

EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Extraordinary Scrutiny Committee held at Council Chamber, Blackdown House, Honiton on 24 October 2019

Attendance list at end of document

The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 6.30 pm

31 Public speaking

Liza McLean speaking as a resident and retailer in Sidmouth reiterated concerns that had been raised by James McLean at Cabinet on 2 October 2019 about turning the 11 remaining free car park spaces in Temple Street car park into a pay and display status and held up a petition of nearly 700 names opposing the changes. She raised concerns that visitors to the car park who rely on the free spaces would not pay for 'one off' errands, choosing to shop elsewhere, which would detrimentally affect businesses in Temple Street. In response the Chairman advised the Scrutiny Committee would be forming a Task and Finish Forum to look at the whole aspect of car parking regime and advised concerns raised would be taken into consideration.

32 Declarations of interest

4. Decisions made by Cabinet called in by Members for scrutiny in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

Councillor Eleanor Rylance, Personal, Parish Councillor for Broadclyst Parish Council.

4. Decisions made by Cabinet called in by Members for scrutiny in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

Councillor Jack Rowland, Personal, Town Councillor for Seaton Town Council.

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The Chairman read out the Call-In of the Cabinet decision of 2 October 2019 and asked members to consider the Call-In to the first resolution, excluding resolutions 2 and 3.

The resolution for item 66 – Car Parking Tariff Review was:

1. The statutory advertisement and consultation procedures required to make changes to the East Devon District Council (Off-Street) Parking Places Order 2008 (as amended) be actioned with a view to changing the tariff in those high demand car parks identified in the report from £1 to £1.20 per hour;
2. A 12 month trial of free coach parking in Seaton Jurassic coach park starts with immediate effect;
3. A promotional tariff of £2 all day parking applies in Canaan Way and Brook Street car parks in Ottery St Mary with immediate effect.

The Principal Solicitor reminded members of the purpose for the Extraordinary meeting to either support the Cabinet decision or to send the decision that has been Called-In back to Cabinet.

Members welcomed the opportunity to discuss the Call-In and comments included:

- More factual information was needed to come to a final decision and a call was made for a Task and Finish Forum (TAFF) be set up to look in detail on a politically balanced basis of the decision made.
- Concerns raised for the need to look at this in a timely manner.
- Clarification sought on procedure. In response the Chairman advised the meeting was only to discuss the Call-In and not to discuss the set-up of the TAFF.
- Concerns raised by Exmouth Chamber of Commerce.
- The wider issues of the council's strategy for car parking needed to be looked at.
- Concerns raised that all the car parks had been assigned a purpose before going out to consultation and referred to towns or villages that only have one car park which served all purposes.
- Cabinet need to consider alternative ways with a full range of options.
- Members concurred that the Cabinet decision needed to be returned back to Cabinet.
- An investigation was needed for what each car park was used for, who uses it and the effects it might have if car park charges are increased.
- Concerns raised about the cost of running car parks.

RESOLVED:

To ask Cabinet not to proceed with the Consultation until the work of the Task and Finish Forum has been completed and a full report is submitted back to Cabinet

Attendance List

Councillors present:

A Dent (Chairman)
K Bloxham (Vice-Chairman)
K McLauchlan
V Ranger
J Rowland
E Rylance
M Chapman
I Chubb
B De Saram
C Gardner

Councillors also present (for some or all the meeting)

P Arnott
P Faithfull
S Gazzard
M Howe
P Millar
A Moulding
G Pook
E Wragg
T Wright
B Ingham

Officers in attendance:

Anita Williams, Principal Solicitor (and Deputy Monitoring Officer)
Andrew Ennis, Service Lead Environmental Health and Car Parks
Henry Gordon Lennox, Strategic Lead Governance and Licensing

Wendy Harris, Democratic Services Officer

Councillor apologies:

T McCollum

J Whibley

P Jarvis

F King

Chairman

Date: