EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Exmouth Town Hall, St. Andrews Road, Exmouth on Monday 13th January, 2025 at 6.30pm.

Present: **Councillors**

J Whibley (chair)
A Bailey
B Bailey
F Caygill
M Chapman
D Conduit
O Davey
G Deasy
T Dumper
S Gazzard
M Hall
N Hookway
C Nicholas
A Sadiq
P Stott
A Toye
L Venables
J Whipps
D Wilson
A Woodward

Officers:
Lisa Bowman, Town Clerk

Apologies: Apologies were noted from Councillors Andrew Colman, Ian Kirvan, David Poor, Mike Rosser, Mark Williamson.

Public Forum:

No members of the public had registered to speak.

C25/001. 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.

C25/002. Matters arising from previous minutes.

There were no matters arising.

C25/003. Declarations of pecuniary interests and dispensations.

There were no declarations of interest.

C25/004. Exclusion of the Press and public.

It was proposed by Councillor Joe Whibley, seconded by Councillor Steve Gazzard and resolved (part way through the meeting) to exclude the press and public so that the Town Clerk could provide an update on a confidential matter relating to a potential asset acquisition.

C25/005. 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 Andrew Woodward proposed, Councillor Tim Dumper seconded, and it was agreed that the minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 2nd and 16th December 2024 be accepted as a true record

The following were also noted:

Notes of the Climate and Ecological Emergency working party held on 11th December 2024.

Notes of the Exmouth Transport Partnership working party held on 3rd December 2024.

Notes of the Festival and Events Working Party held on 12th December 2024.

Notes of the Waterfront Working Party held on 7th January 2025. It was also noted that there is a forthcoming drop-in consultation relating to the beach management proposals at Ocean Exmouth on 30/01/2025 from 2pm-6pm. In respect of an associated recommendation from the working party, Councillor Pauline Stott proposed, Councillor Steve Gazzard seconded and it was agreed by all that the Council should respond to the consultation with a neutral stance on the sea wall encasement option, while expressing strong agreement with the local aspirational leading option (installation of groynes) and a willingness to consider financial contributions in the future, subject to further discussion and approval.

RESOLVED: That the Council should respond to the consultation with a neutral stance on the sea wall encasement option, while expressing strong agreement with the local aspirational leading option (installation of groynes) and a willingness to consider financial contributions in the future, subject to further discussion and approval.

Reports from members who represent the Council on Outside Bodies

- **Exmouth District Allotment Association:** Councillor Olly Davey provided a verbal update.
- **Fairtrade Steering Group:** Councillor Tim Dumper provided a verbal update.
- **Twinning Association:** Councillor Tim Dumper provided a verbal update and confirmed that the Dinan Twinners will visit Exmouth from May 29th - June 2nd and the Exmouth Twinners will visit Langerwehe from July 9th - 14th 2025.

- **Placemaking in Exmouth Town and Seafront Group:** Councillor Deasy confirmed that a meeting of the PETS Group has been convened for the end of January to discuss Queens Drive Space and Beach Gardens.

District Councillors' Reports:

It was noted that an Extraordinary meeting of East Devon District Council had been held on January 9th 2025 to discuss the Devolution White Paper published in December 2024 and the associated emerging unitary council proposals for Devon.

County Councillors' Reports:

County Councillor Richard Scott was in attendance and answered questions relating to the persistent failure of traffic lights at Courtlands Cross in connection with the Dinan Way extension works. Councillor Scott also confirmed that Devon County Council held a meeting on the 9th January 2025 to discuss the Devolution White Paper and resolved to write to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to confirm its willingness to join the Devolution Priority Programme and to request the forthcoming County Council elections are postponed.

C25/006.To note the response from the Rt Hon Steve Reed, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to the Town Council's letter dated 18th September 2024.

The response was noted.

C25/007. To ratify the 2024/25 budget and associated precept.

A draft budget for 2025/26 had been circulated to Councillors for consideration with an associated precept requirement of £934,434. Councillor Steve Gazzard proposed, Councillor Joe Whibley seconded and it was agreed by all to accept the proposed budget and agree the precept of £934,434.

RESOLVED: that the budget be approved and a precept request for £934,434 should be submitted to the District Council.

C25/008. To adopt the proposed Asset Transfer Policy.

Councillor Joe Whibley proposed, Councillor Tim Dumper seconded and it was agreed to adopt the policy subject to the addition of a clause which states that any potential acquisition by the Council will additionally be assessed for any long-term physical, transition, legal, and other risks and opportunities emerging from global climate change against the Council's environmental policy.

C25/009. To ratify a recommendation from the Finance Committee that the Town Council closes its Business current and premium accounts with Barclays Bank and opens up a new account with Unity Bank.

Councillor Alex Sadiq proposed, Councillor Joy Whipps seconded, and it was agreed that that the Town Council will close its Business current and premium accounts with Barclays Bank and open up a new account with Unity Bank.

RESOLVED: that the Town Council will close its Business current and premium accounts with Barclays Bank and open up a new account with Unity Bank.

C25/010. To note that Councillor Aurora Bailey is standing down from the Festival and Events Working Party and seek nominations for a replacement member.

It was noted that Councillor Aurora Bailey wished to stand down from the Festival and Events Working Party. Councillor Joy Whipps subsequently proposed, and Councillor Steve Gazzard seconded a nomination for Councillor Graham Deasy to be appointed to the Festival and Events WP instead. This would necessitate his resignation form the Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Party, which was duly noted. The new arrangements were agreed by all.

RESOLVED: that Councillor Graham Deasy be appointed to the Festival and Events WP.

The meeting concluded at 8.20 pm

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