EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Exmouth Town Hall, St. Andrews Road, Exmouth on Monday 14 October, 2024 at 6.30pm.

Present: **Councillors**

J Whibley (Chairman)
B Bailey
F Caygill
M Chapman
O Davey
T Dumper
I Kirvan
C Nicholas
M Rosser
P Stott
A Toye
L Venables
M Williamson
D Wilson
A Woodward

Officers:
Lisa Bowman, Town Clerk

Apologies: Apologies were noted from Councillors Aurora Bailey, Andrew Colman, Dianne Conduit, G Deasy, S Gazzard, M Hall, N Hookway, David Poor, Alex Sadiq, Joy Whipps.

The Chairman then welcomed all to the meeting and it was agreed that Agenda item 7 would be moved to the beginning of the meeting to facilitate the presentation from Exmouth rugby club.

Public Forum:

No members of the public had registered to speak.

C24/072. 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.

C24/073. Matters arising from previous minutes.

The Town Clerk confirmed that the Annual Governance and Accountability Return which had come before Full Council in June 2024 for approval had been satisfactorily signed off by the external auditor, PKF Littlejohn, and published on the Town Council's website. The audit had picked up one small typo on the annual return that will need rectifying next year.

C24/074. Declarations of pecuniary interests and dispensations

It was noted that several Councillors are Members of East Devon District Council and will have a registerable interest in respect of East Devon District Council matters.

C24/075. 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.

C24/076. 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 9th September and 23rd September 2024 be accepted as a true record.

The following were also noted:

Notes of the Campervan TAFF held on 27th September 2024.

Notes of the Community Organisation Liaison Panel held on 2nd September 2024.

Notes of the Festival and Events Working Party held on 19th September 2024.

Verbal update of the Neighbourhood Plan Continuity Committee held on 30th September 2024.

Notes of the Public Rights of Way Working Party held on 11th September 2024.

Notes of the S106 & CIL Working Party held on 12th August 2024.

Notes of the Town Maintenance Overview Working Party held on 12th September 2024.

Inspection form from the Waterfront meeting held on 10th September 2024

Reports from members who represent the Council on Outside Bodies

- **Exmouth District Allotment Association:** Councillor Olly Davey provided a verbal update, and it was noted that the Association's AGM is being held on the 26th October 2024.
- **Fairtrade Steering Group:** Councillor Tim Dumper provided a verbal update.

- **Exmouth in Bloom:** Councillor Gazzard was not in attendance, but it was noted that Exmouth in Bloom had been very successful at the recent Southwest in Bloom Awards.
- **Exe Estuary Management Partnership:** Councillor Deasy had circulated a written synopsis of the recent meeting.
- **Devon Bus Enhanced Partnership:** Councillor Dumper did not attend due to illness, so no report was available.
- **Twinning Association:** Councillor Dumper confirmed that the recent quiz night was a success, and the association is reviewing its management structure going forward.
- **WEB Community Health and Wellbeing Board:** Councillor Dumper did not attend due to illness, so no report was available.

District Councillors' Reports: there were no supplementary reports from District Councillors.

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

C24/077. To receive a presentation from Exmouth Rugby Football Club
The Chairman welcomed Ian Harris (Chairman) and Norma Southwood (Treasurer) to the meeting. Mr Harris explained that the club had celebrated its 150th anniversary in 2023, has 22 teams and has seen huge growth in female participation. The club is supported by a fantastic army of volunteers but more importantly, it's a community focussed club with a flexible community space on the edge of the estuary with adjacent transport links. There are a number of different schools and community groups which use the Club's facilities but the space is also used for weddings, wakes, parties etc. and last year, the Club hosted Party on the Exe. The Club is also working with the RFU and Exeter Chiefs to explore the scope for the club to become a fan zone as part of the delivery of the women's rugby world cup championship in 2025.

The clubhouse building was originally built in 1964, and the site is leased from East Devon District Council on a 99-year lease. The Club is seeking support to expand its facilities, for which it has already received outline panning permission. There is a long-term plan which is consistent with the District Council's Delivery Plan.

Mr Harris presented a couple of slides which illustrated the plans for a proposed new clubhouse and refurbished changing rooms and outlined the potential for broader community use.

Ms Southwood then expanded on the Club's ambitions to work with the RFU to secure funding to expand the current changing room facilities as a priority. The estimated cost for improving that facility is approximately £300,000 and at the moment, the Club has raised £50,000 towards the cost through grant funding from the RFU, which will be match funded by the Club. The £200,000 balance will be financed via an interest free loan with the RFU, which will be guaranteed by ten members of the Club going forward.

Ms Southwood also confirmed that further to a conversation with the Town Clerk a few weeks ago, the Club is exploring the availability of CIL funds to progress its

plans and with the help of the RFU, it has contacted Jonathan Smith, Planning Obligations Team Leader, at East Devon District Council which has potentially opened up an opportunity for the Club to put in an application for some CIL funding. The Club believes that it meets the four criteria for CIL funding in the deliverability of the project since it already has planning permission to extend the building that's currently on site.

The expansion is imperative because the growth in rugby at the club is causing scheduling problems for matches on a Saturday and the dearth of pitches in Exmouth is recognised in the District Council's current infrastructure delivery plan, the Local Plan, the Exmouth Neighbourhood Plan and the sports pitches strategy.

Ms Southwood thanked those Councillors who had recently visited the Club and asked for the Town Council's support going forward and help in identifying any funding opportunities.

Mr Harris and Ms Southwood then answered questions from Members, including the lead time for improvements to the Clubhouse itself, the status of the lease with the District Council and the ongoing use of the pitches as an income source from the Camping and Motorhome Club rallies which are held at the Club every year.

Members also asked if the Club is in dialogue with the Exe Estuary management Partnership, due to its proximity to the protected Estuary sites and the wildlife refuges and Mr Harris confirmed that it is.

The Chairman thanked Mr Harris and Ms Southwood for attending.

C24/078. To ratify the appointment of Dianne Conduit as Lead Coordinator and member of the Community Resilience Working Party

Councillor Tim Dumper proposed, Councillor Olly Davey seconded, and it was agreed that Councillor Dianne Conduit should be appointed as Lead Coordinator and member of the Community Resilience Working Party

C24/079. To ratify the Application for Accreditation under the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS)

The Town Clerk outlined a proposal to set up a Community Safety Accreditation Scheme for the Town and the scope for the Town Council to be involved as a partner. An initial meeting had been held to explore the opportunities associated with CSAS under the Police Reform Act, which was introduced in 2002, whereby the Chief Inspector is able to delegate specific and limited powers to CSAS accredited groups to help address anti-social behaviour. A number of organisations are committed to taking the idea forward, including representatives from Haven Holiday Camp, the Marina and East Devon Countryside Team and the Town Council has been asked to consider if it would be willing to facilitate the accreditation of its own uniformed staff. It was felt by the Town Clerk and Members that this was not appropriate; however, there was support for the Town Clerk to be involved as a management partner on behalf of the Town Council. This would ensure that the Town Council's voice is heard and ties in nicely with the Town Council's CCTV provision.

Members raised questions about the Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO's) in force in the Town and the extent to which the CSAS would address non-compliance with those PSPO's, especially in the context of ongoing enforcement capacity and powers at the District Council. Also, an update on the proposed reinstatement of the Community Safety Partnership/ Local Action Group for Exmouth, which to some extent, was also aimed at addressing community safety issues. The Town Clerk confirmed that she had offered to provide the administrative support for a Local Action Group in Exmouth but there had been little traction on the part of East Devon District Council to reestablish one. The formation of the CSAS in Exmouth would to a large extent, supersede the need for a Local Action Group.

After some debate, Councillor Tim Dumper proposed, and Councillor Maddy Chapman seconded the participation in the scheme by the Town Council and the nomination of the Town Clerk as the Council's nominated representative for the scheme. This was put to a vote and carried by majority.

The meeting concluded at 8.30pm.

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