

EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held at
Knowle, Sidmouth, on Wednesday, 15 April 2009

Present:

Councillors:

Paul Diviani (Chairman)
Pauline Stott (Vice Chairman)

Vivienne Ash	Stephanie Jones
David Atkins	David Key
Ray Bloxham	Jim Knight
Peter Bowden	Ann Liverton
Graham Brown	Graham Liverton
Bob Buxton	Stuart Luxton
Geoff Chamberlain	Andrew Moulding
David Chapman	Frances Newth
Iain Chubb	Darryl Nicholas
Trevor Cope	Barry Nicholson
David Cox	Marion Olive
Jill Elson	Helen Parr
Malcolm Florey	Bob Peachey
Ray Franklin	Ken Potter
Ken George	Sara Randall Johnson
Chris Gibbings	Margaret Rogers
Roger Giles	Philip Skinner
Graham Godbeer	Brenda Taylor
Pat Graham	Graham Troman
Mike Green	Mark Williamson
Steve Hall	Tim Wood
Stuart Hughes	Eileen Wragg
Douglas Hull	Steve Wragg
Ben Ingham	

Also Present

Honorary Aldermen

Bernard Hughes
David Scott

Officers:

Mark Williams, Chief Executive
Denise Lyon, Deputy Chief Executive
Karime Hassan, Corporate Director
Diccon Pearse
Diana Vernon, Democratic Services Manager

Apologies

Councillors:

Roger Boote	Peter Halse
Derek Button	May Hardy
Andrew Dinnis	John Humphreys
Christine Drew	John Jeffery
Vivien Duval-Steer	Tony Reed

Hon Aldermen Dr Waterworth
and Barry Willoughby
Peter Jeffs – Corporate Director

The meeting started at 6.30 pm and finished at 7.26 pm.

***61 Public question time**

Honorary Alderman Scott asked for information on the future of Rolle College, Exmouth. He had represented Exmouth Town for many years and was concerned of the possible loss of this valuable educational resource. The Leader advised that, together with the Portfolio Holder – Communities and the local MP, she was liaising with the County Council for the retention of an educational provision in Exmouth, particularly for young people of 16-18 years.

***62 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Council, held on 18 February 2008 and the minutes of the Council Tax Setting Committee, were confirmed and signed as a true record.

***63 Honiton St Michael's Ward – new Councillor**

The Chairman introduced and welcomed Marion Olive of Honiton St Michael's Ward. Councillor Olive had been elected on 26 February 2009. As a result of Councillor Olive's election, the political balance of the Council had changed and this would be reflected in the allocation of committee seats at the annual meeting of the Council.

***64 Chairman's announcement**

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Trevor Cope to the meeting. Councillor Cope had been absent at the February meeting following a serious injury in December.

The Chairman advised that Councillor Christine Drew was currently recovering from illness. The Councillor extended their best wishes to her for a full and speedy recovering.

***65 Development Trusts Association community 'hero' award**

The Chairman announced that Councillor Jim Knight was to be presented with a Local Government community 'hero' award from the Development Trusts Association. Councillor Knight had been nominated by the Seaton Development Trust in recognition of his work in helping the local community, particularly in a time of economic downturn.

***66 National John Connell Award**

The Chairman formally congratulated the Environmental Health Team on achieving the Customer Service Excellence Award and also the Environmental Health and Licensing Teams for the national John Connell Award for the work they had done with smokers in beer gardens in East Devon. The Council warmly applauded these successes.

***67 Natural Environment Awareness Grants**

The Chairman congratulated the following successful recipients of the Natural Environment Awareness Grants.

- Deepway Meadow Millennium Green (proposed by Sir John Cave (Chairman of the Millennium Committee) towards pond restoration and dipping platform creation.
- Feniton Youth Centre (proposed by John Partridge (Youth Worker)) – for planting a Devon hedge-bank with native species.
- Broadhembury Primary (proposed by Susette Barrett (Teacher)) towards a school quiet area and environment zone.
- Marpool Primary (proposed by Adam Tomlin (Teacher)) – towards school grounds improvement and an environmental area laboratory.
- Longshore Drift (proposed by Jon Croose (Common Players) towards an initial stage education resource for the coast linked to 2010 cultural Olympiad.

Sir John Cave, John Partridge and Jon Croose addressed the Council on the projects that the grants were helping to fund and thanked the Council, and particularly the Countryside Team, for its valued support.

*68 **Leisure East Devon Board – retiring members**

Andrew Moulding gave Members a brief outline of the success achieved through the Council's transfer of Council leisure services to Leisure East Devon in early 2006. The Leisure East Devon Board had met regularly since 2006 to look at the organisation of leisure services within East Devon. Leisure East Devon had benefited from the abilities and experience of the Members of the Board which had helped the not-for-profit organisation to achieve significant success and maintain the quality of the service previously provided by East Devon District Council. The valued work of the Board was also supported by Councillors Peter Bowden, David Cox and Peter Halse.

The Chairman presented certificates as a gesture of thanks to the independent members for their time and commitment, given voluntarily, who were retiring from the Leisure East Devon Board after 3 years of service. He thanked them for their valued efforts for the benefit of East Devon.

Mr J Micklethwait (Chairman)
Mr D Harrison (Vice Chairman)

Board Members:
Mr T Alexander
Ms Sarah Peacock
Ms Jackie Clarke

In response John Micklethwait addressed the Council saying that it had been a pleasure to serve on the Board and had enjoyed working with the Council and the Leisure East Devon Management Team.

*69 **Australian Youth Olympic Festival 2009 – gold medal**

Anthony Wood had won Gold in the men's archery team at the Australian Youth Olympic Festival 2009.

Councillor Iain Chubb, Member Champion for Young People outlined Anthony's successes to date. Anthony had started to learn archery when he was 10 years old and had joined the Exmouth Archers, taking part in their competitions. He was selected at 13 to shoot for Great Britain and since then had competed at venues around the world. He hoped to represent Great Britain in the 2012 Olympics. On behalf of the Council, Councillor Chubb wished him every success for the future.

The Chairman presented Anthony with a certificate in recognition of his achievements at the Australian Youth Olympic Festival.

*70 **Long Service Awards**

The Chairman awarded Long Service Awards to East Devon District Council staff:

Sue Parkinson, Secretary to Peter Jeffs, Corporate Director	- 40 years
Nigel Barrett, Senior Planning Officer	- 20 years
Ian Craigie, Growth Point Projects Manager	- 10 years

*71 **Questions**

No questions were raised by Members under this item.

***72 Minutes of Executive Board and Committees**

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

Executive Board	Minutes	182-229
Development Control	Minutes	55-70
Planning Inspections	Minutes	21-24
Audit and Governance	Minutes	30-42
Standards Committee	Minutes	7-12
Licensing and Enforcement	Minutes	18-21
Licensing and Enforcement Sub	Minutes	30-33

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

The Executive Board (minutes 188 and 214) had noted or accepted the Overview Committees' recommendations with or without amendment.

Scrutiny	Minutes	51-66
Corporate Overview	Minutes	34-39
Housing Review Board	Minutes	59-82

Arising from consideration of the above minutes:-a) Structural Review of Devon (Executive Board Minute 217 refers)

On behalf of the Liberal Democratic Group, Councillor Chamberlain expressed concern about the money and effort the Council was spending on the legal challenge of the Boundary Committee's recommendations. He was strongly opposed to the Exeter and Exmouth unitary and remainder unitary option and continued to support a Devon unitary solution.

The Leader reminded Members that both unitary options had been put forward by the Boundary Committee from the start but that this Council continued to support a third option, namely that of enhanced two-tier working. She believed that this third option would achieve significantly more savings without the risk of considerable 'up-front' expenditure than could be achieved through either of the other two proposed options.

b) Proposed Ham Redevelopment (Executive Board Minute 197 refers)

Councillor Stuart Hughes spoke in support of the decision made by the Board to defer the commissioning of a development brief until additional resources became available. This approach would enable the Council to include other factors in a full study when the time was right. The Leader confirmed that the Ham was an important site within Sidmouth and its development needed to be properly planned so that it could deliver the best for the town, its tourists and to provide desperately needed affordable homes.

c) Recycling and Refuse Partnership Board (Executive Board Minute 215 refers)

Councillor David Cox, Portfolio Holder – Streetscene Services reported that the Council had made the right decision to progress with the roll out of Phase 2 of the recycling and refuse initiative based on the success of Phase 1. Despite incorrect local press coverage, Councillor Cox confirmed that the initiative provided an improved service but that problems had arisen because of time constraints in respect of the Devon County Council tip facilities.

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

- d) Vice Chairman for the meeting (Scrutiny Minute 62 refers)
Councillor Roger Giles advised that the Scrutiny Vice Chairman had been unable to attend the meeting of the Committee on 11 March following an operation but that his health and mobility had improved to the extent that he had attended the meeting in April.
- e) Devon Primary Care Trust (Scrutiny Minute 63 refers)
Councillor Trevor Cope raised serious concerns about the Devon Primary Care Trust's withdrawal of funding of APAUSE (a sex and relationship education programme). He stressed the importance of the mentoring provision within the programme which could now no longer be funded. The decision was affecting schools across the whole of the Trust. He reminded Members that teenage pregnancy rates in this area were higher than they needed to be and that it was a serious error on the part of the Trust to withdraw the funding.

Councillor Roger Giles, Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee, confirmed that the Committee minute was clear in its criticism of the Devon PCT decision, particularly as no apparent consultation had taken place. As the funding had been cut mid-term, it suggested there had been poor forward planning on the part of the Trust. The Committee had recommended that it would ask the Devon PCT to reconsider its funding decision and would do all it could to get the funding re-instated.

- f) Audit of ICT Services (Audit and Governance Committee Minute 42 refers)
In answer to concerns raised as a result of the audit of ICT Services, the Portfolio Holder – Communications agreed to hold a meeting of his Think Tank to discuss issues raised through the audit, access to emails and other related matters.
- g) Licensing Act 2003, Gambling Act 2005, taxis and general licensing (Licensing and Enforcement Committee Minute 19 refers)
Councillor Trevor Cope added his concern to that of the Committee on the extent of faults identified during an evening 'spot' safety check of taxis in Exmouth in February.

Councillor Graham Godbeer, Chairman of the Committee, recognised the importance of addressing the serious issue of vehicle faults and the licensing team would be working in partnership with taxi operators, drivers and the Police. He advised that the situation would be monitored to make sure significant improvements were achieved. This intention, together with a suggested 'dress code' would be raised at a meeting with all taxi operators on the following day.

Chairman

Date