

## **EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the meeting of the Council held**

### **at Knowle, Sidmouth on 29 April 2015**

#### **Attendance list at end of document**

The meeting started at 6.30pm and ended at 7.36pm.

#### **\*63 Obituary – Alan Stephen Pascoe**

The Chairman announced with great sadness that former Councillor Alan Pascoe had passed away. Alan had been elected in 1999 and represented Sidmouth Town ward until he permanently moved to Cyprus in 2005. During his time on the District Council, Alan had served on a range of Committees including planning, housing (of which he was Vice Chairman) and a number of Overview Committees. He also served on Sub Committees and Panels and represented the Council at meetings of the Local Government Association.

The Chairman invited Members to stand in silence as a mark of respect.

#### **\*64 Public Speaking**

There were no questions raised.

#### **\*65 Minutes**

The minutes (with Council Tax Schedules 1,2 & 3) of the meeting of the Council held on 25 February 2015 and minutes of the Extraordinary meetings of the Council held on 25 March 2015 (Office Relocation) and 26 March 2015 (Local Plan) were confirmed and signed as a true record.

#### **\*66 Declarations**

There were none.

#### **\*67 Chairman/Leader notices/announcements**

- a) The Chairman congratulated officers who had raised a significant amount of money for charity by taking part in the London Marathon the previous Sunday.
- b) The Leader announced that following a detailed assessment the Council had been accredited with Member Development Charter Plus – this built on the previous Charter accreditation. He congratulated the Member Champion for Member Development, Councillors and Officers on this major achievement.

#### **\*68 Questions (Procedure Rules 9.2 and 9.5)**

No questions had been submitted in accordance with Procedure Rule 9.2.

#### **\*69 Minutes of Cabinet and Committees**

Note:

Recommendation at Minute 191- Office relocation had already been referred to the Extraordinary meeting of Council on 25 March 2015

Recommendations at Minute 64 – proposed amendments and supporting evidence to the New East Devon Local Plan and at Minute 65 – amendments to the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) draft Charging Schedule had already been referred to the Extraordinary meeting of Council on 26 March 2015

Recommendations of the combined meeting of Audit and Governance Committee and Overview and Scrutiny Committee on office relocation had already been referred to the Extraordinary meeting of Council on 25 March 2015)

## **RESOLVED**

1. that the under-mentioned minutes be received and the recommendations approved

### **Cabinet**

Minutes 181 – 199, 200 – 218

### **Development Management Committee**

Minutes 57 – 62, 63 – 65, 66 - 71

### **Planning Inspections Committee**

Minutes 22 - 24

### **Audit and Governance Committee**

Minutes 46 – 56

### **Licensing and Enforcement Committee**

Minutes 10 - 13

### **Licensing and Enforcement Sub Committee**

Minutes 26 – 28, 29 – 31, 32 - 36

### **Combined meeting of Audit and Governance Committee and Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Minutes 1 – 5

## **RESOLVED**

2. that the under-mentioned minutes be received.

Cabinet (minutes 187, 207 and 208) had noted or accepted the following Overview/Scrutiny Committees' and Housing Review Board's recommendations with or without amendment.

### **Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Minutes 68 – 80, 81 - 88

### **Housing Review Board**

Minutes 74 - 91

### **Arising from consideration of the above minutes:-**

#### **a) Cabinet (minute 188 – Recycling and Refuse Partnership Board)**

The wording to be corrected to refer to Exmouth Town rather than the more colloquial reference to the Colony.

#### **b) Overview and Scrutiny**

In presenting the minutes, Councillor Tim Wood, took the opportunity to reflect on his time as Chairman of the Committee and as a member of the Council. He advised that he regretted the Council's decision to change the committee structure to a Cabinet structure as he felt this had resulted in the decision making process being less visible to the public and did not readily allow 'backbench' councillors to build up a body of expertise. He invited the Council to think carefully about how it

structured meetings to ensure there was public confidence in the work of the Council. He also spoke of the need for more rigorous scrutiny of the Council's processes in the future and of genuine consultation. He suggested that the annual report be referred to the April meeting of the Council in future, particularly during election years, to allow Councillors to note and recognise the work of the Committee.

**c) Housing Review Board**

In presenting the minutes, Councillor Pauline Stott, spoke of the excellent work of the officers within the housing teams.

**d) Development Management Committee and Planning Inspections Committee**

In presenting the minutes, Councillor Helen Parr, thanked the Committee members and officers for all their hard work during her chairmanship of the two Committees. She drew attention to the Council's outstanding appeal decision record, which was above the national average and reflected the good decision making of the Council in respect of planning applications.

**e) Audit and Governance Committee**

In presenting the minutes, Councillor Ken Potter, spoke proudly of the way in which the Council adhered to its governance arrangements and paid tribute to the excellent and valued work of Strategic Lead – Finance and his teams, along with the internal and external auditors.

**f) Licensing and Enforcement Committee and Licensing and Enforcement Sub Committee**

In presenting the minutes, Councillor Steve Hall, spoke of the good work of the Committee, particularly his Vice Chairman, and officers which was reflected in the decision making.

**\*70 Retiring Members of Council**

The Chairman of the Council presented plaques to the following members who were not seeking re-election to the District Council on 7 May 2015:-

Councillors	Deborah Custance Baker	(4 years service)
	Tony Howard	(4 years service)
	Claire Wright	(4 years service)
	Vivien Duval Steer	(8 years service)
	Ken Potter	(8 years service)
	Tim Wood	(8 years service)
	Chris Wale	(12 years service)
	David Cox	(12 years service)
	John Jeffery	(16 years service)
	Steve Wragg	(16 years service)
	Trevor Cope	(20 years service)
	Peter Halse	(21 years service)
	Geoff Chamberlain	(35 years service)

The Chairman paid tribute individually to the service given by each of the retiring Members and extended the Council's thanks and appreciation for their valued work over the years.

Retiring Councillors were given the opportunity to address Members present. Members spoke with fondness about their time on the Council and the fulfilment they had found in serving their local communities and the wider district. Thanks were paid to the officers of the Council for their valued work and to fellow Councillors for their support over the past years; good wishes were expressed to the Council for the future.

Councillor Geoff Chamberlain received a standing ovation.

### **Attendance list**

#### **Councillors present:**

Graham Godbeer, Chairman  
Christine Drew, Vice Chairman

Mike Allen  
Ray Bloxham  
Roger Boote  
Susie Bond  
Bob Buxton  
Geoff Chamberlain  
David Chapman  
Maddy Chapman  
Iain Chubb  
Trevor Cope  
David Cox  
Deborah Custance Baker  
Paul Diviani  
Vivien Duval Steer  
Jill Elson  
Martin Gammell  
Pat Graham  
Steve Hall  
Peter Halse  
Tony Howard  
Mike Howe  
Stuart Hughes  
Douglas Hull  
Ben Ingham  
John Jeffery  
Stephanie Jones  
Jim Knight  
Andrew Moulding  
Frances Newth  
John O'Leary  
Helen Parr  
Geoff Pook

Ken Potter  
Philip Skinner  
Pauline Stott  
Brenda Taylor  
Ian Thomas  
Graham Troman  
Phil Twiss  
Mark Williamson  
Tim Wood  
Eileen Wragg  
Steve Wragg  
Tom Wright

**Officers:**

Mark Williams, Chief Executive  
Richard Cohen, Deputy Chief Executive  
Henry Gordon Lennox, Strategic Lead – Legal and Democratic Services  
Debbie Meakin, Democratic Services Officer  
Diana Vernon, Democratic Services Manager  
Hannah Whitfield, Democratic Services Officer

**Councillor apologies:**

David Atkins  
Alan Dent  
Steve Gazzard  
Roger Giles  
John Humphreys  
Sheila Kerridge  
David Key  
Peter Sullivan  
Claire Wright

**Honorary Aldermen apologies:**

Trevor Ffoulkes  
Bernard Hughes  
Ann Liverton  
Graham Liverton  
Margaret Rogers  
David Scott

Chairman .....

Date.....