EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Exmouth Town Hall, St. Andrews Road, Exmouth on Monday 16th June , 2025 at 6.30pm.

Present: **Councillors**

G Deasy (chair)
A Bailey
B Bailey
F Caygill
M Chapman
A Colman (arrived 18:49)
D Conduit
O Davey
T Dumper
S Gazzard
M Hall
N Hookway (arrived 19:06)
I Kirvan
C Nicholas
D Poor
A Sadiq
P Stott
A Toye
L Venables (arrived 19:03)
J Whibley
M Williamson
D Wilson
A Woodward

Officers:
Lisa Bowman, Town Clerk

Apologies: Apologies were noted from Councillor Mike Rosser.

Public Forum:

No members of the public had registered to speak. At the start of the meeting, Councillor Graham Deasy congratulated Councillor Steve Gazzard for receiving the Asthma + Lung UK Champion for Lung Health Award from Asthma + Lung UK during Volunteers' Week for raising more than £34,000 to support people living with lung conditions.

C25/056. Council meeting minutes

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

C25/057. Matters arising from previous minutes.

The Town Clerk reported that a letter had been sent to East Devon District Council in relation to the need for legal representation at planning appeal hearings but no response had yet been received.

C25/058. Declarations of pecuniary interests and dispensations.

There were no declarations of interest.

C25/059. Exclusion of the Press and public.

There were no items which necessitated the exclusion of the press and public.

C25/060. 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 Andrew Woodward seconded, and it was agreed that the minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 12th May and 27th May 2025 be accepted as a true record.

Councillor Alex Sadiq proposed, Councillor Steve Gazzard seconded, and it was agreed that the minutes of the meeting of the Finance Committee held on 15th May 2025 be accepted as a true record.

The following were also received and noted:

Notes of the Climate and Ecological Emergency working party held on 8th April and 20th May 2025.

Notes of the Community Organisation Liaison Panel working party held on 28th April 2025.

Notes of the Exmouth Transport Partnership working party held on 1st April 2025.

Notes of the Festival and Events Working Party held on 24th April and 22nd May 2025.

Notes of the Flooding and Water Quality working party held on 29th April 2025. In respect of the recommendations from the working party, Councillor Graham Deasy, in his capacity as Chairman of the working party, provided some background to the requirement for Southwest Water to provide a 25 year plan for resources and the opportunity for the Town Council to join the Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan Partnership as a stakeholder to ensure that Exmouth's concerns are represented. Members discussed the recommendation and it was subsequently proposed by Councillor Steve Gazzard, seconded by Councillor Olly Davey, and agreed my by majority when put to a vote that the Town Council should submit an expression of interest to join the Partnership. Councillor Steve Gazzard proposed separately that the matter of appointing a representative to attend on behalf of the Town Council should be deferred until the request has been acknowledged affirmatively and the related terms of reference and details of meeting requirements and associated time commitment are known. This was put to a vote and carried.

RESOLVED: that the Town Council submits an interest to join the Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan partnership as a stakeholder to ensure Exmouth concerns are represented.

In respect of a second recommendation that Exmouth Town Council writes to the relevant government minister to advocate for water companies to be made statutory

consultees in the planning process, Councillor Olly Davey proposed, Councillor Brian Bailey seconded and it was agreed by majority to do so.

RESOLVED: that Exmouth Town Council writes to the relevant government minister to advocate for water companies to be made statutory consultees in the planning process.

Notes of the S106 & CIL working party held on 15th April 2025.

Notes of the Town Maintenance Overview Working Party held on 13th March, 17th April and 15th May 2025.

Notes of the walkabout inspection of the Waterfront Working Party held on 18th March 2025.

Reports from members who represent the Council on Outside Bodies

- **Bus Users and Stake Holders Forum:** Councillor Tim Dumper confirmed that the notes had been circulated with the agenda

- **Exmouth and District Community Transport:** No updates were available although the successful fundraising efforts of the Association were noted BY Councillor Tim Dumper.

- **Exmouth District Allotment Association:** Councillor Olly Davey reported that the Association's finances are sound and that plot inspections are currently in hand with vacant plots being reallocated swiftly.

- **Fairtrade Steering Group:** Councillor Tim Dumper reported that the Steering Group is looking towards an audit of catering outlets in the Town to promote the use of Fairtrade products and preparations are in hand for this year's Fairtrade fortnight IN September/ October when the approved product will be tea.

- **OPCC Councillor Advocate Scheme:** Councillor Aurora Bailey confirmed that the work of the Police and Crime Commissioner to improve visibility of policing is ongoing.

- **Twinning Association:** Councillor Tim Dumper spoke about the recent visit from Dinan and thanked Councillor Deasy for playing an active part in the welcome reception. The association will visit Langerwehe in July.

District Councillors' Reports: there were no reports available**.**

County Councillors' Reports: Councillor Nick Hookway reported on various highways matters including his requests to the Neighbourhood Officer that Littleham Road is resurfaced as a priority and the dip from Quentance Farm to Liverton is addressed. He also confirmed that complaints relating to conflict issues arising from the popularity of the cycle path through the Bidmead sheltered housing cul-de-sac

are being looked into and provided an update on the polymer discharge at Maer Lane which had resulted in a partial closure of the road.

Councillor Hookway responded to questions about white lining in Littleham and requests for an adequate Construction and Environmental Management Plan to be put in place and enforced if the Douglas Avenue development goes ahead; the status of the Dinan Way road surface and whether it is sufficient for its intended use, potentially by 44 tonne vehicles passing through, and a request to address congestion arising at Regents Gate from motorhomes parked in the car parking area.

C25/061.To review and adopt the Annual Accounts for 2024/2025

- Income and Expenditure Accounts for year ending 31st March 2025
- Balance Sheet for year ending 31st March 2025
- Earmarked Reserves as at 31st March 2025
- Asset Register as at 31st March 2025

Councillor Fred Caygill proposed, Councillor Pauline Stott seconded and it was agreed by all to approve the annual accounts for 2024/25, including the Income and Expenditure Report, Balance Sheet, Earmarked Reserves and Asset Register.

RESOLVED: to adopt the Annual Accounts for 2024/25

C25/062. Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2024/2025

- To review and receive the Annual Internal Audit Report
- To consider and approve the Annual Governance Statement
- To consider and approve the Annual Accounting Statements

The Annual Internal Audit Report was noted and acknowledged by all. Councillor Fred Caygill subsequently proposed, Councillor Steve Gazzard seconded and it was agreed by all to approve the Annual Governance Statement and the Annual Accounting Statements.

RESOLVED: to approve the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2024/25

C25/063. To note the mayor's chosen charity for 2025/26.
Councillor Graham Deasy confirmed that he would be fund raising for the Exmouth Projects Trust during his tenure as Mayor with a view to supporting local musicians.

C25/64. To note David Poor's resignation from the Community Organisations Liaison Panel and to consider this change as an opportunity to initiate a review of COLP's current structure and effectiveness, and the Council's broader approach to community engagement.

Councillor Poor's resignation from COLP was formally noted and there was a shared sense among many Councillors that would be a good opportunity to put the meeting in abeyance and take a fresh look at how the Town Council engages with the wider community. Various comments and suggestions were put forward during a subsequent debate on the matter including clarification of the original aims of COLP

when it was set up in 2009, the advent of social media in the interim period and the current need for the Town Council to engage with as many residents as possible.

Key points included:

- The challenge associated with involving a broader range of community organisations.

- Councillor attendance at COLP has grown beyond the original terms of reference and it may be time to revisit the structure.

- The need to modernising our approach

Councillor Fred Caygill proposed the establishment of a Task and Finish Forum to review the Council's community engagement strategy during this temporary hiatus period for COLP. Councillor Steve Gazzard seconded the proposal and it was agreed by majority. It was agreed that the Town Clerk will draw up draft terms of reference for the TAFF for review at the next Full Council meeting in July.

RESOLVED: that the Town Council establishes a Task and Finish Forum to review the Council's community engagement strategy during this temporary hiatus period of COLP and that the Town Clerk will draw up draft terms of reference for the TAFF for Members to review at the next Full Council meeting in July.

The meeting concluded at 7.49 pm.

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