EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Exmouth Town Hall, St. Andrews Road, Exmouth on Monday 28th July , 2025 at 6.30pm.

Present: **Councillors**

G Deasy (Chair)	S Gazzard
A Bailey	M Hall
B Bailey	N Hookway (arrived at 19:06)
F Caygill	A Sadiq
A Colman (arrived at 19:16)	L Venables
D Conduit	J Whibley
O Davey	M Williamson
T Dumper	D Wilson

Officers:
Lisa Bowman, Town Clerk

Apologies: Apologies were noted from Councillors Maddy Chapman, Ian Kirvan, Cherry Nicholas, David Poor, Mike Rosser, Pauline Stott, Andrew Toye and Andrew Woodward.

Public Forum: There were no members of public present who wishes to speak during the public forum. However, the Chair asked for agreement to bring items 7 and 8 on the agenda forward. Councillor Fred Caygill proposed, Councillor Steve Gazzard seconded, and it was agreed by all to bring these items forward for early discussion.

C25/065. Council meeting minutes

Councillor Joe Whibley proposed, Councillor Steve Gazzard seconded, and it was agreed by all that the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted as a true record.

C25/066. Cllr Joe Whibley to formally present a cheque to representatives of the Esteem Team, the chosen Mayor's Charity for the past civic year, in recognition of funds raised during his term of office.

Councillor Joe Whibley presented a cheque to the value of £579.65 to Cara Stratford from Esteem Team CIC, his chosen charity during his tenure as Mayor in 2024-5.

C25/067. To receive applications for the office of Town Councillor and to consider co-opting a candidate to fill a vacant seat in the Halsdon ward.

Members considered two applications for the office of Town Councillor for Halsdon ward: Nicola Nichols and Colin Rowland. The two candidates were asked to give a brief presentation about themselves and respond to questions from members, after which members were asked to vote for their preferred candidate. Nicola Nichols received the higher number of votes and was therefore co-opted as a councillor to Exmouth Town Council, representing Halsdon ward.

RESOLVED: to appoint Nicola Nichols to the position of co-opted Councillor for Halsdon Ward.

C25/068. Matters arising from previous minutes.

There were no matters arising.

C25/069. Declarations of pecuniary interests and dispensations.

There were no declarations of interest.

C25/070. Exclusion of the Press and public.

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

C25/071. 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 June, and 23rd June 2025 be accepted as a true record.

The following were also received and noted:

Deputy Town Clerk's report.

Notes of the Climate and Ecological Emergency working party held on 1st July 2025.

Notes of the Festival and Events Working Party held on 19th June 2025.

Notes of the Town Maintenance Overview Working Party held on 12th June and a verbal update from the meeting held on 17th July 2025.

Notes of the Town Premises and Assets Working Party held on 14th July 2025.

Notes of the Tree Forum held on 24th June 2025.

Notes of the Waterfront Working Party held on 17th June 2025.

Reports from members who represent the Council on Outside Bodies

- **Bus Users and Stake Holders Forum:** notes had been circulated with the agenda.

- **Exmouth District Allotments Association:** Councillor Olly Davey provided an update and confirmed that the association committee is reviewing its governing rules for structures which are erected on allotments. Members asked for clarification on ownership of the boundary hedge at Claremont Lane, which is overgrown, and passed on feedback that restrictions placed on tenants attending committee meetings appears to be causing some disquiet. Councillor Davey agreed to feed this back.

- **Exmouth in Bloom:** Councillor Steve Gazzard provided an update on the recent judging day for Southwest in Bloom for which Exmouth in Bloom had entered the Champion of Champions category. Thanks were extended to the Town Council's Town Maintenance team for their contribution.

- **Fairtrade Steering Group:** Councillor Tim Dumper reported that the Fairtrade Steering Group had a stall at the recent Organ Donor's event and that the Fairtrade fortnight will be held in September/ October this year.

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- **Otter to Exe Clerks and Chair meeting:** Councillor Tim Dumper and Lisa Bowman provided a verbal update. The meeting had been heavily focused on local government reorganisation. Anomalies and inconsistencies in the way that adjoining parishes are consulted on planning applications were also discussed in the context of various development proposal sites in the emerging local plan which are on the borders of Exmouth and its adjoining parishes.

- **Twinning Association:** Councillor Tim Dumper reported that the visit to Langerwehe had been successful and that he had presented the Exmouth Town Council flag to the Burgermeister (mayor).

District Councillors' Reports: Councillor Joe Whibley reported that the Licencing Committee at East Devon District Council had recently undertaken a review of taxi fares and a new methodology was being adopted for taxi fare calculations. Councillor Steve Gazzard reported that East Devon District Council's Overview Committee had also met and discussed the recent recommendations from the Town Council's Campervan TAFF relating to the need for better waste facilities for overnight motorhomes parked at Maer Road carpark. The recommendations from the TAFF had been endorsed by the Committee and will go to Cabinet for approval. In the context of these recommendations, Councillor Fred Caygill queried whether the use of the Rugby Club ground for an annual rally by the Caravan and Motorhome Club complies with spacing and fire regulations. It was agreed that Lisa Bowman and Councillor Joe Whibley will raise the matter with East Devon District Council (landowner of the rugby club site).

County Councillors' Reports:

Councillor Nick Hookway, in his capacity as County Councillor, reported on several matters, including updates relating to the Health and Well-being Board, the Exe Estuary Management Partnership and Devon County Council's Highways and Traffic Orders Committee for East Devon. He also confirmed that a road marking request for the highway outside Littleham School is being prioritised. Councillor Hookway also responded to questions from members about Buckingham Close resurfacing and the highway classification status of Dinan Way, parking on the estuary foreshore and ongoing congestion issues at Littleham Cross. It was noted that Devon County Council Cabinet had approved an additional £3.15 million of walking and cycling routes to be added to the Dinan Way extension project.

C25/072. Appointment of representative to EDDC Placemaking in Exmouth Town and Seafront Group.

Councillor Tim Dumper proposed, Councillor Joe Whibley seconded, and it was agreed by majority that Councillor Dianne Conduit be appointed as a Councillor representative for the Town Council to the EDDC Placemaking in Exmouth Town and Seafront Group.

RESOLVED: to appoint Councillor Dianne Conduit as a Councillor representative for the Town Council to the EDDC Placemaking in Exmouth Town and Seafront Group.

C25/73. To ratify the appointment of Councillor Alex Sadiq to the Festival and Events Working Party.

Councillor Steve Gazzard proposed, Councillor Fred Caygill seconded, and it was agreed by majority that Councillor Alex Sadiq be appointed to the Festival and Events Working Party.

RESOLVED: To appoint Councillor Alex Sadiq to the Festival and Events Working Party

C25/74. To agree the terms of reference for a Community Engagement Task and Finish Forum (TAFF) and agree member appointments.

The Town Clerk had drawn up and circulated draft terms of reference for a Community Engagement Task and Finish Forum [TAFF]. Councillor Mark Williamson proposed adoption of the terms of reference and appointment of Councillor Louise Venables (representing Town ward), Councillor Brian Bailey (representing Littleham ward), Councillor Dan Wilson (representing Haldson ward), Councillor Aurora Bailey (representing Brixington ward) and Councillor Steve Gazzard (representing Withycombe ward). Councillor Steve Gazzard seconded this proposal, and it was carried by majority when put to a vote.

RESOLVED: to adopt the Terms of Reference and the appointment of Councillors for the Community Engagement Task and Finish Forum.

C25/75. To convene an Appeals Panel to review formal complaints submitted to the Council. The Appeals Panel shall consist of three members of the Council who have not served on either the Town Maintenance Overview Working Party or the Festival and Events Working Party during the current or prior civic year. The Panel will be tasked with reviewing the complaints, the Councils response, and any relevant documentation, and will issue a written determination.

The Town Clerk gave a brief explanation of the need to convene the Appeals Panel and sought nominations for three councillor representatives to sit on the panel. Councillor Brian Bailey, Councillor Fred Caygill and Councillor Tim Dumper put their names forward with Councillor Alex Sadiq as reserve. Councillor Fred Caygill subsequently proposed, seconded by Councillor Tim Dumper that the Appeals Panel be convened accordingly for the purpose of reviewing two recent complaints against the Council. This was put to the vote and carried by majority.

RESOLVED: to convene the Appeals Panel with Councillor Brian Bailey, Councillor Fred Caygill and Councillor Tim Dumper as appointees.

C25/76. To approve signature of the renewal lease for the Tourist Information premises at 45A The Strand, Exmouth for a term of 5 years @ £5,660 per annum exclusive.

The Town Clerk provided a brief explanation of this agenda item, in so far as the existing five-year lease for the Tourist Information premises has now expired and negotiations have been taking place with the landlord for a renewal lease.

Councillor Fred Caygill subsequently proposed that the Town Council signs the renewal lease for premises at 45a The Strand. This was seconded by Councillor Nick Hookway and carried by majority when put to a vote.

RESOLVED: that the Town Council signs the renewal lease for premises at 45a The Strand.

The meeting concluded at 20:15 pm.

Signed..... Date.....(Chair)