

# EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

## Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Party

Notes of the meeting held at 3pm on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2021 held remotely via Zoom

### Present

Councillor Tim Dumper	TD	Exmouth Town Council (Chair)
Councillor Andrew Toyne	AT	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Brian Bailey	BB	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Frank Cullis	FC	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Olly Davey	OD	Exmouth Town Council
Catherine Causley	CC	Transition Exmouth
(Stand-in for Nicky Nicholls)		
Lisa Bowman	LB	Exmouth Town Council Officer
Jennifer Wellington	JW	Exmouth Town Council Notetaker

### Apologies

Councillor Andrew Colman	AC	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Steve Gazzard (Ex-officio)	SG	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Mike Rosser	MR	Exmouth Town Council
Nicky Nicholls	NN	Transition Exmouth Chair

### 1. Welcome

TD welcomed members to the meeting and apologies were noted.

Members then observed a minute's silence to honour the passing of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh Prince Philip.

### 2. Approval of previous meeting notes and matters arising

The notes of the previous meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021 were approved.

### 3. Matters arising

#### Tree Task and Finish Forum (TAFF) Notes

The reference to the frequency of Tree TAFF meetings was amended in the February Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Party notes.

#### East Devon District Council (EDDC) Asset Management Forum

OD spoke with the Deputy Town Clerk with regards to his conversation with Tim Childs, EDDC, about the water bottle filling stations project. However no further progress has been made with regards to installing these stations and LB added that Devon County Council (DCC) are potentially backtracking on their agreement and are now asking for a lease for their land rather than a licence. The Deputy Town Clerk has sought legal advice on this issue and will be contacting DCC for clarification.

EDDC are also awaiting information from the Town Council, including a method statement from the chosen contractors. However, the quotations previously received from contractors are now out of date so the tender process will need to be undertaken again.

If the Deputy Town Clerk cannot gain any information from DCC or progress the project forward, the DCC Councillors will be contacted.

BB raised that installing these stations has become an expensive exercise as legal complications have increased the initial cost. LB explained how a report had gone to Full Council to explain the increase in costs from the initial estimate. She stated that she will report back to Town Council if costs escalate further than what was stated in that report.

Members thanked the Deputy Town Clerk for the work she has done and continues to do on this project.

#### Meeting Street

The same team at DCC that are working on the water bottle refilling station project are responsible for the Meeting Street premises and no further updates on this building have been received by LB.

**Action: LB to continue to contact DCC with regards to an update on the Meeting Street premises.**

#### Ride On

No further update could be provided on using Ride On's services to refurbish bicycles for Bikeability.

However, the bicycle collection scheme in collaboration with Ride On officially started on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 via a press release. So far, the scheme has been well supported with around 20 bicycles ready for collection to date.

Moving forward, ideas about running a social media campaign for an 'in your ward' collection as well as general collection promotions were discussed.

CC added that when she collected bicycles for Ride On, she ran two promotions a year - one in the Spring and one after the Summer holidays - which were well supported.

#### University of Exeter's emission tool

LB sent the University of Exeter's emission tool to NN for information.

Press release on the Town Council's progress and future intentions

Due to time constraints, no progress had been made on writing a press release of the Town Council's environmental progress or future intentions.

**Action: LB and TD to look at the Environmental Audit and draft some targets or policies which will be brought back to the Working Party for discussion.**

#### Transition Exmouth Invoice

LB confirmed that the invoice from Transition Exmouth to claim back the costs associated with the eCargo Bike delivery project was forwarded to the Finance Administrator.

#### Co-bikes

OD updated members that installing an electric bike-rack between the train station and estuary car park looked promising.

Co-cars and EDDC seemed keen to go ahead with this but needed permissions for the land as the area identified is likely to be owned by DCC.

OD added that Co-cars had asked if the Town Council could provide funding to cover the installation costs, but no official request has been received by the Town Clerk.

#### **4. To recommend that Exmouth Town Council supports the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill**

The Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill (CEE) was proposed by Caroline Lucas MP (Green Party) and has had cross-party support. The Bill attempts to improve upon the old Climate Bill of 2008 and encourage the Government to respond to the Climate Emergency more seriously, with more emphasis on improving Government legislation and schemes that currently have come to nothing or are not fit for purpose. There is also feeling that the current legislation is too reliant on the private sector.

Transition Exmouth have been canvassing and promoting the CEE Bill for support and to progress it forward through Parliament.

LB explained that the CEE Bill Alliance had put together lots of information on their website, including a response template for local councils to use. Using this template, LB then read out a draft response to this Bill.

OD hopes to raise the Bill at an EDDC meeting and ask EDDC for support.

CC added that the CEE Bill closes any loopholes, especially when it comes to manufacturing. However, there seems to be confusion with regards to the Citizen Assembly part of the Bill. Additionally, she explained that an article is due to be published in the Exmouth Journal.

**Recommendation: OD proposed, seconded by FC, that the Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Party recommends that Exmouth Town Council resolves to:**

- I. Support the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill**
- II. Inform the local media of this decision**
- III. Write to Simon Jupp MP, asking him to support the Bill; and**
- IV. Write to the CEE Bill Alliance, the organisers of the campaign for the Bill, expressing its support ([campaign@ceebill.uk](mailto:campaign@ceebill.uk)).**
- 5. To receive an update on the first meeting of the Devon Climate Emergency Council Support Network**

TD, LB and JW attended the first meeting of the Devon Climate Emergency Council Support Network webinar:

- The webinar was a useful networking exercise as there was opportunity to talk with other councils about what they are doing or hope to do.
- A carbon footprint tool was promoted as well as how to engage with members of the public.
- The 'Our Place, Our Planet' (OPOP) website was promoted at the event with regards to benchmarking and how to promote next steps that could be taken.
- FC suggested contacting Exeter University to offer Exmouth as a trial town with any of their environmental research. TD confirmed there is a link with the University through the Devon Association of Local Councils (DALC), that he sits on.
- CC suggested taking a small cross-section of the community to see what changes could be achievable. She stressed that it is not always about promoting the environmental benefits that gets members of the public engaged but the associated benefits such as saving money, being part of the community or health improvements.

- LB added that any public engagement could form part of the new part-time Climate Officer post which will be advertised after the elections.

**Action: LB to circulate the webinar resources to members.**

- 6. To note that a public consultation is being held on the Draft Resource and Waste Management Strategy for Devon and Torbay between 3 March and 14 April to seek the views of local stakeholders, businesses and residents and agree a response on behalf of the working party.**

LB presented a PowerPoint of the overview of the strategy.

Members then completed the consultation questionnaire. Generally, members were happy with the strategy and the consultation questions. However, there were some areas that they felt were not ambitious enough so added their thoughts as part of the consultation questionnaire.

Additionally, LB suggested contacting the Community Action Groups Devon who are based in Tiverton as, going forward, this group would like to secure funding to work in other towns.

- 7. To receive an update from Transition Exmouth**

In NN's absence, CC gave an update on Transition Exmouth:

The eCargo Bike Delivery service has been launched, with OD as the first customer. The free service is trialling for the next few months and CC encouraged members to use the service to help support local businesses.

The Exmouth Library of Things is progressing well. A press release for donations is currently being written which will include a plea for good quality items such as tools, ladders, and camping equipment. It is hoped that the Library will open mid/end May 2021.

The Transition Exmouth Umbrella group is meeting on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

The Transition Exmouth monthly newsletter has gone out and LB confirmed that the newsletter is circulated to all Town Councillors.

CC reminded members that she will be providing some environmental and climate emergency training on the 20<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

- 8. To receive an update on other relevant matters from Town Council working parties and outside body representatives**

#### Trust Fund and year end accounts

LB updated members that the Trust Fund Working Party are looking into the William Adam Westwood Trust's, which the Town Council is a Trustee, shareholdings to

ensure that they are ethical and sustainable. The Working Party are looking into an investment strategy which will be presented to Full Council for approval.

A similar exercise will then be undertaken for the Town Council to ensure all shareholdings and investments are with ethical and sustainable companies. Approval will be sought from Finance then Full Council.

#### **9. Any other business**

FC raised that dog poo bags make up a lot of litter-picked waste and should be something to pay attention to.

#### **10. Date of future meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for the 11<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 3pm via Zoom.

The meeting finished at 17.03pm.