

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL Festival and Events Working Party

Notes of the virtual meeting held at 1400 on Thursday 3 December 2020 via Zoom

Present

Cllr Joy Whipps (Chair)	JW	Exmouth Town Council
Lisa Bowman	LB	Exmouth Town Council
Carla Hiley	CH	Exmouth Town Council
Natasha Smart	NS	Exmouth Town Council
Cllr Aurora Bailey	AB	Exmouth Town Council
Cllr Brian Bailey	BB	Exmouth Town Council
Cllr Eileen Beech	EB	Exmouth Town Council
Cllr Frank Cullis	FC	Exmouth Town Council
Cllr Olly Davey	OD	Exmouth Town Council
Cllr Steve Gazzard	SG	Exmouth Town Council

Apologies

Chetna Jones	CJ	Exmouth Town Council
Trevor Huggons	TH	Festival Volunteer

1. Welcome and Apologies

- 1.1. JW welcomed attendees to the meeting and noted apologies.

2. Notes of Last Meeting

- 2.1. SG proposed, seconded by FC, that the notes of the last meeting on 5 November 2020 be approved. There were no matters arising.

3. Christmas 2020 Update

- 3.1. **a. Christmas Tree Decorating Competition.** CH explained that the competition is now underway. The small Christmas trees were delivered to the 8 Exmouth primary schools the previous week, as well as the Deaf Academy, who were pleased to be included. Feedback from all the schools has been positive and nearly half have already decorated their trees with handmade decorations by the pupils, in a variety of themes, and sent in their competition entry photographs (CH also shared a video received from one of the schools). CH stated that she would send all the final photos to SG (at his councillor email address) the following week for him to judge the winner. She has also booked space in the Exmouth Journal for them to print the photos the following week.
- 3.2. **b. The Big Christmas Sing.** CH explained that the event is building momentum: she has sent the event flyer to all councillors; a news article and photo of Reverend Simon Atkinson, who devised the event, appeared in this week's Exmouth Journal; and Exmouth AiR will be playing the carols at the

right time for the event (Monday 21 December at 6.30pm). SG asked whether he should go to the Town Hall to take part, which led to a discussion about whether councillors should attend the event at home or at the Town Hall. Members agreed that it would be good for as many councillors as possible to take part on the front steps at the Town Hall (in a socially distanced manner). It should also be possible to have a phone or radio tuned to Exmouth AiR in order to have the carols playing at the same time. LB agreed to raise this with councillors at Full Council the following week.

- 3.3. **c. Light Up Exmouth.** CH explained that this is a visual arts project, on which she has been working with local artists Hayley Watson and Livvy Hylton-Smith, who organised craft packs for families during lockdown. This latest initiative is to provide all the materials and instructions for families to make a stained-glass window to display in their front windows in time for The Big Christmas Sing. The packs will be available next week at locations such as the Community Larder and Tourist Information Service, as well as given to local schools, and CH estimates that 100s of packs will be created. LB clarified that the packs are being funded from the non-Festival arts budget and are being branded as an ETC-supported initiative. CH further explained that the packs will have an ETC sticker and the initiative will also appear in the Exmouth Journal as an ETC-supported event. OD suggested that the Journal might go further to support this by printing a template and instructions so that even those who don't have a pack could easily join in.
- 3.4. **d. Promotional Material for Christmas.** CH explained that SG has provided some wording as a Christmas message to use in the promotional material (eg in the Journal) and wondered whether members had any additions to this. JW suggested also making a reference to New Year, which members supported.
- 3.5. **e. New Year's Eve Fireworks.** CH explained that EDDC has announced that it will not be accepting any applications for events on EDDC land in December, which means that it will not be possible to hold a fireworks display. LB further explained that, at the most recent LAG meeting, Inspector Weeks had confirmed that the police would not support a firework display being held this year. It will therefore not be possible for ETC to hold a New Year's Eve 2020 display.

4. Exmouth Festival 2021

- 4.1. CH explained that she has been keeping abreast of the latest information relating to large outdoor events in view of the ongoing pandemic. She plans to meet with her production team on 14 January to discuss the situation, so hopes to be able to make a clearer, informed recommendation to members about the future of next year's Festival at the next WP meeting scheduled for 21 January. She explained that she has pencilled in acts (from the 2020 line-up) to attend in 2021, but with no firm commitments as yet. Members agreed that it was important not to spend any money unnecessarily (eg on a

premises licence) until it was clear that the Festival could go ahead next year. Members therefore agreed to meet on 21 January to make a final decision about the 2021 Festival (with options which could include going ahead in May or postponing to later in the year).

5. Any Other Business

- 5.1. AB apologised that she and BB have had difficulty attending recent meetings due to technology, but she wanted to thank members for the work to create alternative Christmas events this year. SG also wanted to highlight the new Christmas lights in Exmouth, which have been well-received.

6. Date of Next Meeting

- 6.1. The date and time of the next meeting will be **Thursday 21 January 2021 at 1400**, held virtually via Zoom.

The meeting finished at approximately 1430.