

EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held at Knowle, Sidmouth, on Wednesday, 26 October 2016

Attendance list at the end of document.

The meeting started at 6.30pm and ended at 7.43 pm

***33 Public speaking**

The Chairman welcomed those present and invited members of the public to speak to the Council.

One question had been received with notice under the terms of 'questions and statements by the public'. The Chairman asked the member of the public to read out her question to Council.

Question received with notice - Louise MacAllister

'At the last Full Council meeting on 27 July I asked a question about the Exmouth town poll of 20 April 2016, questioning when a response would be forthcoming from this Council. At the meeting of 27 July the response I received was simply that this is being looked into. Almost two months later and there has still been no official response, and importantly, no suggestion that this Council intends to hold a full, and independent consultation with Exmouth residents on the future of The Queen's Drive area before any further work takes place. This is not just about phase three, it is about consulting Exmouth residents on the possible futures of The Queen's Drive, not what they think about a developer's vision.

Considering both the silence from this council with regards to the town poll, and that the work on The Queen's Drive has continued with the untimely demolition of Jungle Fun and the Crazy Golf, should the residents of Exmouth take it that this means there will be no independent consultation on the future of the Queen's Drive?'

In the absence of Councillor Philip Skinner (Chairman of the Exmouth Regeneration Board), Councillor Andrew Moulding responded to the question put by Louise MacAllister. He advised that the Council had previously confirmed its commitment to further public consultation and engagement regarding Queen's Drive. Consultation was integral to everything the Council does and engagement of interested parties and the public regarding the evolution of the Exmouth Seafront would continue. He advised that the Council had decided to revisit how it planned to bring forward the remainder of the site and encouraged new ideas to rejuvenate the area. There would be full public consultation around the watersports hub and seafront space surrounding it and Councillors and Officers were regularly gauging people's views and opinions about what was best for Exmouth. It was recognised that change was a challenging process for everyone, however there were many people that supported the Council's vision for the area as they could see the huge economic benefits to the town from the much needed investment. The main aim of the Council was to achieve the very best new facilities for Exmouth and consultation would inform how it proceeded.

Under the Council's terms in respect of questions submitted in advance, the questioner had the right to ask a supplementary question relevant to the original question printed above.

Supplementary Question -

Louise MacAllister asked for confirmation as to whether or not there would be an independent consultation (meaning independent from the developer) before any plans were decided as was asked for by the town poll.

In response Councillor Moulding advised that at this stage the form of consultation had not been decided, however he reassured that the consultation would be fair and that everybody would have an opportunity to have their say. Responses to the consultation would be carefully considered by the Council.

The Chairman thanked Louise MacAllister for her question.

There were no other members of the public that wished to address the Council.

***34 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 27 July 2016 were confirmed and signed as a true record.

***35 Declarations of interest**

Councillor Darryl Nicholas; Minute No. *40

Type of interest – Personal interest

Reason – Employed by the Northern, Eastern and Western Devon Clinical Commissioning Group (left the Chamber during the discussion and vote)

Councillor Jill Elson; No. *40

Type of interest – Personal interest

Reason – Voluntary Driver for Exmouth and Lypstone Hospiscare and Councillor's sister works for Exmouth and Lypstone Hospiscare

Councillor Eileen Wragg; Minute No. *40

Type of interest – Personal interest

Reason – Member of Devon County Council's Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Douglas Hull; Minute No. *40

Type of interest – Personal interest

Reason – Governor of Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital

Councillor Paul Diviani; Minute No. *40

Type of interest – Personal interest

Reason – Member of Devon County Council's Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

***36 Matters of urgency**

No matters of urgency had been identified.

***37 Chairman/Leader notices/announcements**

- Following the recent by-election, the Chairman formally welcomed Darryl Nicholas (Exmouth Brixington Ward) onto the Council.
- The Chairman congratulated East Devon's towns and parishes for their fantastic achievements in this year's national RHS Britain in Bloom

competition. Councillors Geoff Pook and Pat Graham spoke of the hard work put in by dedicated members of the community without whom the successes could never be achieved and paid particular thanks to Streetscene.

***38 Questions (Procedure Rules 9.2 and 9.5)**

Four questions had been submitted in accordance with Procedure Rule 9.2 - the printed [questions and answers](#) were circulated at the meeting. Councillors submitting questions are entitled to put a related supplementary question (Procedure Rule 9.5). The response to the supplementary question asked is set out below.

- a) Question 1 – In response to the supplementary question, the Deputy Chief Executive advised that he and the Portfolio Holder – Economy had met with Wayne Hemingway and his design team and that further discussions were planned; however this did not mean that a preferred developer had been chosen – the intention was to ensure that there was the necessary expertise to review phase three of the project. This process would involve public engagement and consultation. He clarified that the review may result in changes to the proposals, but these would still be based around the approved planning application. There would be a report to the next Cabinet meeting.
- b) Question 2 – No supplementary question was asked.
- c) Question 3 – No supplementary question was asked.
- d) Question 4 – No supplementary question was asked.

***39 Minutes of Cabinet and Committees**

RESOLVED

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

Cabinet

Minutes 36 – 52, 53 – 73

Strategic Planning Committee

Minutes 8 – 14

Development Management Committee

Minutes 11 – 14, 15 – 18, 19 – 22

Audit and Governance Committee

Minutes 15 – 23

Standards Committee

Minutes 1 – 7

Licensing and Enforcement Committee

Minutes 1 - 3

Licensing and Enforcement Sub Committee

Minutes 1 – 3, 4 – 6, 7 – 10

that the under-mentioned minutes be received.

Cabinet (minutes 45, 62, 66) had noted or accepted the following Overview/Scrutiny Committees' recommendations with or without amendment.

Scrutiny Committee

Minutes 7 – 11, 12 – 18

Housing Review Board

Minutes 21 – 36

Arising from consideration of the above minutes:-

➤ **Strategic Planning Committee (minute *10 - Cranbrook Development Plan Document: Issues and Options Consultation and minute *12 – A30 Honiton to Devonshire Inn – Highway Improvement Scheme)**

Councillor Roger Giles spoke of the importance of the rail-line to the District and the need for the Council to be pressing for investment and improvement, particularly the passing loop between Broadclyst and Whimble to enable a more frequent service. In response, Councillor Twiss, a representative on SELCA (Salisbury to Exeter Lineside Consortium of Authorities), advised that the group was currently focusing on improving the frequency of service between Axminster and Exeter and a matrix had been drawn up for increasing the service from Exeter to Yeovil junction to a three per hour service. These improvements were advised to be dependent on both the railway infrastructure and the franchise. He suggested that he could attend a future meeting of the Scrutiny Committee to update Members on progress being made.

*40 **Motion: Loss of community beds**

The following motion was proposed by Councillor Peter Burrows, seconded by Councillor Douglas Hull and supported by Councillors Eileen Wragg, Pat Graham, Brenda Taylor and Steve Gazzard.

“That this Council register its extreme concern at the impending loss of 71 Community beds in this part of Devon.

It is a well-known fact, particularly in coastal and rural Devon, that there is an above average population of elderly people. Older people take longer to recuperate from illness, hospital admission and operations.

Community services are already overstretched and there is an acute lack of appropriate carers to care for people in their own homes.

Our District General Hospitals increasingly find it difficult to keep up with demand due to the fact that they cannot discharge people when they are ready because of the lack of community services.

All the Government advice has been to encourage the care of people close to their homes.

We thank Devon MPs, including Sir Hugo Swire and Neil Parish, who secured a debate at Westminster on the 18 of October, to air their concerns about proposed changes to community bed provision in East Devon, and that this Council write to them urging them to continue speaking on behalf of all residents in East Devon, so

that an ill thought out decision which has come about only for financial reasons, is urgently re-considered by the Devon CCG.”

The proposer of the motion, Councillor Peter Burrows, spoke of the importance of the District Council giving its views on the matter and that the proposals regarding the loss of community beds would adversely impact many rural East Devon communities.

The seconder of the motion, Councillor Douglas Hull, commented on the need to look after the vulnerable and increasing number of elderly members of the community and referred to the increased pressures on carers, which would be intensified by the proposals. He asked that the Scrutiny Committee when it considered the consultation at its November meeting give consideration to monitoring and keeping the local MPs regularly updated on the matter.

Councillor Cathy Gardner proposed an amendment to the motion, which was seconded by Councillor Megan Armstrong. In proposing her amendment, Councillor Gardner advised that things had moved on since the motion had been published with the matter having been recently discussed by MPs at Westminster. Therefore it was considered that the motion should be more specific in asking MPs to demand the retention of beds across East Devon, as this was a crucial part of the community care package, as well as ensuring that there was sufficient funding to deliver the community care.

The motion was discussed at length. Point raised included:

- The motion was welcomed;
- The Clinical Commissioning Group’s (CCG) consultation was considered to be biased and inaccurate and did not take into account the increase in elderly people within the District or the projected population figures;
- The CCG was not ‘rural proofing’ by proposing the loss of beds in the communities where a large number of frail elderly people lived and many people did not have access to transport;
- Other areas had struggled to make the ‘Care in the Community’ package work;
- Dementia and mental health provision, as well as the viability of other services, has been ignored in the consultation;
- The ‘success regime’ should be abolished;
- Concern that patients would suffer from the lack of care provision if the proposals were agreed;
- Residents wished to be cared for at home and to be as independent as possible, however only if it was safe for them to do so;
- There was a lack of personal care workers and community nurses for ‘Care in the Community’ and ‘Hospital at Home’;
- Inpatient beds in community hospitals were required, otherwise, due to a lack of nursing/residential homes or packages of care for in the patient’s own home, the RD&E could not discharge patients – this would lead to an increase in ‘bed-blocking’ at the RD&E;
- There was a need to consider whether Community Hospitals could provide other services as well as medical services. Reference was made to Budleigh Salterton Hospital which, after several years of waiting, was hoped would become a ‘Well Being Hub’ the following year;
- Concerns were raised about social isolation and who would be looking after family members who became full-time carers;

- There was a lack of carers reported throughout the country – this needed to be addressed before any proposals were agreed;
- The method of consultation disadvantaged those that did not have access to the internet;
- Concerns were raised about the management of funds by the CCG – it was suggested that the CCG be asked to provide a full set of audited accounts;
- The amendment proposed was not required as MPs were aware of and were taking forward the concerns of the District.

The amendment was put to the vote and lost.

The Chairman invited the Councillor Burrows to sum up his motion. Councillor Burrows advised that he took the loss of community beds very seriously due to the impact it would have on communities within East Devon. He spoke of the need to raise awareness and engage the younger generation in the issue, as they would be ones looking after parents in future years if beds were lost. He thanked Members for the discussion on the motion and for their support.

The motion was put to the vote and carried.

RESOLVED: that this Council register its extreme concern at the impending loss of 71 Community beds in this part of Devon. It is a well-known fact, particularly in coastal and rural Devon, that there is an above average population of elderly people. Older people take longer to recuperate from illness, hospital admission and operations. Community services are already overstretched and there is an acute lack of appropriate carers to care for people in their own homes. Our District General Hospitals increasingly find it difficult to keep up with demand due to the fact that they cannot discharge people when they are ready because of the lack of community services. All the Government advice has been to encourage the care of people close to their homes. We thank Devon MPs, including Sir Hugo Swire and Neil Parish, who secured a debate at Westminster on the 18 of October, to air their concerns about proposed changes to community bed provision in East Devon, and that this Council write to them urging them to continue speaking on behalf of all residents in East Devon, so that an ill thought out decision which has come about only for financial reasons, is urgently re-considered by the Devon CCG.

*41 **Housing Review Board appointment**

RESOLVED: that Victor Kemp be co-opted as a tenant/leaseholder representative on to the Housing Review Board.

*42 **Committee membership**

RESOLVED:

1. that Councillor Darryl Nicholas be appointed on to Scrutiny Committee (replacing Councillor Jenny Brown);
2. that Councillor Marcus Hartnell be removed from Licensing and Enforcement Committee to regularise the number of Members on that Committee (15);
3. that Councillor Mike Howe be appointed on to the Strata Scrutiny Committee, with Councillor Cherry Nicholas as his substitute.

- *43 **Member Champion/Lead Councillor**
RESOLVED: that Councillor Darryl Nicholas be appointed as Lead Councillor for Sport and Recreation.
- *44 **Housing Review Board appointment**
RESOLVED: that the Health and Wellbeing Champion be appointed as the Council's substitute on the Woodbury, Exmouth and Budleigh (WEB) Community Health and Wellbeing Board.

Attendance list

Councillors present:

Stuart Hughes (Chairman)
Helen Parr (Vice Chairman)

Mike Allen
Megan Armstrong
Brian Bailey
David Barratt
Dean Barrow
Susie Bond
Matthew Booth
Peter Bowden
Colin Brown
Jenny Brown
Peter Burrows
Paul Carter
Maddy Chapman
Iain Chubb
Matt Coppel
Alan Dent
Paul Diviani
Bruce de Saram
John Dyson
Jill Elson
Peter Faithfull
Cathy Gardner
Steve Gazzard
Roger Giles
Pat Graham
Simon Grundy
Maria Hale
Ian Hall
Steve Hall
Douglas Hull
John Humphreys
Ben Ingham
David Key
Jim Knight
Dawn Manley
Andrew Moulding
Bill Nash

Cherry Nicholas
Darryl Nicholas
John O'Leary
Christopher Pepper
Geoff Pook
Val Ranger
Marianne Rixson
Pauline Stott
Brenda Taylor
Ian Thomas
Phil Twiss
Eileen Wragg
Tom Wright

Honorary Aldermen:

Christine Drew
Tim Wood

Officers:

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

Councillor apologies:

Graham Godbeer
Marcus Hartnell
Mike Howe
Geoff Jung
Rob Longhurst
Philip Skinner
Mark Williamson

Honorary Aldermen apologies:

Stephanie Jones
Ann Liverton
Graham Liverton
Frances Newth
Ken Potter

Chairman

Date