

EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held at Knowle, Sidmouth on Wednesday, 7 December 2005

Present:

Councillors:

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

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

The meeting started at 6.30 pm and ended at 7.45 pm

***47 Minutes**

The minutes of the Council meeting of 12 October 2005 were confirmed and signed as a true record subject to Councillor D R A Key being included in the list of those present.

***48 Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C F A Gibbings, Mrs M L Hardy, D R H Hull, H J Jeffery, P C Townsend and C H Wale.

***49 Announcements by Chairman or Leader**

The Leader noted receipt of the planning application regarding the Exmouth pool site and requested Exmouth Ward Members and the Chairman of the Development Control Committee to remain after the meeting to discuss it.

The Leader informed Members that the Government financial settlement for East Devon District Council was a disappointing 3%, which was the lowest of all the Devon authorities.

*49 **Announcements by Chairman or Leader** (Cont.)

Beer Village Heritage was congratulated on its work in replacing the Beer Heritage Centre. The trustees of the organisation had thanked the Council for enabling the work to take place.

The four team members from Beer taking part in the Atlantic Rowing Race 2006 were congratulated on their success so far. Members were advised that they were approximately one day ahead of other teams in the race.

*50 **Questions**

The Portfolio Holder - Communities, pursuant to Procedure Rule No. 8.2 and 8.5 answered questions by Councillor Mrs M A Rogers in respect of Summersby Close, Seaton. Councillor Mrs Rogers advised that at least part of the property was built in 1968 rather than 1971 as had been advised. She welcomed the possible replacement of the patio doors in the property in the 2006/07 financial year although had hoped that the work could have been carried out sooner. The Portfolio Holder – Communities advised that the work could take place at an earlier date depending on the contractors currently on the site and that any broken doors would be repaired as and when necessary.

*52 **MOTION – Reduction in the national speed limit**

The following motion (in the names of M J L Green, A R Giles, K W George, A W J Reed and Mrs M J Boote) was proposed by Councillor M J L Green and seconded by A R Giles:

‘In order to improve the quality of life of residents of East Devon, indeed for the whole of the country, this Council will lobby the appropriate authorities in order to persuade government to reduce the national speed limit on all roads that are of insufficient width to have a central line’.

Discussion took place on the feasibility of introducing a lower national speed limit for all narrow roads. Members noted that a lower speed limit could result in many benefits for example fewer accidents, lower fuel consumption and quieter, safer villages and roads. Under existing procedures speed limits had to be introduced for individual lengths of road, which was time consuming and expensive, and signs or streetlights had to be erected at regular intervals along the appropriate area of road.

Several Members questioned the definition of a narrow road and how a lower speed limit could be enforced. They suggested that education was required rather than further regulation. One Member suggested that an alternative proposal would be to ask the Government, through the Local Government Association, to reinstate the Quiet Lanes initiative. Members were advised that although the District Council was not responsible for the highways the Council did seek to improve people’s quality of life within the District.

An amendment to the motion was put to the vote and carried. The substantive motion was supported by the majority of those present.

RESOLVED that in order to improve the quality of life for residents of East Devon, East Devon District Council make representations to the Government, through the Local Government Association, calling for the reinstatement of the Quiet Lanes initiative.

***53 MOTION – Investigate the feasibility of a crematorium within East Devon**

The following motion (in the names of Mrs M A Rogers, T A Cope, A J Toye, Mrs E E Wragg and S C Wragg) was proposed by Councillor Mrs M A Rogers and seconded by Councillor T A Cope:

‘This Council resolves to:

1. Investigate the feasibility of building a crematorium within the boundaries of East Devon District Council,
2. That the matter be passed, in the first instance, to the Scrutiny Committee, thereafter to the Overview Committee before proceeding to consideration by the Executive Board.’

Several Members spoke of their experiences at the Exeter Crematorium and in support of an East Devon Crematorium especially given the possibility of increased demand from the new community at Cranbrook. The Council was advised that in 2000 the Public Health Committee had considered the possible provision of an East Devon Crematorium and Cemetery and recommended that no further action be taken. It was noted that although the local authority owned the Taunton Dene Crematorium, the Exeter Crematorium was privately owned. Several Members suggested that the provision of a crematorium was not a statutory function of this authority but that any application for a privately financed East Devon Crematorium would be welcomed.

The Motion was put to the vote and was lost.

***51 Minutes of Executive Board and Committees**

RESOLVED

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

Executive Board	Minutes	57-101
Development Control	Minutes	22-34
Planning Inspections	Minutes	11-16
General Licensing Sub	Minutes	29-33
Licensing and Enforcement Subs A-E	Minutes	A-E

2. that the under-mentioned minutes be received, the Executive Board (minutes 61 and 90) having noted or accepted the Scrutiny and Corporate Overview Committee recommendations with or without amendment.

Corporate Overview	Minutes	12-20
Scrutiny Committee	Minutes	5-10

Arising from consideration of the above minutes:-

(a) Unlocking Exmouth – Part 2: The Way Forward – Key Decision (Executive Board, Minute 63)

In reply to a question, the Leader confirmed that the consultation process was important in mapping the future of Exmouth. The feedback from Exmouth Community College students was relevant as including youth was a vital part of local democracy. The applications received and results of the consultation would be closely scrutinised.

Arising from consideration of the above minutes (Cont.):-

(b) Unlocking Exmouth – Part 2: The Way Forward – (Corporate Overview Committee Minute 14)

Members noted that it would be more appropriate for the last line of minute 14, recommendation 18 of the Corporate Overview Committee minutes to read “by investment in the strategic network at Exmouth to give improved accessibility to employment” instead of making reference to the completion of Dinan Way.

(c) Ottery St Mary – Car Parking Concessions until Christmas 2005 (Executive Board Minute 87)

Councillor Giles declared a personal interest in this item as a member of the South West Regional Flood Defence Committee.

(d) Leisure East Devon (Charitable Trust) – Key Decision (Executive Board, Minute 64)

An amended Support Service Specification to East Devon District Council from Leisure East Devon (Executive Board Minute 64) had been distributed with the agenda.

The Leader requested that a third recommendation be added to the effect that delegated powers are given to the Executive Board to make the final decision with regard to the level of the annual service payment. Several Members expressed concern that the hand over date of 1 January 2006 was fast approaching but figures had still not been finalised. Members were advised that the decisions marked the end of a long period of discussions and negotiations. All Members were invited to the next meeting of the Executive Board and would be welcome to speak on this matter. The Portfolio Holder – Culture was thanked for the work he had carried out in respect of the Leisure Trust and his valued input.

RESOLVED that delegated powers be given to the Executive Board to agree the level of annual service payment and arrangements regarding leasing of buildings to the Leisure East Devon (Charitable Trust).

(e) Meetings of the Scrutiny and Corporate Overview Committees (Executive Board Minute 90)

A brief explanation was requested for inclusion against minute references, to enable readers to know at a glance what the Minutes being resolved referred to. Consensus of opinion was that although the Minute subjects were not immediately identifiable they could be fairly easily located.

(f) World Heritage Coast: Feasibility studies for Exmouth and Seaton Visitor Gateway Centres (Executive Board Minute 99)

In reply to a question about location, Members were advised that Locum Consulting had carried out extensive research into the most appropriate site for the Centre and that the majority of people attending public meetings had been in favour of the preferred site.

(Councillor Mudge declared a personal interest as a member of one of the interest groups involved in this initiative.)

(Councillor Mrs Wragg advised that she had been involved in one of the interest groups involved in this initiative but had now resigned)

Arising from consideration of the above minutes (Cont.):-

(g) Corporate Overview Committee 3 November 2005

At the above meeting Members had asked after the health of Councillor Chamberlain and wished him a speedy recovery. Members now expressed their pleasure at seeing him back by giving him a round of applause. Councillor Chamberlain spoke with gratitude for all the best wishes he had received.

(h) Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Giles presented the Minutes of the Scrutiny Committee following the departure from the meeting of the Scrutiny Chairman. He thanked members of the committee for the helpful and constructive contributions they had made.

(i) General Licensing Sub Committee

Councillor Cross congratulated Members of the General Licensing and the Licensing and Enforcement Sub Committees on their contribution and commitment.

***54 Revised Committee, Forum, etc., appointments requested**

Members considered two requests from Members for revised appointments and the alternative nominations that had been put forward.

RESOLVED

1. that Councillor Miss V Ash be appointed to replace Councillor J P Halse as District Council representative on East Devon Transport, Research and Information Project (TRIP) Working Party/Management Group,
2. that Councillor A E J Dinnis be appointed to replace Councillor Mrs A E Liverton as Planning Inspections substitute for Councillors R G Franklin and Ms S M Merritt.

Chairman

Date.....