

**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES  
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, BITTON HOUSE ON  
THURSDAY, 11<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2019 AT 6.30PM**

**Present:** Cllr. D. Matthews – Chairman  
Cllr. D. Cox  
Cllr. J. Green  
Cllr. R. Phipps  
Cllr. E.S. Russell

**308. APOLOGIES**

Cllr. A. Eden  
Cllr. T. Falcão  
Cllr. V.L. Fusco  
Cllr. J. Orme  
Cllr. P. Williams

**309. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was none. The Chairman conveyed that the public are welcome to contact him directly and ask questions.

**310. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Cox said a relative works as a Harbour Commissioner.

**311. DISPENSATIONS**

There were none.

**312. MATTERS OF URGENCY BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIRMAN (IF ANY)**

There were none.

**313. CLERK'S REPORT**

There was none.

### **314. SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION IN SAND LEVELS, FUTURE LOSS OF SAND AND FLOOD RISK – TEIGNMOUTH BEACHES**

The Chairman said he had been to the Point on the previous Friday evening and the sea was very rough. The sand levels have significantly reduced and there have been numerous comments by members of the public hence he had called this extraordinary meeting. He added how important the beach is to attract visitors to our town. He requested from the Harbour Commission a copy of the report when the type of dredger was changed.

The Chairman invited Councillors and representatives to speak which included:

**Cllr Phipps** – asked if there is a limit to the size of ship that can enter the port and it was confirmed that there is.

**Cllr Cox** – lots of research has been done and he suggested having an enquiry to go through the evidence.

**Environment Agency** – Teignmouth is unique and has signs of having a sand spit. The general lowering of sand is a trend seen in the last ten years. Recommended comparing Teignmouth with other resorts as the issue is not solely in Teignmouth. There are flood defence granting aids which is linked to the number of properties that would be affected. They are working on a beach management plan with the district council, the plan is needed in order to get any money.

**Cllr Phipps** – asked why the groynes have not been maintained in the last twenty years. The reply from the Environment Agency was that research is needed and licences from the Marine Management Organisation to have work done.

**Chairman** – expressed the need to identify what the cause is, it would be more important to stop boats coming to the port than to cause problems in the town. The port is a commercial pocket whereas the beach is for everyone.

**Teignbridge District Council** – have a joint role with the Environment Agency to prevent flood damage. There will be a study which will be consultant led but it will take around two years. The beach and groynes have mixed ownership. They have not had the evidence to be able to bid for grants to maintain the groynes.

**Associated British Port** – they are highly regulated by the Marine Management Organisation. There are often lots of causes to issues such as this. The port is managed in a responsible way and has a big economic impact and supports 200 employees in the south west. The sand that is dredged is put back in to the system.

**Harbour Master** – conveyed that sand can be dumped where requested provided that someone gets a licence for the sand to be dumped elsewhere as currently the licence is for sand to be dumped at Sprey Point only.

**Cllr Russell** – enquired whether Network Rail are involved and the Chairman said they have been.

The Chairman said another meeting will be held specifically for this matter. Cllr Cox said the Mayor can call a parish meeting and members of the public could debate proposals. Cllr Green asked the public to submit their feedback.

### **315. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

There were none.

### **316. THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000**

Deems that all information held by this Council should be freely available to the public unless it falls under one of 23 exemptions.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting closed at 7.50pm.

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**COUNCILLOR D MATTHEWS**  
**CHAIRMAN**

Bitton House, Teignmouth  
23<sup>rd</sup> April 2019