EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
HELD AT THE TELFER CENTRE, EXMOUTH COMMUNITY COLLEGE, GYPSY LANE, EXMOUTH ON
MONDAY 11TH MARCH 2019 AT 7.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillors:	J Trail (Mayor)	B de Saram (Deputy Mayor)
	B Bailey	S Gazzard
	L Elson	F Caygill
	R Masding	C Nicholas
	P Stott	M Chapman
	T Dumper	K Norton
	R Scott	T Hill

Lisa Bowman, Town Clerk and Chetna Jones, Deputy Town Clerk
R Bourgein, Town Crier, and approximately 23 electors of the Town of Exmouth and member of the Press.

APOLOGIES: Councillors J Humphreys, B Cole, A Sadiq, M Williamson, P Garbutt, D Nicholas, C Gough, B Taylor and B Toye

Exmouth's Town Crier, Roger Bourgein, introduced Councillor Jeff Trail BEM, Mayor of Exmouth and Chairman of the Town Council.

1. **Opening and Welcome by the Mayor**
   The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and as a departure from the agenda asked that the town notes the tragic accident involving a family member of an active resident.

2. **Minutes**
   The minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on Monday 12th March 2018 were proposed by Councillor L Elson, seconded by Councillor S Gazzard, and approved.

3. **Annual Report of the Town Council**

The year started off frosty and cold with The Beast from The East sweeping across the County and Exmouth. This did cause a number of problems to residents, however, the Exmouth community rallied together to provide assistance especially the 4X4 vehicle owners who transported those in need to work and by delivering supplies. Exmouth Town Councillors reacted and have formed a Exmouth Resilience Working Party in conjunction with DCC & EDDC policies to address local future needs in time of flooding, severe weather conditions and possible disasters.
One of the main aims of the Town Council is to improve the general appearance and tidiness of the town and surrounding communities. We are doing this by working in partnership with Devon County Council's Highways department, East Devon District Council's Streetscene team and by employing an additional fulltime member on our own Town Maintenance Team. As more services are being devolved to the Town Council, it has been agreed that we will employ another fulltime employee, bring the team up to four. The town is looking better, confirmed by numerous reports, but still needs to be maintained to a good standard and I would therefore encourage everyone to get involved with the brilliant Clean Street Exmouth initiative and take responsibility for their own street.
Another aim of the Town Council is to improve community spirit, awareness and grant aid within our local communities. The Town Council has supported many community led projects and events during the last twelve months and will continue its support to organisations and

groups as this has proved to be a very positive approach and has brought the town, businesses and residents much closer together.

A number of organisations and groups who have achieved success this year are:
Exmouth in Bloom. Armed Forces Day. Exmouth Pride. Exmouth Kite Festival. Littleham Community Group. Brixington Community Church. Pete's Dragons. Exmouth Community Larder. Lambeth Walk project. Beach Park Fun Run. Tri-Hards and Organ Donation.
Just to name but a few. All these organisations and groups work very hard with limited funds but have a great number of volunteers without whose work, time and commitment the process would not be achievable.

Following local public concerns relating to Campervan parking in and around the town, a Task and Finish Forum was set up between DCC, EDDC and ETC Councillors and Officers. This Forum was not arranged to ban Campervans from parking in Exmouth but to restrict and relocate such vehicles for the benefit of all road users. A pilot scheme was set up and is being monitored over a two year period. We have received some feedback from the community and the Forum will report back to the Town Council at the conclusion of the pilot scheme.
Other areas of progress throughout the year include:

1. The opening of the temporary Queens Drive Space. This has proved to be very successful and is secured for the next few years due to public demand.
2. The refurbishment of Phear Park Skate Park.
3. The A376 gutters and pavements were ploughed back from The George and Dragon to Exmouth. Major road repairs improvement throughout the town and surrounding areas have been completed, thanks to our DCC Councillors.
4. The improvement within the Colonies, actioned by DCC+ ETC+ EDDC Councils, which consisted of the clearing and cleaning of paths, gutters, roads and drainage issues.
5. The arrival of the Royal Deaf Academy.
6. A Plastics working party has been formed by the Town Council.

In the background our Town Council staff, managed by the Town Clerk, has worked very hard to ensure that residents and visitors are guided in the right direction for most of their needs. They also provide much needed guidance and assistance to our Councillors, various working parties and committees. This has led to the employment of two new members of staff whose contribution has been first class.

Sadly, the Town has said goodbye to two former Town Mayors: Cllr Geoff Chamberlain & Cllr Bill Nash. On behalf of the Town I wish to thank them and their families for their service, time, energy and commitment they gave to Exmouth.

Looking forward:

1. On 23rd March, the Public will have the opportunity to vote during the referendum of the Exmouth Neighbourhood Plan. This plan has taken the committee and staff many months, hours of debate, discussion and sheer hard work to present the views of the residents of Exmouth within the plan. My sincere thanks to all who have taken part in this very important document for the benefit of the future of Exmouth. Please show your support by attending the vote.
2. The new Flood prevention scheme has finally been agreed and work is to start shortly which will provide much needed protection to the town around its coastline.
3. Working in conjunction with the Police and Crime Commissionaire a new CCTV system is being discussed which if agreed will be housed within the town clerk's Office through a hub in Exeter.

All within this report could not be achieved without the hard work and co-operation of DCC, EDDC and ETC Councillors whom on behalf of the Town I thank you.

4. Town Crier's Report

Roger Bourgein, Exmouth's Town Crier, reported that he had attended approximately 200 events including charity events, birthday parties, talks and opening new businesses. He thanked Exmouth for the opportunity to represent the Town and councillors and staff of Exmouth Town Council for their continued support.

5 Presentations from local organisations in receipt of grants and support from Exmouth Town Council

The following organisations each gave a presentation explaining how the grants received from Exmouth Town Council had been used to support their organisation.

Fairtrade: Peter Brain gave a presentation on the events during Fairtrade Fortnight where 2 banana growers from St Vincent were welcomed. A conference was held for all the primary schools in Exmouth to raise awareness of Fairtrade products and how growers such as the visitors benefit.

Gig Rowing Club. Gary Cook gave a presentation on how Exmouth Gig Rowing Club were able to hold a regatta in Exmouth for the first time. He confirmed that they had over 80 members who benefitted from leading a healthier lifestyle and that over 25% were over 50 and 40% were over 40 years of age.

Exmouth Sailing Club. Ted Draper gave a presentation on Exe S C Dinghy National Championship 2018 and the benefits this brought to the Town

The organisation was grateful for the support that Exmouth Town Council gave financially.

Exmouth Musical Theatre Company. Laura Donnellon and Michelle Chudley gave a presentation on the work by the group to enable them to showcase the talent of their 65 members of varying ages. The grants and sponsorships obtained helped to support various productions and shows and the organisation was grateful to all those who had contributed. The group have been nominated for the Best Musical & Stage Production in the National Operatic & Dramatic Show in the South West.

Exmouth Community College Cadets. David Turner and 2 newly recruited cadets gave a presentation on the work of the cadets as well the benefits to the young people. The initiative started with former PC Young and since then over 200 members have through. These young people joined as they were keen to learn about the work carried out by the emergency services. The Town Council were thanked for their continued support.

Exmouth Beach and Rescue Club. Nigel Snowshall thanked the Town Council for the financial contribution to assist in providing this service throughout the year in two locations along the seafront. The purpose-built facility by Orcombe Point had, in 2018, been declared as a recognised facility by the MCA. With the increase in use in the evenings the demand for out of hours has also increased resulting in the need for more volunteers to be trained.

Exmouth & District Community Transport. Jill Elson gave a presentation on the work carried out by this much needed service. The clients particularly enjoyed the trips out giving them an

opportunity to meet socially as well as the door to door service to attend medical appointments as well as visit to local supermarket for their weekly shopping.

Exmouth Swimming and Lifesaving. Martin Pashley gave a presentation on behalf of the group about the activities over the last year including the celebration of the club's 26th anniversary. The club provides 9 swimming sessions on Saturdays and are part of the Swim England Programme. The club is fortunate to have a para-Olympian as part of the coaching team. Thanks to the financial assistance from the Town Council the club were able to train volunteers to provide coaching expertise.

6. Public Forum – Priority was given to those questions notified in advance to the Town Clerk.

The Chairman reminded members of the public that questions previously submitted would be addressed first and if time prevailed further questions will be taken at the end. He invited members who had previously submitted questions to the Town Clerk to ask their questions. The Chairman had agreed that where members of public that had not been able to attend due to personal health reasons, their questions would be read out on behalf of them.

Deb Haxton:
I live very close to the beach and having travelled around a fair chunk of the world, especially beaches it surprises me that there are only 2 zebra crossings between The Harbour view Café/Ocean complex and the Marina also lacking in safe crossing at the other end of the beach. At least 90% of pedestrians have to cross the road to get to the beach. It has never made sense to me. For instance in Sitges, Spain, there is a road that has crossings every 150 metres for about a mile so visitors can cross the road with guaranteed safety to the boardwalk adjacent to the beach. Our keep left signs aren't safe for crossing especially for families when many cars and motor bikes speed with ease along the sea front. More zebra crossings means more safety and a bonus from this would limit the speed of vehicles. This area needs to be pedestrian friendly not motorist friendly.

So my question is with all the planning along the seafront will you be installing more zebra crossings along the whole seafront to make it safer for pedestrians?

The Chairman provided a response on behalf of the Town Council:
Many thanks for your question. Responsibility for Highways matters along the that stretch of road ultimately lies with the County Council. Any scheme to introduce new crossings would be subject to a road safety audit to check the speed and flow of traffic and the number of vulnerable road users (such as schoolchildren) to decide if a new crossing is necessary. When common accident trends are identified, engineering measures that could reduce accidents are considered and if appropriate, improvements will be highlighted for consideration in future Transport delivery plans. We have checked with the County Council and there are no plans to introduce new crossings between Harbour View Café and the Marina – there are already two zebra crossings along that stretch of road (@ Premier Inn and Harbour View Café) as well as two pedestrian refuges in the middle of the road @ Aby's and beside the ice cream kiosk opposite Queen's Drive Space.
The District Council is responsible for the new road realignment on Queens Drive to facilitate the new watersports centre and on the advice of County Highway Authority the new road has been designed with traffic calming measures and suitable crossings for drivers and pedestrians to interact safely. I can therefore confirm that the new section of highway will have raised table informal pedestrian crossings as part of that scheme. This will offer a safe environment for motorists and pedestrians.
We have the plans with us today if you would like to see them.

Larry Green:

I read with interest the article in the Exmouth Journal, dated February 27th 2019, advising Exmouth residents to submit a question in advance of the above meeting. We shall try to attend this meeting to voice our concerns over the increasing number of “boy racers” who blatantly speed up Carlton Hill, from the Ocean Complex to the roundabout at Rolle Rd.
We live off Carlton Hill and are blessed and fortunate to live so close to the wonderful seafront at Exmouth, but this is blighted by the continuous speeding and the unbearable noise of these modified vehicles and powerful motorbikes.
On occasions, particularly in the evenings of the summer months we have witnessed them attempting to race and overtake each other up the hill. This is a tragedy waiting to happen.
The council are fully aware of this problem, but no action seems to have been taken as far as we can see.
Therefore, our question is this, “Will it take a tragedy, such as an elderly person, small child or family pet to be fatally injured before speed humps or speed cameras are in place on this stretch of road”?
A lot of elderly residents live in flats in this area. Additionally, young families park their cars in the adjacent streets to take their children to the Ocean Complex, many of whom have to cross this very busy stretch of road. It is also a popular area for dog walkers going to and from the beach.
These “boy racers” continuously parade up and down Queens Drive, mainly at weekends. There are speed restriction measures in place along Queens Drive but once they turn into Carlton Hill it is a different situation altogether.
The noise is particularly annoying but more importantly there are serious safety issues to be considered and addressed.
I do wonder if some of these vehicles are legally allowed to be on the road. I am sure there must be regulations with regards to noise levels from exhausts when a vehicle has a MOT. Some of these boy racer cars are pimped up to make them sound like rally cars.
In conclusion the most effective means of preventing a tragic accident from occurring and reducing speeding is to have several speed “humps” and/or a speed camera strategically placed on Carlton Hill. Failing that then perhaps regular Police Speed Checks would be some sort of deterrent.
I am quite sure that we are not alone in our concerns on this matter.

The Chairman provided a response on behalf of the Town Council:
Thank you very much Mr Green. I hope you will be reassured to know that Exmouth Town Council has a representative on the local Community Safety Partnership and we have been raising this matter for a number of years through that forum and on the occasions when Inspector Weeks attends our Full Council meetings.
Since this is essentially a policing matter, I have taken the liberty of approaching inspector Weeks for a response and this is what she has to say:
Exmouth in common with many similar seaside towns attracts vehicles to the seafront some of which are considered to be ‘performance vehicles.’ The owners of the vehicles like to gather or socialise on the seafront and this increases during the summer months and in good weather. The majority of drivers are responsible, and the vehicles are legal and roadworthy. However, we are aware that a number of local residents are disturbed by the noise of the vehicles and associate this noise with excess speed.
Previously we have monitored speed on Carlton hill and the results did not indicate the need for enforcement action. Traffic calming measures are already in place along the seafront and on busier days the volume of people and cars using the seafront reduces the instances of excess speed. Instances of excess speed are most likely to occur during the late evening and overnight and where possible police will patrol this area to discourage excess speed and anti-social driving. It must be noted our visible presence immediately deters illegal driving activity and we do not have covert tactics to ‘detect’ it occurring otherwise. We are currently scoping the viability of community speedwatch schemes to monitor speeds in the Exmouth area. This may include the seafront if the required conditions are met.

Locally we run periodic operations to educate and enforce around driving and vehicle use on the seafront. We do this either as a single service or in partnership with other agencies such as the vehicle standards agency, DSFRS as well as an in-force team that focuses on driving issues. These are visible operations with the emphasis on education and awareness. However, we will enforce and prosecute where appropriate. The main issue seems to be around excess noise which creates an impression of excess speed. We are looking to use enforcement legislation around modified exhaust systems and are optimistic around the impact this will have. We will increase the frequency of these operations during the summer months.
I am well aware of the public views around this issue and we have a sound operational response to it. However, it must be recognised our ability to respond to this is dependent on our other demands – basically we do not have the capacity to police this 24/7 and as our presence is the biggest deterrence and we can't be there all the time, there will always be times when speeding and excess noise occur.

Anne Bentham:
I would like to raise the issue of climate change under agenda item 7, Public Forum. Scientists have made it clear that we are now facing a climate emergency. I would like to see Exmouth follow the example of other town councils in facing up to the reality of the situation that we are in by declaring a climate emergency; setting specific targets and meaningful dates for reducing green-house gases and for achieving carbon neutrality in the area; involving the community in discussions and decisions about the local action needed; lobbying district and county councils and national government for the policy changes and finance required.

The Chairman provided a response on behalf of the Town Council:
Thank you very much.
The issue of climate change emergency is acknowledged to be of critical importance and in my capacity as County Councillor I can confirm that Devon County Council has recently considered its position and debated the matter. The County Council had already adopted the United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change recommendation of reducing emissions by 45 % by 2030 and recently reaffirmed its recognition of the scale and urgency of the global challenge from climate change by declaring a climate emergency. 2050 is the current deadline for Devon to become carbon neutral but if the County Council has sufficient support from others, they will bring this target forward.
Stronger Devon-wide action through collaboration at a community and individual level is definitely needed and this includes Town and Parish Councils.
Although it has not yet declared a climate emergency in its own right, Exmouth Town Council is actively involved in a number of ways:
For example:
The Town Council's Planning Committee plays a key role in the planning process as a statutory consultee on all planning applications and is fully supportive of the policies relating to climate change and renewable energy within the Local Plan so that energy efficiency and renewable generation is maximised in new developments. Historically, the Planning Committee has fully supported solar energy installations throughout the Town.
Road Transport is one of the UK's main climate change culprits and through our Transport Partnership, the Town Council actively promotes environmentally friendly travel, including the use of public transport and electric vehicles - for which we are keen to see an increase in charging units across the town. We regularly argue the community's need for public transport direct to the commercial transport operators in our area.
The Town Council was heavily involved in the initial kerbside recycling trials in Exmouth which were conducted by East Devon District Council and in the subsequent roll out of the enhanced kerbside recycling scheme. The recent formation of our Plastic Working party aims to raise awareness of the impact of and minimise the use of single use plastics in our Town and this year we are sponsoring a new Environmental Impact award as part of the Exmouth Business Awards to promote awareness of the issue.

Through our Flooding and Land Drainage working party, the council has been working with the environment agency and Devon County Council's Flood Risk team to support flood defence initiatives and measures throughout the Town. The Town Council has been consulted by South West Water in connection with its Watershed Exmouth project which has resulted in a range of sustainable drainage systems being installed throughout the Town to manage rainwater and the Working Party has produced a flood toolkit for local residents and businesses.
Our recently formed Community Resilience Working Party is developing an emergency plan to enable our community to become more resilient in the face of more extreme weather such as flooding.
Transition Exmouth is an active member of our Community Liaison Panel and, as you are probably aware, is dedicated to tackling the dual crisis of Peak Oil & Climate Change and to finding ways of rebuilding the local resilience of the town. Transition Exmouth representatives regularly feed in ideas and contribute to relevant discussions at our meetings and the Town Council welcomes their input.
Many of these issues are given additional weight via specific polices and community actions in the Neighbourhood Plan, which if supported on March 21st, will lend further weight to the planning process and to the Town Council's influence and lobbying power in this area.
Since we have elections in May 2019 and the Council membership is likely to change significantly, I would urge the new Council to embrace your request so that it can lend the necessary support to the County Council's aim to make Devon a carbon neutral town.

Ann Membery:
My question to Exmouth town councillors is do you have concerns about the delay to the extension of Dinan Way. The planning application 16/2606/CM has been approved, but when I recently spoke to a member of DCC highways department he told me because of financial reasons this extension has been delayed.

I believe this extension is vital to help reduce the amount of traffic that uses the A376 coming towards Exmouth town centre. I intend to lobby the MP for East Devon about this matter, and would hope councillors who serve on other committees could have some influence on getting this extension to Dinan Way completed sooner than later.

Since the expansion of Liverton Business Park, and now the large development of houses at Plumb Park and several small developments of houses within Exmouth and the intention of EDDC regeneration board to attract more visitors to Exmouth there will be more and more traffic using the roads in Exmouth and traffic will become grid locked which causes more emissions from vehicles which causes more pollution in the atmosphere. I have already witnessed the increase of visitors and traffic coming into Exmouth since the development of all the new houses in Exeter as Exmouth is the nearest lovely seaside town for them to visit.

The extension of Dinan Way would take HGVs going to Liverton business park off the A376 at Courtlands and other traffic going to the east of Salterton Road and to Plumb Park. As the B3178 and the B3180 are not suitable for heavy traffic this extension to Dinan Way is the only solution to reduce traffic congestion into Exmouth.

My other question for councillors is if I start a campaign about trying to solve some of the parking problems around schools in Exmouth would I have your support.

Only today in the news it has been mentioned that nationally it is a problem that needs solving and restriction of traffic around schools needs to be reduced because of pollution and congestion.

The Chairman confirmed that as the question had not been submitted previously, a full response will be provided as further information will need to be obtained from Devon County Council. The

Chairman confirmed that background work had started but there was much more that needed to be completed including obtaining funding.

The Chairman confirmed that education and safety of young people was important, and many people were lobbying MPs to take this matter further.

The following response was provided to Mrs Membury via email:
Devon County Council is in the process of trying to acquire the necessary land and funding, but no delivery period has been identified as yet. Obviously, the overriding factor is a significant reduction to County Council funding at a time when there were huge pressures on Social Care services.

Most Councillors are as keen as you to see the road progressed but are appreciative of the budget constraints and especially the fact that Devon has increased pressures in respect of its adult social care bill due to the number of older people who live here. The progress of the project will continue to be monitored via the Town Council's Transport Partnership.

In respect of your second question, highway safety matters are an issue which is outside the Town Council's jurisdiction; however, the Town Council has spoken to Devon County Council historically in relation to safety outside schools.

The response received is that congestion at school entrances is predominately associated with school drop off and pick up times and as Councillor Trail cited at the Annual Town Meeting, the culprits are the parents themselves. Schools are aware of the issue and are doing all they can to encourage responsible behaviour by parents but if you are able to create some traction around the matter in terms of education, Town Councillors would be supportive.

The Roadwise campaign (link below) may be of interest:

https://www.roadwise.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/P57723J-Safer-parking-at-the-school-gate-leaflet-2.pdf

The Chairman thanked all members for the attending as well as the local organisations for providing interesting presentations for the varied work that they do to benefit the community of Exmouth.

The meeting concluded at 9.22 pm.

Signed …… Date …….
(Chairman)