EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Exmouth Town Hall, St. Andrews Road, Exmouth on Monday 10th February, 2025 at 6.30pm.

Present: **Councillors**

J Whibley (chair)
A Bailey
B Bailey
M Chapman
D Conduit
O Davey
G Deasy
T Dumper
N Hookway
I Kirvan
C Nicholas
D Poor
M Rosser
P Stott
A Toye
M Williamson
D Wilson

Officers:
Lisa Bowman, Town Clerk

Apologies: Apologies were noted from Councillors Andrew Colman, Steve Gazzard, Matt Hall, Alex Sadiq, Louise Venables, Joy Whipps, Andrew Woodward.

Public Forum:

No members of the public had registered to speak.

C25/011. Council meeting minutes

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

C25/012. Matters arising from previous minutes.

There were no matters arising.

C25/013. Declarations of pecuniary interests and dispensations.

There were no declarations of interest.

C25/014. Exclusion of the Press and public.

It was proposed by Councillor Joe Whibley, seconded by Councillor Maddy Chapman and resolved (part way through the meeting) to exclude the press and public so that the Town Clerk could provide an update on two confidential matters.

C25/015. 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 Mike Rosser proposed, Councillor Dianne Conduit seconded, and it was agreed that the minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 6th and 20th January 2025 be accepted as a true record. It was also noted that the statutory regulation 19 consultation for the emerging local plan is imminent.

The following were also noted:

Notes of the Climate and Ecological Emergency working party held on 14th January 2025. Councillor Tim Dumper, in his capacity as chair off the working party, highlighted that Zoey Cooper, the Council's climate and ecological emergency officer, would be attending the presentation ceremony for the National Association of Local Councils Star Council Awards in the House of Lords on 25th February 2025. The council has been nominated as a finalist in the Climate Response of the Year category.

Notes of the Community Organisation Liaison Panel working party held on 27th January 2025.

Notes of the Festival and Events Working Party held on 16th January 2025.

Notes of the Flooding and Water Quality Working Party held on 14th January 2025. Councillor Graham Deasy provided a verbal update from a recent meeting which had been held with the Environment Agency and ESCAPE and expressed concerns regarding the course of action proposed by South West Water in respect of the phase 2 works programme and the second outfall pipe. Councillor Joe Whibley proposed, Councillor Ian Kirvan seconded, and it was agreed to delegate authority to the Deputy Clerk to write to South West Water to raise concerns regarding the recent update regarding phase two works at Maer Road and the proposed use of the second outfall pipe.

RESOLVED: to delegate authority to the Deputy Clerk to write to South West Water to raise concerns regarding the recent update regarding phase two works at Maer Road and the proposed use of the second outfall pipe.

Notes of the Town Maintenance Overview Working Party held on 16th January 2025.

Reports from members who represent the Council on Outside Bodies

- **Exmouth District Allotment Association:** Councillor Olly Davey provided a verbal update regarding the imminent publication of the Association's annual accounts.

- **DALC:** Lisa Bowman confirmed that she and Councillor Steve Gazzard had recently attended a meeting of DALC's Larger Councils Forum which was focused on the possible impact of the Government's proposals for local government reorganisation. Member councils are being encouraged to be proactive in terms of identifying opportunities and threats should one or more new unitary councils be formed in Devon.

- **Fairtrade Steering Group:** Councillor Tim Dumper circulated a written report prior to the meeting confirming that the Steering Group held a meeting on February 5th, and the following activities are planned: the Schools Conference will be hosted at the Beacon School, on March 5th, to which all other local primary schools are invited; the National Fairtrade fortnight has been moved to the autumn (September 22nd - October 4th), and the chosen product this year is tea. Events will be planned in for that fortnight as usual. The group will book a stall at the Organ Donation Fair on July 26th.
  The group is carrying out a review of Exmouth's cafés to check which offer FT products, and to encourage those who don't, to take them up.

- **Twinning Association:** Councillor Tim Dumper circulated a written report prior to the meeting, confirming that planning continues apace, for the visit from our French twinners from Dinan in Brittany, from May 29th to June 2nd, and our visit to Langerwehe, our German twin Town from July 9th to 14th. Thanks were expressed to the Town Council for the support given over the years for an associated Civic Reception hosted by our Mayor, when twinners visit Exmouth, and a contribution to charity when the association travels to Germany or France.

District Councillors' Reports: Councillor Joe Whibley provided a verbal update from the District Council's Licensing Committee in respect of a consultation regarding the proposed taxi fares charging mechanism. Members asked that adequate paper copies were made available to taxi drivers who might not have access to the online consultation. It was also noted that in respect of the emerging Local Plan and proposed site allocations, the Exmo 20 site continues to cause controversy amongst residents.

County Councillors' Reports: County Councillor Richard Scott was in attendance and answered questions from Members relating to the traffic signals at Courtlands Cross and the end of Dinan Way. Concerns were also raised about ongoing issues with lorry traffic and impact on road cleanliness at Warren View. In relation to the Local Government Reorganization, Councillor Scott reported that Devon County Council is being urged to work with the District Councils to come up with a plan and a workable model for the county. In the meantime, Devon County Council still has services to deliver and budgets will be set a accordingly.

C25/016.To respond to East Devon District Council's Draft Housing Strategy Consultation.

Councillor Tim Dumper proposed, Councillor Mark Williamson seconded, and it was agreed that the response should be based on Exmouth Town Council's Housing Needs Assessment as follows:

Affordability and Affordable Housing:

Emphasize the need for more affordable and social housing options in Exmouth to address the high house prices and rents.

Highlight the importance of providing a mix of housing types, including affordable rental and ownership options, to meet the diverse needs of the community.

Specialist Housing for Older People:

Advocate for the development of specialist housing for older people, as identified in the housing needs assessment. Stress the importance of ensuring that these homes are fully accessible for people with mobility issues and designed to support independent living, especially with regard to adequate amenity and storage space to facilitate downsizing from lager homes.

Addressing Second Homes:

Address the issue of second homes in Exmouth, including unregulated Airbnbs, which can reduce the availability of housing for local residents.

Homelessness Support:

Support the District Council's efforts to address homelessness and any additional measures to provide support for those at risk of homelessness.

Community Engagement:

Encourage the council to engage with Exmouth Town Council to ensure that the housing strategy reflects our Town's identified needs and priorities.

RESOLVED: To respond to the Draft Housing Strategy, based on the findings of Exmouth Town Council's Housing Needs Assessment.

C25/017. To consider a motion from Councillor Mike Rosser that the Chair of the Council will write to Team Rollocks on behalf of the Council to congratulate them on their success in the Transatlantic rowing race. The Council hopes that Team Rollocks will agree to engage in an event to allow the public to congratulate and celebrate their success.

Councillor Mike Rosser proposed, Councillor Maddy Chapman seconded and it was

RESOLVED: that Councillor Joe Whibley would write to Team Rollocks on behalf of the Council to congratulate them on their success in the Transatlantic rowing race and to communicate that the Council hopes that Team Rollocks will agree to engage in an event to allow the public to congratulate and celebrate their success.

C25/018. To note that the Annual Town Meeting will be held on the 10th March 2025.

The date of the Annual Town Meeting was noted.

Part B

C25/019. To receive the notes of the Town Council Premises and Assets Working Party and ratify the recommendations therein.

Councillor Pauline Stott proposed, Councillor Olly Davey seconded, and it was agreed to ratify the recommendations from the working party.

C25/20. To receive an update from the HR Group regarding recent suggestions of potential additional staffing resource needs.

A confidential update on staffing matters was circulated by the HR group with a recommendation that all future staffing needs are considered in the context of a forward-thinking strategic plan. Councillor Tim Dumper proposed acceptance of the recommendation, seconded by Councillor Brain Bailey, and this was approved by the majority of Members present.

The meeting concluded at 8.10 pm

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