EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Exmouth Town Hall, St. Andrews Road, Exmouth on Monday 17th November , 2025 at 6.30pm.

Present: **Councillors**

G Deasy (Chair)
A Bailey
B Bailey
F Caygill (left 7.38)
M Chapman
A Colman (arrived 6.43)
D Conduit
T Dumper
S Gazzard
M Hall
N Hookway (arrived 7.05)
I Kirvan
N Nicholls
A Sadiq
L Venables
J Whibley
M Williamson
D Wilson
A Woodward

Officers:
Lisa Bowman, Town Clerk.

Apologies: Apologies were noted from Councillors Olly Davey, Cherry Nicholas, David Poor, Mike Rosser and Pauline Stott.

Public Forum: There were no questions from members of the public.

C25/098. Council meeting minutes
Councillor Brian Bailey proposed, Councillor Mark Williamson seconded, and it was agreed by all that the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted as a true record.

C25/099. Matters arising from previous minutes.
There were no matters arising.

C25/100. Declarations of pecuniary interests and dispensations.
Councillor Matt Hall declared a registerable interest in agenda item 7; he is an employee of Exeter City Council.

C25/101. Exclusion of the Press and public.
There were no items requiring the exclusion of the press and public.

C25/102. 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 13th October, and 27th October 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 4th November 2025.

Notes of the Community Engagement Task and Finish Forum held on 30th September and 28th October 2025.

Notes of the Flooding and Water Quality working party held on 21st October 2025.

Notes of the Festival and Events working party held on 23rd October 2025.

Notes of the Tree Forum held on 22nd October 2025.

Notes of the Town Maintenance Overview working party held on 11th September and 16th October 2025.

Reports from members who represent the Council on Outside Bodies

- **Citizens Advice Bureau:** a report from Councillor David Poor had been circulated by email prior to the meeting.
- **Exe Estuary Management Partnership:** the notes from the recent partnership meeting had been circulated.
- **Exmouth Sea Cadets:** Councillor Fred Caygill confirmed that the mayor's cadet had been invested at a recent meeting.
- **Twinning Association:** Councillor Tim Dumper reported on the sad death of two core members of the Twinning Association.
- **Water Users Group:** it was agreed that the notes would be circulated.

District Councillors' Reports: Councillor Joe Whibley commented on the numerous meetings which had been held regarding Local Government Reorganisation. Councillor Brian Bailey confirmed that the Local Plan submission has been put back to early Spring. It was also noted that the long awaited water cycle study report had been published.

County Councillors' Reports:

Councillor Jeff Trail had sent apologies but provided a report regarding imminent gas leak emergency repairs on the A376 (Exeter Rd). Also, work will start by the Co-op on Exeter Road for the new pelican crossing for approximately 6 weeks and the bus shelter by Scott cinema is being repaired along with new seating being added. A report on LGR will be issued and available on the DCC website from Monday 17th November.

Councillor Nick Hookway provided a verbal update on an upcoming consultation by Devon County Council on the future of Devon's library services and also commented that Devon's Minor Injuries Units are under review by NHS Devon.

C25/103. To receive a briefing from Grahame Forshaw, Harbour Master at Exeter City Council, on the need for a Harbour Revision Order and its implications for Exmouth. Members are asked to note that the Harbour Revision Order is currently out for consultation and to consider whether the Town Council wishes to submit a corporate response.

Grahame Foreshaw confirmed that an application has been submitted by Exeter City council via the maritime marine organisation to the Department for Transport for a harbour revision order. Exeter City Council needs to adopt a new harbour revision order in order to be compliant with the Port Marine Safety Code. This is not mandatory but there is increasing pressure to comply with it. Exeter City Council is not currently compliant with the code because it doesn't have powers of a special direction nor up-to-date powers to deal with things like anti-social behaviour.

Mr Forshaw then answered questions from Members and clarified that:

- The HRO will not provide additional powers to deal with South West Water pollution incidents.
- The services of the harbourmaster cost £650k per annum, all funded by Exeter City Council.
- Exmouth Dock is a port in its own right.
- Recent changes to the Port Marine Safety Code will necessitate compliance by smaller docks and marine facilities.
- The scope for further charges to be levied to users in future will be subject to further consultation with user groups and would have to be reasonable and fair. Also, that if the Harbour Revision Order is approved by the Department for Transport, it will be another two or more years before sign-off by the Secretary of State.
- Exeter City Council already has the power to charge fees.
- Exeter City Council is looking at water injection dredging for the canal.
- Impact of Local Government Reorganisation is unknown.

After discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Fred Caygill, seconded by Councillor Brian bailey and agreed that the Clerk would write to East Devon District Council to seek clarification on their involvement in the matter.

Councillor Nicky Nichols then proposed, seconded by Councillor Louise Venables and it was agreed by a majority of those present, that the Council should publish a

position statement which confirms that the Council understands the legislative need for the Harbour Revision Order under maritime law but is opposed to the introduction of charges

C25/104. It was noted that the next meeting will be held on Monday 15th December and will be followed by end of year refreshments. A collection for the Exmouth Food Bank will also take place at this meeting.

The meeting concluded at 8.00pm.

Signed ……. (Chair)

Date ……..