

EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL
Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held
at Knowle, Sidmouth on Wednesday, 13 July 2005

Present:

Councillors:

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

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

The meeting started at 6.32 pm and ended at 7.30 pm

***17 Announcement – death of Councillor Noel Rogers**

The Chairman announced the death, on Thursday, 23 June 2005, of Councillor Noel Rogers, Seaton Ward Member. The Chairman outlined Councillor Roger's career as a District Councillor, listing the range of Committees, Sub-Committees and Forum of which he had been a member. The Chairman said that as a fellow councillor, he respected Councillor Rogers' knowledge and judgement and his forthright way of speaking without fear or favour. He said that he would be missed as a colleague and friend.

Members stood in silence as a token of their respect.

Councillor Chamberlain spoke with sadness of the loss of Councillor Rogers who was a colleague and personal friend.

*18 **Minutes**

The minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 18 May 2005 were confirmed and signed as a true record subject to the following amendments:

- the date of the September meeting of the Executive Board being brought forward one week from 14 to Wednesday 7 September 2005, and,
- changes to Councillor representation on East Devon Highways and Traffic Orders Committee and Licensing and Enforcement Committee (dealt with as separate agenda items).

*19 **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs R E Burrow, R H H Cross, K W George, J H Glanvill A S Pascoe and A W J Reed

*20 **Confirmation of Appointment of Councillor G P Chamberlain**

Councillor Chamberlain had been unable to attend the Annual Meeting of the Council when he was appointed Vice-Chairman. He had since read and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office. The Chairman congratulated Councillor Chamberlain on his appointment and was pleased to welcome him as Vice Chairman. He said that Councillor Chamberlain was the longest serving Councillor at East Devon who had always acted with distinction.

Councillor Chamberlain spoke in response to his appointment saying that he was delighted to be appointed. It was new to the authority to appoint a Vice-Chairman from an opposition group and this move was welcomed. He confirmed that he would do his best to serve the residents of East Devon and welcomed working in partnership with the Chairman.

*21 **Retiring Vice-Chairman**

Councillor Mrs K Bamsey, retiring Vice-Chairman, had been unable to attend the Annual Meeting of the Council. The Chairman presented Councillor Mrs Bamsey with the Past Chairman's badge and inscribed plaque and gave a vote of thanks for her dedication to the post of Vice-Chairman.

*22 **Year Book**

The Chairman reminded Councillors to collect post from their pigeonholes. This included the new Council year book/diary. The diaries had been bound with special tear proof paper and had been prepared in-house to be cost-effective and pocket-friendly.

The Chairman advised that if any Councillors would prefer an A5 copy of the year book/diary, this could be made available from Member Services.

*23 **Transport links**

The Leader advised Members that work was being carried out on the Blackdown Hills section of the A303 which involved closure of the road. Similarly the M5 had been closed on Monday. The disruption to traffic highlighted the need for 2 good transport links into the district. The Leader also advised that good rail links were also essential for the economic health of the district and deplored the proposed move to reduce the service at Tiverton Parkway.

*24 **Launch of new web site**

The Leader had pleasure in announcing the Council's involvement in the creation of a new web site, which included events and activities of interest to young people. The site used relevant youth-orientated information fed in by local organisations.

*25 **Presentation of long service certificate**

The Chairman welcomed and introduced Mr Tim Mock who had served with the Lifeboat at Exmouth for 25 years. The Chairman outlined Mr Mock's career within the service, advising that in 2001 he took up the position of Lifeboat Training Co-ordinator for the Exmouth Lifeboat Station. The Chairman thanked him for his long service to the community and presented him with a framed certificate in acknowledgement of his dedication.

*26 **Questions**

Councillor P Diviani, Portfolio Holder – Economy and Regeneration, pursuant to Procedure Rules No 8.2 and 8.5, answered a supplementary question by Councillor A R Giles in respect of the Council's travel to work plan. He confirmed that he had examined the Exeter City Council Green Travel Plan but advised that the scheme could not be operated viably within East Devon due to the rural nature of the area and the inadequacy of public transport. However, he confirmed that the current position was under constant review.

In response to a comment raised by Councillor Mrs M A Rogers, Councillor Miss J M Elson, Portfolio Holder – Communities, stated that when the housing priority scheme and supporting software had been finalised, the new procedures would be explained to tenants, the public and Members.

Councillor P Diviani, Portfolio Holder – Economy and Regeneration, pursuant to Procedure Rules No 8.2 and 8.5, answered a supplementary question by Councillor S Wragg in respect of the Exmouth Re-generation consultation process. He confirmed that the proposals were at a very early stage but processes were now in place to facilitate wide consultation and analysis of feedback.

*27 **MOTION – Increases in Devon County Councillors' Special Responsibility Allowances**

The following motion (in the names of J P Halse, D J Cox, P C Townsend, D R Key and R C Peachey) was proposed by Councillor J P Halse and seconded by Councillor D J Cox:

'This Council deplores the increases in Special Responsibility Allowances, especially the increase of 32% for Portfolio Holders, given to members of the Devon County Council following the change in political control to the Liberal Democrat Party and resolves to exercise restraint when considering the level of any such allowances to be paid by this authority, being mindful of the burden that such large increases places on vulnerable and elderly Council Tax payers'.

The Chief Executive advised that the provisions of the Local Code of Conduct, allowed Members receiving an allowance or payment for functions of a local authority to declare a personal rather than prejudicial interest and remain in the Chamber to take part in the discussion and voting. A number of Members (detailed below) chose to declare a prejudicial interest in this matter and left the Chamber.

Members discussed the size of the increase in Devon County Councillors' Special Responsibility Allowances, its cost to Council Tax payers and its timing in relation to the local elections.

*27 **MOTION – Increases in Devon County Councillors’ Special Responsibility Allowances**

A recorded vote was requested, put to the vote and carried. Details are given below.

The motion was put to the vote and carried.

Recorded vote in support of the motion: Absentions:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Mrs K J Bamsey | Miss V Ash |
| Mrs M J Boote | P W Burrows |
| D J Cox | G P Chamberlain |
| A E J Dinnis | J E D Falby |
| P A Diviani | Mrs P A Braham |
| Lt Col A J M Drake | M J L Green |
| Mrs C E Drew | Mrs M L Hardy |
| Miss J M Elson | B C J Hughes |
| R G Franklin | Ms S M Merritt |
| J P Halse | R Mudge |
| H J Jeffery | Mrs H E Parr |
| D R A Key | T G Reeves |
| Mrs A E Liverton | Mrs L A Roden |
| G K Liverton | A J Toye |
| S C Luxton | |
| A T Moulding | |
| Mrs F I Newth | |
| J B Nicholson | |
| R C Peachey | |
| Miss S M Randall Johnson | |
| P J Skinner | |
| N J Spence | |
| Mrs P A Stott | |
| P C Townsend | |
| C H Wale | |
| Dr H W Waterworth | |
| A J Wilkinson | |

There were no votes against the motion.

(Councillors D R H Hull, Mrs B O Taylor, D G Button, S C Wragg, Mrs M A Rogers, Mrs E E Wragg, S Hughes and A R Giles declared a prejudicial interest in this item and left the Chamber during the discussion and voting. Councillor B J Toye also left the Chamber.)

*27 **Minutes of Executive Board and Committees**

RESOLVED 1. that the undermentioned minutes be received and the recommendations approved

| | | |
|---------------------------|---------|-------------|
| Executive Board | Minutes | 1-24 |
| Development Control | Minutes | 80-102, 1-4 |
| Planning Inspections | Minutes | 33-38, 1-2 |
| General Licensing Sub | Minutes | 69-73, 1-10 |
| Licensing and Enforcement | Minutes | 1-3 |

*27 **Minutes of Executive Board and Committees (cont/..)**

2. that the under-mentioned minutes be received. The recommendations of these Committees had not been referred to the Executive Board for decision. Council had already considered the recommendations from the Economy and Environment Overview Committees in respect of the Conversion of Rural Buildings – interim planning guidance, at its meeting on 20 April 2005 (Minute 48c refers).

| | | |
|----------------------|---------|-------|
| Economy Overview | Minutes | 42-47 |
| Environment Overview | Minutes | 65-69 |
| Corporate Overview | Minutes | 1-2 |
| Scrutiny Committee | Minutes | 1 |

Arising from consideration of the above minutes:-

- (a) Leisure Services – transfer to a Non Profit Distributing Organisation (Executive Board Minute 14 refers)

The Portfolio Holder – Culture confirmed that reported problems of light pollution at the Colin Tooze Sports Centre had been investigated. The floodlighting at this Centre and the Council's other facilities complied with planning regulations. However, the situation would be re-examined to see if any future improvements could be made.

- (b) Employment land supply issues – Ottery St Mary (Economy Overview Committee Minute 43(b) refers)

Councillor A R Giles, Ward Member, Ottery St Mary Town, welcomed the involvement of interested parties but asked for a more balanced, factual reporting. Councillor Luxton, Chairman of the Economy Overview Committee confirmed that most of the comments were made by business leaders in the town and had been part of a fact-finding exercise.

*28 **Revised Committee appointments**

(a) Licensing and Enforcement

RESOLVED that Councillor S Hughes be appointed to replace Councillor P C Townsend on the Licensing and Enforcement Committee.

(b) East Devon Highways and Traffic Orders Committee (Joint Body)

RESOLVED that Councillor G P Chamberlain be appointed to replace Councillor D G Button as East Devon District Council's representative on the East Devon Highways and Traffic Orders Committee.

*29 **Leisure East Devon Limited**

The Portfolio Holder – Culture advised that significant progress was being made in respect of the new Leisure Trust and the next step was to seek nominations for voluntary board members, to include two elected Members of East Devon District Council.

Nominations were invited with three being received – Councillors D J Cox, J P Halse and R Mudge. The nominations were put to the vote.

RESOLVED that Councillors D J Cox and J P Halse be appointed to the Board of Leisure East Devon Limited.

Chairman Date.....