

EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held at Knowle, Sidmouth on Wednesday, 6 December 2006

Present:

Councillors:

Lt Col A J M Drake (Chairman)
G P Chamberlain (Vice-Chairman)

Miss V Ash	Mrs A E Liverton
Mrs M J Boote	G K Liverton
R W Boote	S C Luxton
P W Burrows	Ms S M Merritt
T A Cope	A T Moulding
A E J Dinnis	R Mudge
P A Diviani	Mrs F I Newth
Mrs C E Drew	Mrs H E Parr
Miss J M Elson	R C Peachey
J E D Falby	Miss S M Randall Johnson
R G Franklin	A W J Reed
K W George	T G Reeves
C F A Gibbings	Mrs M A Rogers
A R Giles	P J Skinner
J H Glanvill	N J Spence
M J L Green	Mrs P A Stott
J P Halse	Mrs B O Taylor
Mrs M L Hardy	A J Toye
S Hughes	Dr H W Waterworth
D R A Key	A J Wilkinson
J A Knight	Mrs E E Wragg

Apologies:

Councillors:

D G Button	B Nicholson
D J Cox	Mrs L A Roden
Mrs P A Graham	P C Townsend
B C J Hughes	B J Toye
D R H Hull	C H Wale
H J Jeffery	S C Wragg

The meeting started at 6.30 pm and ended at 7.16 pm

*36

Welcome

The Chairman welcomed Honorary Alderman Mrs Sharratt to the meeting.

*37

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 11 October 2006 were confirmed and signed as a true record.

*38

Government settlement

The Leader referred to the 'prudent' Government settlement which will give East Devon only a 2.7% increase. This meant that EDDC would receive the lowest percentage increase compared with other district councils in Devon despite it being the county's largest district.

*39 **Barker review**

The Leader reported that the Barker Review, which had been commissioned by the Chancellor and the Deputy Prime Minister, had now been published. The Review on planning land use in England highlighted the vital role of planning in delivering sustainable economic development. It set out a range of objectives including the need for planning systems to be transparent and efficient, for these systems to be flexible to meet changing needs and the need to achieve more efficient use of land and resources.

*40 **Statement by Chairman of the Council's Standards Committee**

The Chairman introduced Dr J Rees, Independent Chairman of the Council's Standards Committee who had asked if he could address the Council to bring Members up to date on issues relating to his Committee.

Dr Rees advised that the Council's Standards Committee did not get involved in the Council's day to day operations. Its role was to promote compliance with the Code of Conduct and to adjudicate on non-compliance. He thanked Members for making it their business to understand the Code and for acting within it. He recognised the organisation's strong leadership with the Leader and Chief Executive setting the appropriate tone. His Committee monitored training undertaken relevant to the Code of Conduct. He advised that changes to the Code were anticipated and that these would be fully communicated and explained when available. The recent Government White Paper 'Strong and Prosperous Communities' stressed the relevance of strong and accountable Members with high standards of probity. The Committee would be working with the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee to promote Corporate Governance and the Council's ethical standards.

The Chairman thanked Dr Rees for his helpful and informative statement.

RESOLVED that a copy of Dr Rees' statement on the Council's Standards Committee be circulated to all Members of the Council for their information.

*41 **Development Control Presentation**

The Chairman reminded Members that the Council's Head of Planning and Countryside would be giving a presentation following the meeting – 'Audit trail of a planning application'.

*42 **Questions**

Councillor S Hughes, Portfolio Holder – Communications pursuant to Procedure Rules No. 8.2 and 8.5, stated that a risk assessment had been carried out in respect of the current arrangements for the front desk at the Council Offices, Knowle. Staff who would be working in the altered reception area had been fully consulted and the Communications Think Tank had been kept up-to-date on the range of issues affecting the Customer Service Centre and its development. Councillor Hughes emphasised that the safety of staff on the front desk was of paramount importance and the current arrangements would be reviewed by his Think Tank in January. Councillor Hughes confirmed, following a request from Councillor Cope to be kept informed, that he would be invited to attend the Think Tank and take part in the review.

Councillor G Liverton, Chairman of the Corporate Overview Committee pursuant to Procedure Rules No. 8.2 and 8.5 confirmed that the Government and DEFRA (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) would be lobbied to address the serious seagull problems affecting East Devon.

Councillor R Franklin, Portfolio Holder – Environment confirmed that if details of recycling problems in Seaton were forwarded to him he would progress these matters through the Head of Streetscene Services.

***40 Minutes of Executive Board and Committees**

RESOLVED (1) that the under-mentioned minutes be received and the recommendations approved

Executive Board	Minutes	74-108
Development Control	Minutes	19-34
Planning Inspections	Minutes	12-16
Licensing & Enforcement	Minutes	7-9
Licensing and Enforcement Sub A & B	Minutes	5-11, 18-20
Audit and Corporate Governance	Minutes	1-5
Standards Committee	Minutes	1-7

(2) that the under-mentioned minutes be received.

The Executive Board (minutes 78 and 92) had noted or accepted the Scrutiny, Corporate Overview Committees and Housing recommendations of the following meetings:

5 October and 2 November 2006 (Corporate Overview),
25 October 2006 (Scrutiny),
27 September 2006 (joint meeting of Overview and Scrutiny)
28 September 2006 (Housing Review Board)

with or without amendment.

(The minutes of the Housing Review Board held on 8 November 2006 had been referred direct to the Council.)

Corporate Overview	Minutes	19-24
Scrutiny	Minutes	23-27
Joint Overview & Scrutiny	Minutes	1-3
Housing Review Board	Minutes	20-41

(3) that minute 26 of the Housing Review Board of 28 September 2006 in respect of amendments to the Right to Buy Scheme policy be approved.

Arising from consideration of the above minutes:-

a) Exmouth and Seaton Gateway Projects Action Plan (Executive Board min 95)

Councillor J A Knight said that it was important to ensure that Seaton Town Council was fully included in the consultation process.

b) Site for the new RNLI boat house (Executive Board min 104)

To note the correction in Councillor Mrs Stott's declaration of interest – her sons are members of the Lifeboat Service.

c) Development Control meeting – Tuesday 3 October 2006

To include Councillor Mrs F Newth in the list of Ward Members attending the meeting.

Arising from consideration of the above minutes (cont)..

d) Applications for Planning Permission (Development Control min 30)

To note that in respect of application 06/0241 and 06/0319, Councillor Mrs Boote's declaration of interest was that she was an employee of the applicant in the past.

e) Gambling Act 2005 – Gambling Licensing Policy (Licensing and Enforcement Committee min 8)

Members debated the recommendation of the Committee that the Council adopted a 'no casino' policy. It was suggested that it was more appropriate at this stage to defer a decision until the likely impact of casinos elsewhere had been determined.

Concern was expressed regarding the possibility of a casino in the area. Members voted on the proposed deferral of a decision.

RESOLVED that the decision as to whether or not a 'no casino' resolution be adopted be deferred until more information was available and the impact of casinos elsewhere in the country could be fully assessed.

f) Members' use of Council provided computer resources (Standards Cttee) min 3

RESOLVED that the first sentence of the Council protocol with regard to Members use of computer equipment at recommendation 4 be changed to read 'This Council provides all Members with services such as typing, printing and photocopying, and computers to assist them in discharging their roles as members of the Council.'

*41 **Boundary changes**

RESOLVED that the Secretary of State be requested to issue two Orders under the Local Government & Rating Act 1997 - Parish Reviews to the effect that:

- (1) the Talaton/Ottery St Mary Parish boundary and the Whimple/Ottery St Mary Rural District Ward boundary in the area of the former Fairmile Inn be moved to run in front of the former inn, following the line of the road locally known as the 'old A30', instead of leaving the line of the road to run behind the rear of the former inn.
- (2) the Honiton/Gittisham Parish boundary and the Honiton St Michael/Feniton and Buckerell District Ward boundary in the area to the west of Gittisham Hill House be moved to run further west than at present to follow the track up to Sidmouth Road before rejoining the existing boundary.

***42 Revised Committee appointments requested**

Budget and Service Plan Task and Finish Forum

RESOLVED that the following 10 Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members be appointed to a Budget and Service Plan Task and Finish Forum to undertake detailed work prior to the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committees' consideration of the Budget Book and Service Plans at their meetings in January/February 2007:

- | | | |
|----------------|--------------|-------------|
| R W Boote | P W Burrows | M J L Green |
| D J Cox | T A Cope | |
| C F A Gibbings | J H Glanvill | |
| J A Knight | | |
| G K Liverton | | |
| Ms S M Merritt | | |

***43 Outside Bodies**

a) Victim Support Devon's Management Committee

Members noted the change of the Victim Support Management Committee to a Board of Trustees. The structure was being reviewed nationally. The Council could be invited to be part of the Trust after the review had taken place. In the meantime the organisation had thanked the Council, and in particular the Council's nominated representative, Councillor Mrs C Drew, for the interest, support and valued contribution.

b) Honiton Community and Arts Centre Project Working Group

RESOLVED that Councillor Miss V Ash be appointed to the Honiton Community and Arts Centre Project Working Group to fill the vacancy left by Councillor R W Boote.

c) Exmouth Community Association (Exmouth Tuesday Group)

RESOLVED that in view of the likely conflict of interest and the possible precedent that an appointment to a lobby group could set, the Association be advised that this Council would not be appointing a representative to the organisation but that local Members would be prepared to listen to any issues and suggestions put forward.

Chairman

Date