

# EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Exmouth Town Hall, St. Andrews Road, Exmouth on Monday 15 April, 2024 at 6.30pm.

<b>Present:</b>	<b>Councillors</b>	
	O Davey (Chairman)	D Poor
	A Bailey	M Rosser
	B Bailey	A Sadiq
	F Caygill	P Stott
	M Chapman	A Toye
	G Deasy	L Venables
	T Dumper	J Whibley
	S Gazzard	M Williamson
	N Hookway	D Wilson
	C Nicholas	A Woodward

### **Officers:**

Lisa Bowman, Town Clerk

**Apologies:** Apologies were noted from Councillors Angela Boatwright, Andrew Colman, Matt Hall, Ian Kirvan and Joy Whipps.

The Chairman then welcomed all to the meeting.

### **Public Forum:**

No members of the public had registered to speak.

### **C24/015. Council meeting minutes**

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

### **C24/016. Matters arising from previous minutes.**

None

### **C24/017. Declarations of pecuniary interests and dispensations**

There were no declarations of pecuniary or personal interest.

### **C24/018. 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.

**C24/019. 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 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024, 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024 and 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024 be accepted as a true record.

Councillor Alex Sadiq proposed, Councillor Andrew Woodward seconded, and it was agreed that the minutes of the meeting of the Finance Committee held on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024 be accepted as a true record.

The following were also noted:

Notes of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Party held on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024. Councillor Tim Dumper also provided a verbal update of the group trip to Energy from Waste.

Notes of the Community Organisation Liaison Panel Working Party held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024 and 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

Notes of the Exmouth Transport Partnership Working Party held on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024. Councillor Tim Dumper highlighted the strong community response to the recent changes to Stagecoach bus services and specifically on the 57, 58 and 99 routes but also the 95 service. The Chairman invited comments from all Members and further discussion included the following points:

- A through service to Exeter from some parts of the Town is now only available at peak morning and evening times. At all other times, passengers have to change buses in the Town Centre and pay two fares if they are travelling to Exeter.
- It is unreasonable to expect people with mobility problems to walk from one bus stop in The Strand to the other bus stop in the Parade to pick up a connecting service to Exeter.
- The changes to the 95 bus service along the seafront will affect our tourism offer.
- It's disappointing that Stagecoach representatives have not regularly attended the Exmouth Transport Partnership meetings or conducted any public consultation on the proposed changes.
- Signs and timetables have been updated, indicating that these changes are not being introduced on a trial basis.
- Some of the changes are probably due to commercial pressures and people need to support the buses.
- The current £2 bus fare cap will increase to £2.50 at the end of 2024 and reflects fluctuating policy approach to fares.
- The older person's free bus pass scheme supports bus use during off peak times.

- There are problems with the reliability of the bus service, exacerbated by traffic congestion and inconsiderate parking in bus bays.
- There is a petition circulating in Brixington to oppose the changes to the 57 service.

The Chairman invited County Councillor Jeff Trail to respond on behalf of Devon County Council / Travel Devon. Councillor Trail confirmed that he has made representations at Devon County Council regarding the 57 and 95 services but has been told that they are commercial services. The alterations to these services have been made to achieve a round trip within one hour. Councillor Trail commented that although the loss of the through service is regrettable, only services 57 and 58 had previously been straight through services and all the other services necessitated a change. He also stated that Exmouth is well served with buses and, apart from the £2 promotional fare which is currently available, there are day and night raider fares available to encourage residents' use.

Councillor Dumper summed up the debate and highlighted that the Bus Forum meeting scheduled for the week prior had coincidentally been cancelled. Councillor Tim Dumper then proposed, seconded by Councillor Fred Caygill and it was agreed by majority that the Town Clerk and Councillor Tim Dumper should be given delegated authority to write to Stagecoach on behalf of the Town Council to express its concerns over recent service and timetable changes in Exmouth.

**RESOLVED: That the Town Clerk and Councillor Tim Dumper are given delegated authority to write to Stagecoach on behalf of the Town Council to express its concerns over recent service and timetable changes in Exmouth.**

Notes of the Festival and Events Working Party held on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024 and 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

Notes of the Public Rights of Way Working Party held on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

Notes of the Town Maintenance Overview Working Party held on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024 and 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024.

Notes of the Town Premises Working Party held on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

Notes of the Tree Forum held on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

Waterfront Inspection form from the meeting of the Waterfront Working Party held on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

### **Reports from members who represent the Council on Outside Bodies**

- **Fairtrade:** Councillor Tim Dumper provided a verbal update and confirmed that Fairtrade Fortnight will be held in September 2024.
- **Woodbury, Exmouth & Budleigh (WEB) Community Health & Wellbeing Board:** notes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024 were circulated with the agenda. Councillor David Poor requested that a letter of thanks be sent to Dr Barry Coakley in recognition of his role on the Board and also for his

leadership during the Covid pandemic. Dr Coakley is taking up a new role in Bath.

- **Exmouth and District Allotment Association:** notes of the meetings held on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023 and 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024 were circulated with the agenda.
- **Exe Estuary Management Partnership:** Councillor Graham Deasy provided a verbal update from the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024.
- **Twinning Association:** Councillor Tim Dumper confirmed that the Twinning Association is preparing for the arrival of German visitors in July and a visit to Dinan, France in June. The position of Chair of the Devon Twinning Circle will be held by an Exmouth representative for the coming year.
- **OPCC Police Advocate:** Councillor Aurora Bailey confirmed that Inspector Grant Leitch has taken over from Inspector Antonia Weeks, following her recent retirement. Also, that Councillor Bailey had been supporting Streetscene officers in connection with the ongoing graffiti problems in the Phear Park toilets and had raised the matter with the police in her capacity as an OPCC Police Advocate.

### **District Councillors' Reports:**

Councillor Olly Davey had circulated a report prior to the meeting.

Councillor Joe Whibley updated Members on the recent meeting of the District Council's Licensing Enforcement meeting which had been focussed on taxi operations and fares. There are also impending changes proposed for taxi ranks.

Councillor Tim Dumper highlighted that the District Council Plan had been tabled at a special Cabinet meeting of the District Council and that the interviews for a new CEO are imminent.

Councillor Pauline Stott confirmed that the District Council's Standards Committee on which she sits as an independent member, had been looking at certain aspects of the District Council's constitution and this may have consequences for Towns and Parishes that adopt the District Council's Code of Conduct.

Councillor Brian Bailey reported that there had been a unanimous decision taken at the District Council for all District Councillors to be DBS checked.

### **County Councillors' Reports:**

County Councillors Jeff Trail and Richard Scott responded to questions about potholes, traffic management and the Exmouth Gateway and Dinan Way extension projects.

The meeting concluded at 20.33

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

## **Appendix – East Devon District Councillors' Reports**

### **Councillor Olly Davey**

#### **Strategic Planning**

Preparation for the draft Local Plan continues with a series of reports on items required to go out for consultation under Reg 18. Some of these cover various landscape protections, especially Coastal Preservation Areas and Green Wedges. A previous report on Green Wedges, which proposed some drastic reductions in sizes, but with increased protection for the remainder, provoked a revolt by the committee, which resulted in a workshop to discuss further. This resolved to leave Green Wedges as currently existing, despite officers considering that it was hard to justify their extent in terms of their stated purpose of preventing settlement coalescence. There is a widespread misunderstanding that they are some kind of nature protection area, and this showed in the many concerned emails I received, but they are usually on private land, often farmland, and are only designated as Green Wedges for the stated purpose of preventing settlements from merging into each other. A further report is expected in the next SPC agenda for the 30<sup>th</sup> April. Coastal Preservation areas attempt to preserve views from offshore and inland. In both cases, some development may be acceptable if it does not harm the stated purpose. If the committee is happy with the reports this time, they will go out for Reg 18 consultation in early May.

Cabinet has considered various items. The proposed sub-group for the Placemaking in Exmouth Group has not yet met and it is not known when everyone from all three councils will be available. Work on a Playing Pitch strategy and a review of leisure facilities and provision is underway.

We are unsure what the proposed Devolution Deal for Devon and Torbay will produce, but District Councils are disappointed at the minimal representation they will have on the board. The Deal does result in some extra funding but we do not know where it will be spent.

As I'm sure you know, the recent storm caused further undermining of the sea wall by Sideshore, and further damage by the Coastwatch building but the pilings are now going in, and emergency protection put in place. I believe the contractors are now making good progress and hope to have the noisiest work done very soon.