

EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Corporate Overview Committee held at Knowle, Sidmouth on 6 July 2006

Present:

Councillors:

G K Liverton (Chairman)
R C Peachey (Vice Chairman)

Mrs K J Bamsey
G P Chamberlain
J E D Falby
K W George
C Gibbings
J P Halse

J A Knight
B O Ingham
A W J Reed??
T G Reeves
C H Wale
S C Wragg

Also Present:

Councillors:

P Burrows
T A Cope
Miss J M Elson
Mrs P A Graham
R Mudge

B Nicholson
Mrs H E Parr
Mrs P A Stott
Mrs E E Wragg

Mr R Watson
Mr B Souter
Mrs H Sanham
Mr J Wokersein
Mr D Conway
Mr B Dunford
Mr S Rose

Littleham PCC
Littleham PCC
Seaton Town Council
Exmouth Town Council
Exmouth Project Team
Exmouth Project Team
World Heritage Project
Coordinator

Apologies

Councillors:

P A Diviani
Ms S M Merritt
A T Moulding
Mrs M A Rogers
Mrs B O Taylor

The meeting started at 6.30 pm and ended at 8.40 pm

***9 Minutes silence**

The Chairman requested that members stand for a minute's silence in remembrance of the victims of the 7 July 2005 bombings in London.

***10 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Overview Committee held on 13 June 2006, were confirmed and signed as a true record.

11 **Littleham Church burial ground, Exmouth**

Consideration was given to the joint report of the Head of Legal and Member Services and Head of Street Scene Services in respect of the priority to be given to supporting the maintenance of Littleham Church burial ground, Exmouth, whether by financial means or otherwise.

Councillor R Mudge had made representations on behalf of Littleham Church that they could no longer afford to maintain the burial ground to the standard of maintenance that was expected.

During discussions the following points were noted:

- that the District Council provided no burial facilities in Exmouth;
- the current standard of maintenance for Littleham churchyard was poor due to the reduced grant received;
- Littleham churchyard was 11 – 12 acres in size and currently had room for approximately another 15 years of burials;
- If Littleham churchyard was closed the District Council could be requested to take over the maintenance;
- the alternative burial ground for Exmouth was St John's in the Wilderness and this was almost full;
- the grant for future years needed to be substantially increased to improve maintenance;
- the importance of maintaining other churchyards in East Devon, some of which were also in a poor state of repair.

Councillor R Mudge be congratulated on all his hard work over the years for Littleham churchyard and thanked for bringing this issue to the Committee's attention.

RECOMMENDED

1) that an additional grant of £16,600 be made to Littleham PCC, to cover the cost of wages for a labourer as shown in the Street scene report, this will allow Littleham Churchyard to remain open for burials this financial year;

2) that this Council recognises the growing problem of the financial help that is needed for Littleham Churchyard and should be treated as an urgent special case and that the Corporate Overview Committee discusses this when looking at the budget for 2007/08.

12 **Big Lottery bid for Stage One Funding for the Evolutions Projects**

Members received a video presentation on the bid that had been submitted to the Big Lottery Fund for Stage One Funding for the Evolution Projects. This incorporated the Exmouth Gateway Centre, the Seaton Gateway Centre, the Lyme Regis Cultural Quarter and the Portland Living Quarry; together with the written documentation submitted in support of the bid.

During discussions the following points were noted:

- that lottery funding of £24,999,627 would be requested for the full project, with £250,000 required to get to the next stage;
- each of the centres would be unique;
- the importance of engaging young people if the project was to succeed;

12 **Big Lottery bid for Stage One Funding for the Evolutions Projects** (cont)..

- each of the projects must have a separate business plan with demonstrated secured income streams;
- Dorset County Council was the lead organisation and if the project was successful then all interests would be transferred to them;
- the importance of the project for East Devon district as a whole and not just Seaton and Exmouth.

RESOLVED that thanks be sent to the children of Seaton Primary School for the work they had done on designs for the Seaton Gateway Centre

RECOMMENDED 1) that all the following people involved in the Evolutions project be thanked for their work so far on behalf of the Council:

Janet McCarthy, Dave Conway, Bernard Dunford, Charlie Plowden, Karime Hassan, Sullina Tallack, John Wokersein, Sam Rose, Sandra Semple, Heather Sanham, Lynne Del-Graco, Mel Parker, Chris Scally, Lesley Garlick, Rebecca Belaidi, Rupert Owen, Mary Hubbard.

2) that the video presentation be shown to full Council and a meeting with Town and Parish Councils.

*13 **Evolution Stage 2 Project Development Plan: Action Plan**

Members considered the "Evolution Stage 2 Project Development Plan: Action Plan. This summarised the outputs which would need to be produced during the next stage of the development process in order to submit a Big Lottery Stage 2 Living Landmarks Funding Application by May 2007. Members attention was drawn particularly to Section 5 page 38 of the report, which provided an indicative cash flow requirement to take the projects forward.

Members noted the governance arrangements to take forward the projects outlines by Dorset County Council in the Lottery Bid submission and the need for Devon County Council to continue to be closely involved. If the lottery bid was unsuccessful and should members wish to continue pursuing these projects Devon County Council may need to consider whether it would fulfil a similar role in terms of governance as Dorset County Council.

During discussions the following points were noted:

- the substantial shortfall in funding of £172,395 for stage 2 of the Evolution project;
- the possibility of asking other stakeholders such as town and parish councils in East Devon, if they were willing to make a financial contribution to the project;
- the need to employ private sector consultants to move the project forward;
- Members were well aware of the demanding timetable, workflow and budget issues and the need for the project to be considered further by the Executive Board;
- September was a good time to promulgate the project to the rest of East Devon.

RESOLVED

- 1) that the Chairman of the Council be requested to hold a special meeting of Town and Parish Council's to view the evolution video and presentation in early September;
- 2) that Devon County Council and South West Regional Development Agency be requested to attend the next meeting of the Committee and be asked if they are prepared to assist with gap funding.

Chairman

Date