EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Exmouth Town Hall, St. Andrews Road, Exmouth on Monday 16 September, 2024 at 6.30pm.

Present: **Councillors**

J Whibley (Chairman)
A Bailey
B Bailey
F Caygill
M Chapman
A Colman
D Conduit
O Davey
G Deasy
S Gazzard
M Hall
I Kirvan
M Rosser
P Stott
L Venables
M Williamson
A Woodward

Officers:
Lisa Bowman, Town Clerk

Apologies: Apologies were noted from Councillors Tim Dumper, Nick Hookway, David Poor, Alex Sadiq, Andrew Toye, Joy Whipps and County Councillors Jeff Trail and Richard Scott.

The Chairman then welcomed all to the meeting.

Public Forum:

No members of the public had registered to speak.

C24/064. 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.

C24/065. Matters arising from previous minutes.

There were no matters arising.

C24/066. Declarations of pecuniary interests and dispensations

In respect of agenda item 7, Councillors Dianne Conduit, Pauline Stott, Ian Kirvan, Louise Venables and Cherry Nicholas all declared that they were Pennon Group Shareholders.

C24/067. 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.

C24/068. 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 Andrew Woodward proposed, Councillor Graham Deasy seconded, and it was agreed that the minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 29th July and 12th August 2024 be accepted as a true record.

Councillor Andrew Woodward proposed, Councillor Olly Davey seconded, and it was agreed that the minutes of the meeting of the Finance Committee held on 22nd August 2024 be accepted as a true record.

The following were also noted:

Notes of the Community Organisation Liaison Panel held on 5th August 2024 and a verbal update of meeting held on 2nd September 2024.

Notes of the Festival and Events Working Party held on 2^{2nd} August 2024.

Notes of the Flooding and Water Quality Working Party held on 16th July 2024.

A verbal update of the S106 & CIL Working Party held on 12th August 2024.

A verbal update from the Public Rights of Way Meeting held on 11th September 2024.

Reports from members who represent the Council on Outside Bodies

- **Exmouth in Bloom**: Councillor Steve Gazzard provided a verbal update on the impending South West In Bloom Awards Presentation for 2024 which is being held on October 8th, 2024.
- **Placemaking in Exmouth Town and Seafront**: Councillor Graham Deasy provided a verbal update.

District Councillors' Reports: Councillor Maddy Chapman reported that she had attended a tree strategy meeting and was working on a social housing matter with Councillor Anne Hall.

County Councillors' Reports: there were no County Councillors in attendance.

C24/069. To ratify that in light of recent South West Water (SWW) incidents, the Town Council;

- **Writes to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs inviting him/her to Exmouth in order that they might gain an understanding of the impact on the Town, its residents and businesses,**

associated with these events and to explain the Government's plan for dealing with water companies failing to comply with the Environment Act;
- **Gives delegated authority to the Flooding and Water Quality working party to progress the matter.**

Councillor Graham Deasy provided the background to the motion and explained that the aim was to put pressure on SWW to commit to an upgrade/investment plan for Exmouth and, in the context of the Government's commitment to improve water quality through the performance of water supply companies, the potential scope for Exmouth to be used as a pilot scheme by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs.

Members were informed that there is ongoing dialogue between the Town Council and the District Council about the recent pollution events attributable to SWW and an intention to work in unified manner to seek remediation and it was noted that there is a proposed group action being organised by Sideshore as well as an impending delegation to Parliament. Councillor Graham Deasy asked for his thanks to Pete Blythe, East Devon District Council's Beach Safety Officer, to be formally recorded.

Councillor Graham Deasy subsequently proposed and Councillor Dianne Conduit seconded an amendment to the motion such that the Town Council should also issue a press release to inform the public about its actions. This was put to the vote and carried by majority.

Councillor Graham Deasy proposed acceptance of the substantive motion. This was seconded by Councillor Dianne Conduit, put to the vote and approved by majority.

RESOLVED:

- **To write to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs inviting him/her to Exmouth in order that they might gain an understanding of the impact on the Town, its residents and businesses, associated with these events and to explain the Government's plan for dealing with water companies failing to comply with the Environment Act;**

- **To grant delegated authority to the Flooding and Water Quality working party to progress the matter.**

- **To issue a press release to inform the public about the Town Council's actions.**

C24/070. To ratify the revised Exmouth & District Allotment Association Rules.

Councillor Olly Davey proposed acceptance of the revised rules. This was seconded by Councillor Joe Whibley and approved when put to the vote.

C24/071. To appoint Councillor Dianne Conduit to the following committee, working party and outside body

- Planning Committee
- Town Maintenance Overview WP
- Woodbury, Exmouth & Budleigh (WEB) Community Health & Wellbeing Board to replace Councillor Tim Dumper

Councillor Steve Gazzard proposed and Councillor Graham Deasy seconded the appointment of Councillor Conduit to the Planning Committee and the Town Maintenance Overview WP and this was agreed.

Appointment to the Woodbury, Exmouth & Budleigh (WEB) Community Health & Wellbeing Board was deferred to the next meeting.

The meeting concluded at 7.33pm.

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