

**EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held at**  
**Knowle, Sidmouth, on Wednesday, 14 April 2010**

**Present:**

**Councillors:**

Graham Liverton (Chairman)  
Tony Reed (Vice Chairman)

Vivienne Ash	Peter Halse
David Atkins	May Hardy
Roger Boote	Stuart Hughes
Peter Bowden	Douglas Hull
Graham Brown	Ben Ingham
Derek Button	John Jeffery
Bob Buxton	David Key
Geoff Chamberlain	Ann Liverton
Iain Chubb	Stuart Luxton
Trevor Cope	Andrew Moulding
David Cox	Frances Newth
Andrew Dinnis	Barry Nicholson
Paul Diviani	Marion Olive
Christine Drew	Helen Parr
Vivien Duval-Steer	Bob Peachey
Jill Elson	Ken Potter
Malcolm Florey	Sara Randall Johnson
Ray Franklin	Philip Skinner
Chris Gibbings	Pauline Stott
Roger Giles	Brenda Taylor
Graham Godbeer	Ian Thomas
Pat Graham	Graham Troman
Mike Green	Mark Williamson
Steve Hall	Tim Wood

**Also Present**

Honorary Alderman David Scott

**Officers:**

Mark Williams, Chief Executive  
Denise Lyon, Deputy Chief Executive  
Peter Jeffs, Corporate Director  
Karime Hassan, Corporate Director  
Diccon Pearse, Corporate Director  
Rachel Pocock, Head of Legal, Licensing and Democratic Services  
Diana Vernon, Democratic Services Manager

**Apologies**

**Councillors:**

Ray Bloxham  
David Chapman  
Stephanie Jones  
Eileen Wragg  
Steve Wragg

Honorary Alderman Bernard Hughes

The meeting started at 6.30 pm and finished at 7.25 pm.

**\*62 Public question time**

Honorary Alderman David Scott drew Members' attention to a recent article in the Exmouth Journal in praise of former councillor Brian Worts who was working to promote sport in East Devon. He spoke about the importance of sports facilities for young people in East Devon. He said that getting pricing levels right was vital to avoid precluding young people from taking advantage of the sporting facilities available.

Councillor Vivienne Ash advised Members that she had attended the first meeting of the Joint Integration Committee (EDDC:SSDC) in Chard the previous week. She congratulated the Officers who had attended saying that they were well prepared and articulate and a credit to the Council. The Leader echoed these sentiments and spoke of the positive approach and good humour of Councillors and Officers from both authorities. She said that both East Devon and South Somerset District Councils had an appetite for working together to improve service delivery and achieve budget savings.

**\*63 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held 24 February 2010 were confirmed and signed as a true record.

**\*64 Retirement of Councillor Margaret Rogers**

The Chairman formally announced the retirement of Margaret Rogers (with effect from 24 March 2010). She had served as a Seaton Ward Member on this Council from 1982 until 1986 and 1995 until present. During her time on the Council, Margaret Rogers had served on a number of committees, notably Policy, Housing, Tourism and Transportation, Amenities, the Executive Board and Scrutiny. She had also served on a number of Sub-Committees, Forum and Outside Bodies with particular interest in those relevant to Seaton, Sustainability, Health and Housing. The Chairman had written to Mrs Rogers on behalf of the Council to wish her well and to acknowledge the positive work she had progressed for the benefit of East Devon and Seaton.

Councillor Chamberlain spoke of the service both Margaret Rogers and the late Noel Rogers had given to the Council and asked Members to consider conferring the title of Honorary Alderman at the appropriate time.

The Leader added that she had enjoyed the debates and good natured 'sparring' with Margaret Rogers.

**\*65 Honorary Alderman Dr Waterworth**

The Chairman was able to report that Honorary Alderman Dr Waterworth was better and had asked him to thank Councillors who had sent their best wishes; he said that the kind and thoughtful messages had been greatly appreciated

**\*66 Councillor Trevor Cope – London Marathon**

The Chairman advised that Councillor Trevor Cope was running the London Marathon on 25 April. Councillor Cope had sustained a shattered femur and broken arm in an accident in December 2008. Despite being told he may never run again, he had trained following reconstructive surgery and through sheer determination was ready to run the London Marathon.

Councillor Cope thanked the Chairman for his good wishes and the opportunity to speak to Council. He advised that he was running for a UK based medical charity, Merlin, which responded to international emergencies. He was gratified to be able to run again and warmly acknowledged the medical team who had made it possible.

The Member Development Champion praised Councillor Cope's courage and determination. The Leader added her support and best wishes.

**\*70 Long Service Awards**

The Chairman awarded Long Service Awards to the following East Devon District Council staff. He spoke of their individual careers and their valued contribution to the Council.

	Length of service	Section
<b>Darren Lewis</b>	10 years	Streetscene
<b>Bridie Morton</b>	20 years	Human Resources

**\*71 Thelma Hulbert Gallery**

The Chairman thanked and formally recognised the valued work of the Thelma Hulbert Gallery Volunteers and their contribution to the on-going success of the Gallery.

Councillor Ash, Member Champion, Culture, added that the formal recognition was well deserved and timely as the newly refurbished and extended Gallery was due to re-open shortly. She praised the work of the Gallery Manager, Angela Blackwell and her staff but said that the Gallery would not be as successful without the team of volunteers. She thanked everyone involved in the ongoing success of the Gallery.

The Chairman presented individual framed certificates to the volunteers.

**\*72 Customer Service Centre**

The Chairman formally congratulated EDDC's Customer Service Centre for achieving the national award for Customer Service Excellence which had been introduced to ensure that customer services were 'fit for purpose'. He advised that the Devon Customer Services Managers had got together to share best practice and work to achieve the award. The Chairman said that the accreditation was a significant and valued achievement and that EDDC's customer service was a credit to the Council.

The Member Champion – Customer Services added sincere thanks to Cherise Foster and her team. He outlined the challenges successfully faced by the Service Centre and the excellent service provided.

The Chairman presented the Customer Service Excellence award to Cherise and representatives from her team.

\*73 **South West Council's Member Development Charter**

The Chairman formally congratulated the Portfolio Holder – Resources, the Member Development Champion and EDDC Democratic Services Team who, working with all Councillors, had achieved the South West Council's Charter for Member Development. He said that Councillors should congratulate themselves on this achievement as the bid for Charter status had been initiated and progressed by Members. He said that the Council recognised that its elected Members were a valuable resource and that member development helped Councillors individually and collectively to meet challenges in a positive way for the benefit of those who live, work and visit this district.

He advised that the Charter had been officially presented to himself as Chairman of the Council and Councillor Ann Liverton as Member Development Champion at a ceremony, organised by South West Councils, in Bath last month. It was recognition of the hard work and dedication of Members and Officers in embedding a culture of continuous learning within the Council.

Councillor Andrew Moulding re-iterated the comments of the Chairman and praised Members for their commitment to the process. The Member Development Working Party met regularly and valued the support of the Member Development Champion. He thanked Diana Vernon, Chris Lane and Hannah Jarvis of the Democratic Services Team for their efforts in helping the Council to achieve this accolade.

Councillor Ann Liverton, Member Development Champion stressed the importance of making best use of the skills, knowledge and experience of elected Members. She said that the Charter had been achieved through effective team working between Members and Officers. When received, the debrief from South West Councils would be used as the basis for an action plan to help the Council grow from its current position of strength.

The Chairman presented the Member Development award to the Democratic Services Manager.

\*74 **Transport for your community across Devon 'Just Ask'**

The Portfolio Holder – Communities introduced and presented a short DVD 'Just Ask' which had been produced by Devon County Council in partnership with Community Transport Groups in Devon, including Ring and Ride, Wheels to Work and Voluntary Car Schemes. The aim of the presentation was to help market Community Transport. Councillor Jill Elson advised that Honiton and Exmouth and District Ring and Ride Services had been started 20 years ago and relied on support from local councils and volunteers.

The DVD outlined the range of community transport available which was referred to as 'a lifeline for local communities'. The host of transport solutions provided a vital link to communities and gave independence to people who used the services, particularly those in isolated rural communities and those who were unable to use public services. The initiatives were not only for people who were elderly and/or disabled but also provided access to work to young people through the scooter scheme. The vision of Community Transport Groups was for the services provided to be part of the mainstream transport sector.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Elson for drawing Members' attention to this work and for her valued involvement.

\*75 **Questions**

No questions had been submitted by Members of the Council pursuant to Procedure Rules No. 9.2 and 9.5.

**\*76 Minutes of Executive Board and Committees**

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

Executive Board	Minutes	159-201
Development Management	Minutes	66-78
Planning Inspections	Minutes	13-16
Audit and Governance	Minutes	39-47
Standards	Minutes	82-86
Licensing and Enforcement	Minutes	17-23
Licensing and Enforcement Sub	Minutes	24-27

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

The Executive Board (minute 184) had noted or accepted the following Overview/Scrutiny Committees' recommendations with or without amendment.

O/S Co-ordinating Committee	Minutes	43-56
O/S Economy Committee	Minutes	18-27
O/S Service Delivery/ Performance	Minutes	35-42
O/S Communities	Minutes	29-39

Housing Review Board Minutes 52-64

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

(Due to timetabling, the minutes of the Special Economy Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee, relating to Employment Land on the A3052 Corridor (held on 25 March 2010) had been referred direct to the Council for consideration.)

Economy O/S Committee Minutes 40-42

**Arising from consideration of the above minutes:-**

a) Revised Redundancy Policy and Procedure ( Executive Board Minute 179 refers)

Additional changes had been made to the revised redundancy policy resulting from further negotiations with Unison (change of weeks' multiplier from 2 to 3 with the overall reduced maximum of 60 weeks). The Executive Board had recommended that the revised Redundancy Policy and Procedure include this negotiated change and take effect from June 2010.

**RESOLVED** that the revised Redundancy Policy and Procedure (as recommended by Executive Board minute 170 and as amended by Executive Board minute 179) be approved and take effect from June 2010.

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

b) Local Development Framework – Progress and Key Issues - (Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee Minute 47 refers)

Councillor Roger Giles referred specifically to the Committee's decision to support the principle of an urban extension at Pinhoe and its recognition that the capacity of the B3181 through Pinhoe to accommodate additional traffic was a constraint to the level of housing development. He asked the Council to press for improved rail services and a passing loop at Broadclyst and Whimple. Although he acknowledged the value of the Axminster passing loop he emphasised that improvements needed to be made to local services.

The Leader re-iterated the importance of the passing loop at Axminster and the now hourly service to London. However services locally were poor and the next stage was to push for additional passing loops, increased capacity and improved services for East Devon's rail network.

c) Service Delivery/Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee

In presenting the minutes of his Committee, the Chairman, Councillor Steve Hall, thanked his Vice-Chairman, the Committee and Officers for their support in his first year as Chairman.

d) Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

In presenting the minutes of her Committee, the Chairman, Councillor Helen Parr, thanked Councillor Mike Green for raising the item on play facilities for children and young people across Devon which had led to an interesting and useful debate which the Committee would further progress.

e) Corporate Governance Activity report (Audit and Governance Minute 45 refers)

Councillor Ken Potter, Chairman, advised Members that external audit and the Audit Commission were directing Councils to be more aware of risk. Councillors and Officers were asked to regularly monitor and review risk and mitigate risk as it applied to the corporate and operational responsibilities of the Council. Step by step instructions had been circulated to Members to access the Corporate Risk Register on the Members' page of the Council's web site as a way of increasing their awareness. Councillor Potter thanked Diccon Pearce, Corporate Director and Tanith Cox, Audit Manager, for bringing the document up to date.

\*77 **New Growth Point – up-date**

Councillor Ray Franklin, Portfolio Holder Strategic Planning and Regeneration gave Members a brief up-date on the New Growth Point Development at the western side of the district. He said that the Section 106 Agreement in respect of Cranbrook and the New Growth Point was due to be finalised in June and that development was then scheduled to start in September. He advised that developers involved had embraced innovations including the Combined Heat and Power Plant. He felt that the Council should be proud of the progress made. He thanked Councillors for their support and particularly referred to Councillors Paul Diviani, Andrew Dinnis, Derek Button and members of the Development Management Committee.

**\*77 New Growth Point – up-date (cont)..**

Councillor Button expressed his concern about the steady increase in the number of dwellings proposed for the new community although he recognised that this was as a result of Government pressure and the need to protect the rest of the district from large scale development. He said that the battle to protect the green ‘wedge’ at Pinhoe had been unsuccessful and that this would be a great loss to the local area.

The Chairman echoed Councillor Franklin’s comments and appreciated the efforts being made to achieve the best for East Devon.

(The Leader declared a personal interest as an employee of Flybe based at Exeter Airport due to reference to the airport being made during discussion on the New Growth Point Development).

**\*78 Local Development Framework Panel**

Councillor Graham Brown advised that it was with regret that he had decided to step down from position of Chairman of the Panel but that it was appropriate in view of his additional responsibilities since taking on the Chairmanship of the recently established Rationalisation Panel.

**RESOLVED** that Councillor David Key be elected Chairman of the above Panel in place of Councillor Graham Brown (who will remain a Panel Member).

Chairman .....

Date .....