

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Exmouth Town Hall, St. Andrews Road, Exmouth on Monday 22 January, 2024 at 6.30pm.

Present:

Councillors

O Davey	(Chairman)	D Poor
A Bailey		A Sadiq
B Bailey		P Stott
M Chapman		A Toye
G Deasy		L Venables
T Dumper		J Whibley
S Gazzard		J Whipps
M Hall		M Williamson
I Kirvan		D Wilson
C Nicholas		A Woodward

Officers:

Lisa Bowman, Town Clerk

Apologies: Apologies were noted from Councillors Angela Boatwright, Fred Caygill, Andrew Colman, Nick Hookway and Michael Rosser.

The Chairman then welcomed all to the meeting.

Public Forum:

No members of the public had registered to speak.

C24/001. Council meeting minutes

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

C24/002. Matters arising from previous minutes.

Councillor Mark Williamson asked for his apologies to be recorded in the minutes of the previous meeting.

C24/003. Declarations of pecuniary interests and dispensations

There were no declarations of pecuniary or personal interest.

C24/004. Exclusion of the Press and public

There was one item on the agenda which was deemed to include exempt information relating to an employee. Councillor Olly Davey proposed, Councillor Joe Whibley seconded, and it was agreed by all that this item would be discussed in Part II of the meeting.

C24/005. 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 4th December 2023, 18th December 2023 and 2nd January 2024 be accepted as a true record.

The following were also noted:

Notes of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Party held on 6th December 2023 and a verbal update of the meeting held on 9th January 2024.

A verbal update of the Community Organisation Liaison Panel Working Party held on 8th January 2024 by Councillor Pauline Stott.

Notes of the Transport Partnership Working Party held on 4th December 2023.

Notes of the Festival and Events Working Party held on the 14th December 2023.

Notes of the Town Maintenance Overview Working Party held on 19th December 2023. Councillor Ian Kirvan explained the background to the associated recommendation from the working party that the Town Council proceeds with the quote from Idverde for grass cutting work and answered several related questions from Members. Councillor Ian Kirvan then proposed, seconded by Councillor Steve Gazzard and it was **RESOLVED that the Town Council proceeds with the quote from Idverde for grass cutting work at an annual cost £15,498.24, seeks legal assistance in drafting a contract for this work and gives the Deputy Town Clerk the delegated authority to sign the contract on behalf of the Town Council.**

A verbal update of the Flooding and Land Drainage Working Party held on 16th January 2024 by Councillor Steve Gazzard.

Reports from members who represent the Council on Outside Bodies

- **Exmouth Beach Management Plan Steering Group:** Councillor Pauline Stott provided an update from the meeting held on 16th January 2024 and confirmed that East Devon District Council has appointed consultants to conduct a beach management plan.
- **Devon Bus Forum:** Councillor Tim Dumper had not attended the forum but reported that he had recently met with Councillor Andrea Davis (from Devon County Council) and other stakeholders, to look at the scope for integrated

transport improvements for the Town in the context of the emerging Gateway proposals. The meeting had not been hugely positive.

- **Fairtrade:** Councillor Tim Dumper provided an update and confirmed that Fairtrade fortnight has been delayed until the Autumn but in the meantime, the steering group is still engaging with schools.
- **Woodbury, Exmouth & Budleigh (WEB) Community Health * Wellbeing Board:** Councillor Tim Dumper provided an update from the meeting held on 10th January 2024, including reference to the fall prevention group which has been established and the change in management of the Exmouth Minor Injuries Unit. The minutes will be circulated when available.
- **Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC):** Councillor Aurora Bailey reported that plans for the new police station in Exmouth are subject to a bat survey between May and September but hopefully the application will then progress through the planning system.

District Councillors' Reports:

Councillor Maddy Chapman reported that South West Water will be attending a meeting of East Devon District Council's Scrutiny Committee and confirmed that the Personnel Committee will be interviewing for a new CEO imminently.

Councillor Andrew Toye confirmed that the LED Monitoring Forum has made a recommendation to Cabinet regarding the roof replacements at the Pavilion and the Tennis Centre.

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

C24/006. To ratify the 2024/25 budget and associated precept.

The proposed budget for 2024/25 was presented to Members, with an associated precept requirement of £870,592.

Councillor Pauline Stott subsequently proposed, Councillor Joe Whibley seconded and it was unanimously agreed by all to accept the proposed budget and agree the precept of £870,592.

RESOLVED: that the budget be approved and a precept request for £870,592 should be submitted to the District Council.

C24/007. To consider and respond to East Devon District Council's review of polling districts and polling places (in accordance with section 18C of the Representation of the People Act 1983)

Members were in agreement with the recommendations within the review, as they pertain to Exmouth. It was noted that an alternative polling station needs to be identified for Littleham ward and members agreed to give this some consideration.

Part B

To ratify a recommendation from the HR Group that the Arts Manager is offered a permanent contract.

Councillor Steve Gazzard proposed, Councillor Joe Whibley seconded and it was agreed that a permanent employment contract will be offered to the Arts Manager, on existing terms.

The meeting concluded at 19:35.

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

Appendix – East Devon District Councillors' Reports

Councillor Tim Dumper

Happy New Year to all readers! Hope a good Christmas was enjoyed by most of you.

Being this time of year, not a great deal to report, but a number of things relevant to Exmouth.

EDDC has as reported before, been working on a renewed Council Plan, and the final workshop for this is on 29th January. As one of District's key issues is working more cooperatively with external stakeholders including Town Councils, perhaps other councillors or staff could let me know if they have any specific questions. Our Town Clerk and Deputy have both contributed to earlier workshops in the series of 3, but this time there is only one workshop just for District Councillors.

Another lengthy event was a response to the draft budget from Overview and Scrutiny Committees at which it was recommended to Cabinet that budget be set aside to cover potential Planning Appeal costs. Officers mentioned the work being done by District and Exmouth officers to create more environmentally sustainable Festivals, and I took the opportunity to tell the new head of Environmental Health about our Climate Plan work and invite more working together.

At time of writing I am due to meet Cllr Andrea Davis from DCC on issues around the Gateway project and long awaited interchange at the railway station area and hope to report verbally on that.