20th September 2023 and the MOU for the floodgate scheme.

Notes of the Exmouth Transport Partnership Working Party held on 19th September 2023.

Notes of the Festival and Events Working Party held on 12th October 2023 and a verbal update of the meeting held on 9th November 2023.

Verbal update of the Flooding and Land Drainage Working Party held on 17th October 2023.

Verbal update of the Gorfin Hall Management Committee meeting held on 30th October 2023.

Notes of the Town Maintenance Overview Working Party held on 5th October 2023. Notes of the Waterfront Working Party held on 26th September 2023.

Reports from members who represent the Council on Outside Bodies

- **Fairtrade Exmouth:** Councillor Tim Dumper provided a verbal update and it was agreed that the Town Council will lend its usual support for the Fairtrade reception.
- **Exe Estuary Management Partnership Stakeholders Forum:** Councillor Graham Deasy provided verbal update.
- **Placemaking in Exmouth Town and Seafront Group:** Councillor Graham Deasy provided a verbal update on the emerging Placemaking Plan Framework which will be going to East Devon District Council's Cabinet for approval. It was also noted that the concept of a tri-party steering group to involve the Town, District and County Councils will also go forward for approval and that the concept of a Park and Ride scheme for the town has been raised.
- **Twining Association:** Councillor Tim Dumper provided a verbal update in respect of the 2024 twinning visits planned (*to* Dinan in June and *from* Langerwehe in July).
- **Exmouth and District Allotment Association Committee Meeting:** Councillor Olly Davey provided an update.
- **DALC'S Connect Event: Devon's housing crisis.** Councillor Pauline Stott provided a verbal report on the event.

District Councillors' Reports: (.

County Councillors' Reports: Richard Scott was and provided updates and answered questions relating to the ongoing repairs to the Exe Estuary Trail boardwalk, issues with the shared use path on the seafront, pothole repairs and Devon County Council's role in terms of public transport planning and its role as a statutory consultee on planning matters. He also commented on the aforementioned Park and Ride proposal and bus reliability issues which were highlighted by Members. Councillor Scott agreed to respond separately to a question about the

frequency of tree inspections on the Highway and a request for Exmouth Town Council's contribution to the 99E bus service to be recognised on the timetables.

C23/182. To note the outcome of the limited assurance review (Annual Governance and Accountability Return) by PFK Littlejohn LLP for 2022/2023

The clean audit outcome was noted.

C23/183. To appoint Councillors to the Committees, working parties and outside bodies.

It was proposed by Councillor Alex Sadiq, seconded by Councillor Steve Gazzard and agreed that Pauline Stott be appointed to the Trust Fund Working Party.
It was proposed by Councillor Tim Dumper, seconded by Councillor Pauline Stott and agreed that Andrew Toye be appointed as a Halsdon ward member to the Planning Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Steve Gazzard, seconded by Councillor David Poor and agreed that Tim Dumper be appointed to the WEB Community Health and Wellbeing Board.

It was proposed by Councillor Tim Dumper, seconded by Councillor Alex Sadiq and agreed that Steve Gazzard be appointed to the Exmouth Welfare Trust.

It was noted that Exmouth Welfare Trust is also looking for Trustees.

C23/184. To receive and discuss a motion from Councillor Mike Rosser.

The motion was withdrawn prior to the meeting.

C23/185. To agree the 2024 meeting calendar dates.

The meeting dates were noted and Councillor Alex Sadiq proposed, seconded by Councillor Brian Bailey and they were agreed by all.
The meeting concluded at 8:30pm.

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

Appendix – Exmouth Town Councillors’ Reports

Councillor Graham Deasy

Placemaking in Exmouth Town and Seafront Group (PETS)

Report from the meeting of Placemaking in Exmouth Town and Seafront Group held on 7 November 2023 by Councillor Graham Deasy

Ms Gayatri Suryawanshi, WSP’s Placemaking Consultant, delivered a presentation outlining the emerging placemaking plan framework, (which sets out a vision for the future for Exmouth Town and Seafront) and the proposed actions to deliver the following strategic objectives:

- Harness availability of land for development and tourism opportunities
- Connected and continuous public realm to strengthen the relationship between the town centre and the seafront
- Activation and meanwhile activities and events to create year-round interest
- Active lifestyle offer in the town centre and the seafront for all age groups
- Encouraging active and sustainable transport in the town centre and the seafront
- Enhance and celebrate the rich biodiversity and natural assets of Exmouth

PETS recommendation to EDDC Cabinet meeting on 29th November 2023

1. That the draft Exmouth Placemaking Plan be fully supported.
2. That a steering group be formed consisting of Exmouth Town Council, East Devon District Council and Devon County Council, to oversee and co-ordinate the Placemaking Plan
3. That a Park and Ride facility be considered on the outskirts of Exmouth which provides necessary space for motorhomes, coaches and lorries.

Councillor Tim Dumper

Fairtrade Steering Group

Next week we are hosting the CEO of the Fairtrade Foundation nationally, Mike Gidney here in Devon . He is coming to Exmouth on Wednesday 22nd to visit Beacon School, long time hosts of an annual schools Fairtrade conference.

The local group have his company for an hour on that day, and I have suggested we could offer a space, perhaps our Meeting Room to speak to and with members of the group and local Town Councillors. He is, incidentally, meeting County Councillors in Exeter - the visit, I believe recognises Devon and Exeter's contribution over the years.

Appendix – East Devon District Councillors’ Reports

Councillor Olly Davey

Strategic Planning

The committee has now seen the revised Vision statement for the new Local Plan, and while accepting much of it, has suggested a few more changes, which we expect to see in January. It now reflects more of the guidance, which says it should avoid being generic, and reflect the particular circumstances of our area.

The committee will now be returning to work on the Local Plan, with a new timetable for chapter by chapter discussion. I’ve suggested the timetable should be a standing item for each meeting, so that we can keep track of progress. We have to submit for Inspection before June 2025, or start again under the revised system for drafting Local Plans, which doesn’t leave a lot of wriggle room.

Our letter to our local MP’s about the flaws and unfairness of mandatory housing targets was well received by the public, and has prompted a response from Simon Jupp saying that he had raised this issue with the relevant minister, who said merely that a revised NPPF has been published, but other matters raised during the consultation will be dealt with in the future. For the meantime, therefore, housing targets remain mandatory, with the consequent implications of our current lack of a 5ys housing land supply.

Exmouth Placemaking Group

The group recently considered the report by WSP consultants, which I thought was very well considered and showed a good understanding of the issues we face. With a few caveats about some of the detailed proposals, the committee accepted the report, plus a recommendation to investigate the possibilities for Park and Ride provision.

The next step is to prepare a business plan, and start to look at some easy wins, such as signposting. The report and its proposals are very wide ranging, and the point was made that much of it relies on cooperation from DCC, which prompted a suggestion from Paul Arnott that we form a steering group of town, district and county councillors so that all levels of local government are working together for the benefit of the town.

Allotment Committee

I missed the AGM, due to being away, but only a handful of people turned up, which suggests that plot holders are generally happy with how the allotments are run. Routine maintenance continues, and plots generally continue to be well used. The judges from Britain in Bloom were impressed by the adapted raised beds recently completed on the allotments, and by their outreach work and this contributed to the recent award of Gold for Exmouth in Bloom in the national competition.

Mayor’s Events

I continue to be busy as Mayor, and have attended a number of Exmouth in Bloom events, welcomed language students from Vigo in Spain, visited a Breast Cancer

Awareness coffee morning, and attended a Police Awards ceremony in Exeter, and a joint meeting of Parish councils from our neighbours in Lymington and Woodbury

Councillor Joe Whibley

Arts and Culture Forum:

We held the latest arts and culture forum last week.

The forum voted for some recommendations to change the scope of the meetings, to align it more with regular committees as, following the publication of the East Devon Culture Strategy earlier on in the year, there are decisions that will need ratification and scrutiny.

We heard updates from some important cultural providers and bodies around the region, including the South West Museums Development, and the Manor theatre in Sidmouth, as well as a number of reports regarding the funding that we are currently using to fuel our cultural growth strategy, the shared prosperity fund. This has a year and a half to run, and another responsibility of the committee will be to provide support in finding alternative funding should this not be extended.

Placemaking in Exmouth

As will doubtless be spoken about at full council, this meeting also took place last week. We have a draft plan for the whole project, which is now being billed as 'a ten-year plan'. My personal view is that I hope there are some 'easy gains' on the way and that not everything contained within will take that long. I would also urge all parties involved to work together, be that town, district and especially county councils.

Other bits and bobs

This week is the appeal against the Jewson's development. I will be speaking against it as both the Town planning chair and as an EDDC ward member.

I have undertaken casework for a few residents, mainly concerned with private sector housing. I have also been engaging in much correspondence regarding the Exmouth Gateway scheme and will continue to do so no doubt! I urge members to do all they can to publicise the forthcoming consultation and encourage residents to fill it in.

Various meetings, including scrutiny at EDDC were postponed this month due to the weather conditions.

Councillor Tim Dumper

This report covers the period since the last Town Council meeting in September.

Mark Williams retired as Chief Executive on October 11th, reportedly the longest serving CEO in England. In the period while a new Chief Executive is sought, Simon Davey, Melanie Wellman and Tracy Hendren, EDDC 's 3 Chief Officers, are sharing the CEO's roles.

I attended a personnel Committee meeting at which vacancy figures were reported, as usual. Vacancies are slowly reducing, but in common with other employers,

especially public sector ones, they are still historically high, although we are assured that service is as good as possible to the public.

Those of us not on District Planning Committee keep a watchful eye on applications in our wards, commenting where necessary. The Football Club's application for levelling of their pitches and installing better drainage at Warren View came up on the Committee recently, and while I strongly backed the application, I made comments on the management plan (CEMP) which were accepted by Committee, but disappointed that my request that EDDC's Ecologist take a thorough look, in the light of it being so close to the estuary, was turned down.

As a Town Councillor as well as District Councillor I went with Lisa to the first Workshop feeding ideas in for the new EDDC council Plan. Being that that particular workshop was for "stakeholders ", it came as no great surprise that improvements in working together with local councils and other outside Bodies came up as an issue.

Since September I have attended two Standards Sub Committees/Panels. The Standards Committee convenes these meetings when complaint is made against District or Town / Parish Councillors that they have broken the Code of Conduct. all these meetings are strictly confidential, of course.

Hot off the press.....! Overview Committee last night was asked to review a report into progress with marketing toilets following the 2021 Public Toilet Review to give a steer for Cabinet. There has been almost no progress, and the many dual hatted Councillors there advised that Freehold sale and removing all onerous legal provisions could help with gaining local council acceptance.