

**EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held at**  
**Knowle, Sidmouth, on Wednesday, 27 July 2011**

**Present:**

Councillors:

Peter Halse (Chairman)

Frances Newth (Vice Chairman)

Mike Allen

Roger Boote

Peter Bowden

Graham Brown

Peter Burrows

Derek Button

Bob Buxton

Geoff Chamberlain

David Chapman

Maddy Chapman

Iain Chubb

Trevor Cope

David Cox

Deborah Custance Baker

Alan Dent

Paul Diviani

Christine Drew

Vivien Duval Steer

Jill Elson

Martin Gammell

Steve Gazzard

Roger Giles

Graham Godbeer

Pat Graham

Steve Hall

Tony Howard

Mike Howe

Stuart Hughes

Douglas Hull

John Humphreys

Ben Ingham

Stephanie Jones

Sheila Kerridge

David Key

Jim Knight

Andrew Moulding

John O'Leary

Helen Parr

Ken Potter

Philip Skinner

Pauline Stott

Peter Sullivan

Brenda Taylor

Ian Thomas

Graham Troman

Phil Twiss

Chris Wale

Mark Williamson

Tim Wood

Eileen Wragg

Claire Wright

Tom Wright

Honorary Alderman:

Ann Liverton

Graham Liverton

Ron Mudge

David Scott

Dr Waterworth

Tony Wilkinson

Officers:

Mark Williams, Chief Executive

Richard Cohen, Deputy Chief Executive

Denise Lyon, Deputy Chief Executive

Rachel Pocock, Corporate Legal & Democratic Services Manager

Diana Vernon, Democratic Services Manager

**Apologies**

Councillors:

David Atkins

Ray Bloxham

Graham Brown

John Jeffery

Geoff Pook

Steve Wragg

H A Margaret Rogers

The meeting started at 6.50 pm and finished at 8.00 pm.

**\*23 Opening prayer**

The Chairman introduced Reverend Cate Edmonds who opened the meeting with readings from the scriptures and a prayer.

**\*24 Public question time**

Sue Saunders, founder member of the Littlehams' Associations, Residents and Friends group (LARF), spoke of the value of community groups and volunteers. Although appreciating the difficult financial decisions that the Council had to make, she questioned the Council's policy of charging voluntary groups for use of Council-owned land. The Leader of the Council spoke in response, acknowledging the value of volunteers, and advising that he would discuss the issue with the Portfolio Holder – Environment and the Chief Executive.

Richard Eley, Chairman of the Sidmouth Chamber of Commerce, raised the issue of East Devon's car parking charges which were also of concern to the Exmouth Chamber. He advised that local traders had received complaints from customers and believed that the cost of car parking deterred visitors. He compared charges in East Devon with those in West Dorset where, he advised, charges had remained static for a number of years, trade had increased but car park revenue was similar to that of this council. In response the Portfolio Holder – Environment advised that the Council planned a major review of car parking charges and equipment across the district; the local Chambers of Commerce would be invited to comment. The Leader added that the Council's reliance on income streams could not be under-estimated. He confirmed that representations would be taken into account during the car park review together with information on charges made in other districts.

**\*25 Minutes**

The minutes of the annual meeting of the Council held 25 May 2011 were confirmed and signed as a true record. (The minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on 13 April 2011 had been signed at the annual meeting but had been included in the minute book for ease of reference.)

**\*26 Customer Service Excellence Award**

The Chairman congratulated the Head of Environment and the Environmental Health Team for receiving the Customer Service Excellence Award.

**\*27 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>Tony Martin</b>	10 years	Civil Enforcement
<b>Diana Brown</b>	10 years	Electoral Registration
<b>Linda White</b>	20 years	Electoral Registration
<b>Janet Taylor</b>	20 years	Housing Needs
<b>Neil Brown</b>	25 years	Streetscene West

**\*28 Questions**

No questions had been submitted for consideration.

**\*29 Minutes of Executive Board and Committees**

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

Cabinet	Minutes	1-22,23-43
Development Management	Minutes	76-83,84-88,1-5
Planning Inspections	Minutes	11-12, 1-2
Audit and Governance	Minutes	1-8
Licensing & Enforcement	Minutes	1-4
Licensing & Enforcement Sub	Minutes	36-37,38-39,1-3,4-5,6-9

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

The Cabinet (minute 29) had noted or accepted the following Overview/Scrutiny Committees' recommendations with or without amendment.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Minutes	1-10
Housing Review Board	Minutes	66-80, 1-16

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

a) Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 9 June 2011

Councillor Derek Button's apologies to be added to the list of apologies given for the meeting.

b) Development Management Committee – 14 June 2011

Councillor Derek Button had asked for his vote against the Broadclyst Old Baptist Church application to be recorded.

Councillor Peter Burrows to be added to the list of those present.

\*30 **Changes to Membership on Committees, Forum and Panels**

The proposed increase in membership of the Local Development Framework Panel was discussed. The opposition groups proposed that membership should be increased to 9 so that a third member of the opposition could be included on the Panel. The proposal was put to the vote and lost. It was then proposed that the membership be increased to 8 as set out on the agenda. This proposal was put to the vote and carried. Nominations for additional members were invited and put to the vote.

Councillor Mike Allen, Chairman of the Panel assured all Members that they were welcome to attend meetings of the Panel and could contribute to the debate. He reminded Members that the Panel did not have decision-making powers but rather brought forward recommendations for further consideration.

- RESOLVED**
- (1) that Councillors Alan Dent and Helen Parr be included as members on the Local Development Framework Panel; the membership being increased from 6 to 8 to provide a wider geographical spread of Panel members and to ensure that any absences or declarations of interest do not temporarily deplete the Panel to an unworkable size;
  - (2) that Councillors Mike Howe and Tom Wright replace Councillors Christine Drew and Phil Twiss on the East and Mid Devon Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel (Councillors Howe and Wright being current members of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel);
  - (3) that the Council representative on the Exeter Science Park Board of Directors be the Portfolio Holder – Economy;
  - (4) that the Council be represented on South West Council by the Leader (with the Portfolio Holder – Corporate Services being the deputy representative) – South West Councils had changed its structure and now required only one representative. The new structure also included a new Employers' Panel which replaced the previously separate South West Provincial Council.

\*31 **EDDC's Participatory Budgeting processes**

The Council's Section 106 Officer, Sulina Tallack, introduced and presented a DVD made by South West Councils on EDDC's Participatory Budgeting processes. She advised that Participatory Budgeting was a democratic and fair process. She explained the purpose of Section 106 agreements was to mitigate the impact of approved development and that monies were used to support the provision of local play/recreational services/facilities.

The best practice case study included on the DVD had been selected by South West Councils to showcase effective community engagement at neighbourhood level. The objective was to highlight excellent partnership working with communities and other service providers. The EDDC case study featured had been filmed at one of the Council's events at Millwey Rise in Axminster where residents voted on their new play area.

**\*32 Thelma Hulbert Gallery, Honiton**

The Council's Youth Champion introduced Angela Blackwell, Curator, who outlined the range of Youth activities at the Thelma Hulbert Gallery and showed a DVD of animations created by local schools at the Gallery.

Angela invited all Councillors to visit the Gallery and enjoy the exhibitions, refreshment area and shop.

The Chairman thanked Sulina and Angela for their informative presentations, their dedication and for the excellent work being carried out on behalf of local communities.

Chairman .....

Date.....