

EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held at Knowle, Sidmouth, on Wednesday, 25 October 2017

Attendance list at the end of document.

The meeting started at 6.30pm and ended at 7.15pm.

***35 Public speaking**

The Chairman welcomed all those present to the meeting. There were no members of the public wishing to address the Council.

Councillor Marianne Rixson spoke on a petition handed into the Monitoring Officer by Jackie Green regarding the redevelopment of Port Royal in Sidmouth. She advised that the petition had over 1900 signatures from residents and visitors urging the Council to consider their alternative plan to retain, refurbish and re-use in the regeneration proposal for Port Royal, in place of the current 'multi-use development'. She stated that the petition underpinned the results of the Neighbourhood Plan Survey and that there was no evidence to demonstrate the need for the homes proposed. She asked that the Council took the Neighbourhood Plan, public consultation and petition into consideration and found a way to redevelop the area for the benefit of the community.

The Chairman advised that the petition would be considered outside of the meeting by the Monitoring Officer.

***36 Minutes**

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 26 July 2017 were confirmed and signed as a true record.

The minutes of the first Extraordinary Council meeting held on 13 September 2017 were confirmed and signed as true record, subject to the declaration of personal interest made by Cllr Jill Elson being amended to state that her sister is the Manager of the Exmouth Lympstone Hospice care.

The minutes of the second Extraordinary Council meeting held on 13 September 2017 were confirmed and signed as a true record.

***37 Declarations of interest**

Councillor Jill Elson – Minute *40, Motion - Community Infrastructure Levy Review report to Government

Type of interest – Personal interest

Reason – Governor of Exmouth Community College

Councillor John Dyson – Minute *34, Minutes of Cabinet and Committees

Type of interest – Personal interest

Reason – Trustee, Sidmouth Folk Week

Councillor Douglas Hull – Minute *34, Minutes of Cabinet and Committees

Type of interest – Personal interest

Reason – Member of Axminster Carnival Club Committee

***38 Chairman/Leader notices/announcements**

The Chairman wanted to bring Council's attention to a number of awards received for our work at EDDC:

- The first was to the Major Planning Team in the Planning Department who had won a Joint award with Devon County Council and the developers, Barratt David Wilson Homes, for their collaborative approach to design in the development of 250 homes at Tithe Barn Green, for which they had won the Building for Life Accreditation Award. This was the Government Endorsed Industry Standard for well designed Houses and Neighbourhoods, and was a very positive achievement for EDDC.
- There were also accolades for the recent work on recycling, which had resulted in EDDC winning the Green Apple Environment Award in recognition of good practice on recycling, waste and resource management. The award would be picked up by the Portfolio Holder – Environment (Councillor Tom Wright) at the House of Commons in November. EDDC was also a finalist on the national LARAC awards (Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee) for the best Communication campaign.

The chairman took the opportunity to congratulate all those who contributed to the work resulting in these awards.

The Leader reported that Lord Porter would be visiting the area in the near future. The Leader would also be involved in an upcoming Peer Review.

***39 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), however there were no supplementary questions asked.

***40 Minutes of Cabinet and Committees**

RESOLVED

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

Cabinet

Minutes 42 – 71, 72 – 93

Local Housing Company Sub Committee

Minutes 1 - 3

Development Management Committee

Minutes 9 – 14, 15 – 18, 19 – 22, 23 – 24

Audit and Governance Committee

Minutes 16 – 26

Licensing and Enforcement Committee

Minutes 4 – 8,

Licensing and Enforcement Sub Committee

Minutes 14 – 16, 17– 19, 20 – 22, 23 – 25, 26 – 28

Standards Committee

Minutes 1 – 7, 8 - 13

2. that the under-mentioned minutes be received.

Cabinet (minutes 53, 54, 81, 85) had noted or accepted the following Overview/Scrutiny Committees' recommendations with or without amendment.

Scrutiny Committee

Minutes 8 – 13, 14 – 18

Overview Committee

Minutes 1 – 7

Housing Review Board

Minutes 16 – 31

Arising from consideration of the above minutes:-

- **Cabinet; minute number *65 – Driving at Work Policy**
Councillor Peter Burrows queried the figures relating to the number of Councillors travelling over 1000 miles per annum, as he did not consider this to be accurate. In response, the Chief Executive advised that the figure would be checked.
- **Overview; minute number *5 – Investigating impact of introducing charges for clearing up after events**
Councillor Roger Giles spoke of the boost to the economy events, such as tar barrels, brought to the area and raised concern about the impact the introduction of charges for clearing up after events would have on the organisers who worked hard to ensure the events continued year after year. During discussion, other members commented on the potential detrimental impact such charges could have on local events, which were important to the area's tourism. Councillor Burrows advised that since the meeting the original transformation saving identified by introducing charging for clearing up after major events had been removed from the transformation strategy. The Chairman of Overview Committee, Councillor Godbeer, thanked Members for their contributions and praised the hard work undertaken by Streetscene following major events.

***41 Substitute appointment to South East Devon Habitat Regulations Executive Committee**

RESOLVED: that the Portfolio Holder – Environment be appointed as the Council's substitute member on the South East Devon Habitat Regulations Executive Committee.

***42 Licensing and Enforcement Committee – Amendment to membership**

RESOLVED: that Councillor Jenny Brown be replaced with Councillor Pauline Stott on the Licensing and Enforcement Committee.

***43 Appointment of an additional Housing Designated Person**

RESOLVED: that Councillor Bruce de Saram be confirmed as one of the Council's Housing Designated Persons.

***44 Appointment of Tenant representative on Housing review Board**

RESOLVED: that Peter Sullivan be formally appointed to fill the vacant tenant representative position on the Housing Review Board.

***45 Increase in membership of Audit and Governance Committee**

The Chairman of the Audit and Governance Committee, Cllr Williamson, outlined the reasons for seeking an increased Committee membership, including the Committee's significant Terms of Reference. A survey by the South West Audit Partnership had also shown that the Committee's current membership was light when compared with other local authorities. The Legal and Democratic Services Team were thanked for their help in preparing the report which had been presented to Audit and Governance for consideration.

RESOLVED: that following approval of the recommendation that the Audit and Governance Committee be increased from 8 members to 10, Councillors Steve Hall and Councillor Rob Longhurst be appointed to the Committee.

***46 Motion – Community Infrastructure Levy Review report to Government**

The following motion was proposed by Cllr Jill Elson, seconded by Cllr Mike Howe and supported by Cllr Cherry Nicholas, Cllr Pauline Stott and Cllr Phil Twiss

'That the Council write to the government urging them to take swift action to adopt the findings of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Review Team recommendations as detailed in their report "A New Approach To Developer Contributions" (available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/community-infrastructure-levy-review-report-to-government>). A copy to be sent to Rt.Hon.Sir Hugo Swire MP, Mel Stride MP and Neil Parish MP'.

The proposer of the motion, Councillor Jill Elson, advised that CIL had been intended to be fairer, faster and simpler and a more transparent way of funding infrastructure. However, it had proven to be overly complicated and confusing with many developments being exempt from paying any CIL. CIL was generating substantially less money for funding infrastructure than the previous Section 106 system, putting a burden of delivery of infrastructure onto local authorities. She raised concern that the current system would not be able to deliver the infrastructure required and stressed the importance of the Government addressing the issue as a priority and delivering the recommendations in the review for a Local Infrastructure Tariff to be paid by developments. She spoke of the alarming consequences and impacts the current system was having on education in East Devon and urged Councillors to support the motion.

The seconder of the motion, Councillor Mike Howe spoke of the critical need for the Government to take action and introduce changes to the current system. He outlined the huge funding gaps that existed between the cost of the infrastructure required and the levels of CIL expected. He stressed that certainty was needed going forward.

RESOLVED: that the Council write to the government urging them to take swift action to adopt the findings of the Community Infrastructure Levy Review Team recommendations as detailed in their report “A New Approach To Developer Contributions (available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/community-infrastructure-levy-review-report-to-government>). A copy of the letter to be sent to Rt.Hon.Sir Hugo Swire MP, Mel Stride MP and Neil Parish MP.

Attendance list

Councillors present:

Andrew Moulding (Chairman)
David Key (Vice Chairman)

David Barratt
Dean Barrow
Susie Bond
Matt Booth
Colin Brown
Jenny Brown
Peter Burrows
Paul Carter
Maddy Chapman
Iain Chubb
Alan Dent
Paul Diviani
John Dyson
Jill Elson
Mark Evans-Martin
Peter Faithfull
Steve Gazzard
Roger Giles
Graham Godbeer
Simon Grundy
Steve Hall
Mike Howe
Douglas Hull
Ben Ingham
Jim Knight
Dawn Manley
Cherry Nicholas
John O’Leary
Helen Parr
Geoff Pook
Marianne Rixson
Phil Skinner
Pauline Stott
Brenda Taylor

Ian Thomas
Phil Twiss
Mark Williamson
Eileen Wragg
Tom Wright

Honorary Aldermen:

Christine Drew
Frances Newth

Officers:

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

Councillor apologies:

Mike Allen
Brian Bailey
Cathy Gardner
Pat Graham
Ian Hall
Marcus Hartnell
Stuart Hughes
Rob Longhurst
Bill Nash
Darryl Nicholas
Chris Pepper
Val Ranger
Eleanor Rylance
Bruce de Saram

Honorary Aldermen apologies:

David Atkins
Trevor Cope
Steph Jones
Ann Liverton
Graham Liverton
Bob Peachey
David Scott

Chairman

Date