EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Exmouth Town Hall, St. Andrews Road, Exmouth on Monday 20th April , 2026 at 6.30pm.

Present: **Councillors**

G Deasy (Chair)	S Isaacs
A Bailey	C Nicholas
B Bailey	N Nicholls
M Chapman	A Sadiq
O Davey	P Stott
T Dumper	L Venables
S Gazzard	J Whibley
M Hall	M Williamson
N Hookway (arrived 7.30)	D Wilson

Officers:
Lisa Bowman, Town Clerk.

Apologies: Apologies were noted from Councillors Fred Caygill, Andrew Colman, Dianne Conduit, Ian Kirvan, David Poor, Mike Rosser and Andrew Woodward.

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

C26/021. Council meeting minutes
Councillor Pauline Stott proposed, Councillor Maddy Chapman seconded, and it was agreed by all that the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted as a true record.

C26/022. Matters arising from previous minutes.
There were no matters arising.

C26/023. Declarations of pecuniary interests and dispensations.

C26/024. Exclusion of the Press and public.

C26/025. 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 2nd February, 16th February, 2nd March, 16th March and 30th March 2026 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 the 19th February 2026 be accepted as a true record.

The following were also received and noted:

Notes of the Climate and Ecological Emergency working party held on the 3rd February and the 10th March 2026 and a verbal update from the meeting held on the 14th April 2026. Members raised concerns about litter and waste on Exmouth beach and the impact of student visitors, and agreed that outreach should be undertaken with the University of Exeter, Exeter College and local schools to encourage responsible behaviour and disposal of rubbish; delegated authority was given to the Clerk to write to these organisations on behalf of the Council.

Notes of the Exmouth Transport Partnership working party held on the 3rd March 2026.

Notes of the Festival and Events working party held on the 12th February and the 12th March 2026.

Notes of the Public Rights of Way working party held on the 11th February 2026.

Notes of the S106 & CIL working party held on the 7th April 2026.

Notes of the Tree Forum held on the 1st April 2026.

Notes of the Town Maintenance Overview working party held on the 5th February and the 9th April 2026.

Notes of the Waterfront working party Inspection report held on the 10th March 2026.

Reports from members who represent the Council on Outside Bodies

Verbal updates were noted, where available, in respect of the following:

- Exmouth District Allotments Association:
- Exe Estuary Management Partnership:
- Exmouth Beach Management Plan Steering Group:
- Exmouth and District Community Transport:
- Exmouth in Bloom:
- Placemaking in Exmouth Town and Seafront Group:
- WEB Community Health and Wellbeing Board:

District Councillors' Reports: Councillor Joe Whibley highlighted East Devon District Council's role as the licensing authority and concerns about alcohol consumption at events on the seafront and the associated risk of antisocial behaviour, emphasising the need for joined-up working with relevant partners. Councillor Tim Dumper provided an update on the work of the District Council's Standards Committee.

County Councillors' Reports: Nick Hookway, County Councillor for Exmouth and Budleigh Salterton, provided an update on Devon County Council matters, including the current work schedule for Salterton Road and confirmed the forthcoming relaunch of the Road Warden scheme. He also advised that the County Council's libraries consultation had received over 20,000 responses, with the future of Exmouth Library still under discussion and a stronger emphasis emerging on its role as a community focussed facility.

C26/026. To receive the closing report and consider any associated recommendations from the Community Engagement Task and Finish Forum

Members received the closing report of the Community Engagement Task and Finish Forum and considered the associated recommendations. Discussion focused on the merits of establishing a dedicated Community Engagement / Communications Officer, with Members recognising the potential value of the role but noting that further work is required to clearly define its scope, purpose and outcomes. It was agreed that options should be explored further in conjunction with the HR Group. Members also noted that the emerging Neighbourhood Plan presents a timely opportunity to strengthen community engagement activity across the town.

Councillor Brian Bialey proposed, Councillor Nicky Nichols seconded and it was agreed by majority that a Community Engagement Working Party be established, to be inaugurated at the Annual Town Council Meeting. The Clerk will draft proposed Terms of Reference for the Working Party and the Working Party will take forward and work through the recommendations of the Community Engagement Task and Finish Forum and report back to the HR Group and/or Full Council, as appropriate.

RESOLVED: That a Community Engagement Working Party be established, to be inaugurated at the Annual Town Council Meeting. The Clerk be requested to draft proposed Terms of Reference for the Working Party. The Working Party will take forward and work through the recommendations of the Community Engagement Task and Finish Forum and report back to the HR Group and/or Full Council, as appropriate.

C26/027. To ratify the appointment of Bethany Gibbons from Westcotts as the Council's Internal Auditor.

Councillor Steve Gazzard proposed, Councillor Pauline Stott seconded and it was agreed by all that Bethany Gibbons be appointed as the Council's internal auditor.

RESOLVED: That Bethany Gibbons from Westcotts be appointed as the Council's Internal Auditor.

C26/028. To ratify the Council's Discretions Policy for the Local Government Pension Scheme.

Councillor Alex Sadiq proposed, Councillor Maddy Chapman seconded and it was agreed that the Discretions Policy be adopted.

RESOLVED: that the proposed Discretions Policy be adopted.

C26/029. The date of the Annual Town Council meeting was noted as Monday 18th May 2026.

The meeting concluded at 8.08 pm.

Signed ……. (Chair)

Date ……..