EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of an Extraordinary Council Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Exmouth Town Hall, St. Andrews Road, Exmouth on Monday 23rd March, 2026 at 6.30pm.

Present: **Councillors**

Joe Whibley (Chair)
A Bailey
B Bailey
M Chapman
A Colman
O Davey
T Dumper
S Gazzard
M Hall
N Hookway
C Nicholas
N Nicholls
M Rosser
P Stott
L Venables
M Williamson
A Woodward

Officers:
Lisa Bowman, Town Clerk.

Apologies: Apologies were noted from Councillors Fred Caygill, Alex Sadiq, Graham Deasy and Dianne Conduit.

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

C26/014. Council meeting minutes
Councillor Tim Dumper proposed, Councillor Steve Gazzard seconded, and it was agreed by all that the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted as a true record.

C26/015. Matters arising from previous minutes.
There were no matters arising.

C26/016. Declarations of pecuniary interests and dispensations.

C26/017. Exclusion of the Press and public.
There were no items requiring the exclusion of the press and public.

C26/018. Endorsement of the Exmouth Placemaking Plan and Strategic Outline Business Case.

Officers from East Devon District Council were in attendance to provide updates on the latest iteration of the Plan and the associated Strategic Outline Business Case which was being put forward for adoption following the public consultation conducted in late 2025.
Members discussed the plan and sought clarification on a number of aspects.

Councillor Matt Hall then proposed, Councillor Maddy Chapman seconded, and it was agreed by majority to endorse the Exmouth Placemaking Plan and Strategic Outline Business Case.

RESOLVED: to endorse the Exmouth Placemaking Plan and Strategic Outline Business Case.

C26/019. To respond to the statutory consultation on the proposals that the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has received following the Secretary of State's invitation to councils in Devon, Plymouth and Torbay to submit proposals for unitary local government for their area.

A briefing note had been circulated before the meeting with recommended responses to all seven consultation questions for the five various proposals which have been put forward for Devon.

Members were happy to support the recommendations as proposed, with the proposal put forward by East Devon, Mid Devon, North Devon and Torridge for three unitary councils with district splits and a Plymouth expansion being the preferred option.

Councillor Steve Gazzard subsequently proposed, Councillor Brian Bailey seconded, and it was agreed by all to support the recommended responses and to give delegated authority to the Clerk to respond on behalf of the Town Council

RESOLVED: to support the recommendations as proposed, with the proposal put forward by East Devon, Mid Devon, North Devon and Torridge for three unitary councils with district splits and a Plymouth expansion being the preferred option.

C26/020. Reopening of The Maer Public Toilets – Costs for 2026 Season. Members are asked to consider whether the Town Council wishes to support the reopening of the Maer toilets for the 2026 season; and if so, whether to allocate £19,774.72 to cover the operational costs for the period 1 April – 30 September 2026.

Councillor Steve Gazzard proposed, Councillor Maddy Chapman seconded, and it was agreed that the Town Council will allocate £19,774.72 to support the reopening of the Maer Public Toilets for the period 1 April – 30 September 2026.

RESOLVED: that the Town Council will allocate £19,774.72 to support the reopening of the Maer Public Toilets for the period 1 April – 30 September 2026.

The meeting concluded at 8pm.

Signed ……. (Chair)

Date ……..