

## **EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL Festival and Events Working Party**

Notes of the virtual meeting held at 1400 on Thursday 8 April 2021 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
Trevor Huggons	TH	Festival Volunteer

### **Apologies**

Chetna Jones	CJ	Exmouth Town Council
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### **1. Welcome and Apologies**

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

### **2. Notes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising**

- 2.1. FC proposed, seconded by EB, that the notes of the last meeting on 21 January 2021 be approved. There were no matters arising.

### **3. Summer 2021 Programme of Activity**

- 3.1. CH outlined plans to bring vibrancy to the town over the 6 weeks of the school summer holidays by introducing walkabout acts, who would move around different locations of the town providing performance entertainment such as roller skating and juggling. She has had proposals from 4 performers, who would each be able to provide several short performances per day. They would be flexible and could move around the town in order to cover different areas and avoid large crowds gathering, starting at the Magnolia Centre and including other town centre locations such as outside the train station, the Strand and Phear Park. CH has calculated that, if each performer covered one day per week over 6 weeks (so 4 days per week would be covered in total), this would cost £4,680, which could come out of the unspent 2021 Festival budget. No EDDC licence is likely to be required as these would be classed as promenade acts. CH would like to test out the idea but this may not be possible until after 21 June due to ongoing Covid restrictions.

- 3.2. Members supported the plans and also suggested that local musicians/buskers or small choirs could be included to fill the 3 remaining days per week of the school holidays, which CH agreed to look into. LB also suggested that the stone circle plinth in the Magnolia Centre, which used to be the base for the clock before its recent removal, might make a good mini stage area for the performers.
- 3.3. Other ideas for the 6-week period included the creation of a community mural painted by different local community groups, to be organised by local community artist Hayley Watson. Members also discussed decorating the town with bunting. LB explained that Exmouth in Bloom has created some banners which are due to be installed on the existing Christmas tree brackets on some buildings. She mentioned that the ETC-owned catenary wires could also be used for some kind of bunting. CH stated that ETC has some other flags/bunting which it might be possible to use, so agreed to explore this further.

#### **4. The World's Smallest Arts Centre**

- 4.1. CH outlined a further idea to coincide with the Summer 2021 programme of activity, which was to use the Magnolia Centre kiosk as a mini art gallery. There could be a different theme for each of the 6 weeks, with different art or community groups providing artwork for display. The kiosk could also be the starting/focal point for the walkabout acts, and could be used to advertise details of the different acts each day/week. It would not need to be manned, is lockable and could also provide a useful base for the performers to leave their belongings if necessary.

#### **5. Exmouth Pride**

- 5.1. CH explained that she has been working with Exmouth Pride who, like many charities during the Covid pandemic, has been struggling to raise funds and maintain visibility. She explained that she had put forward an idea for an Exmouth Pride bench to be made and installed in Manor Gardens, which JW has approved out of committee. The £1250 cost will be covered from the WP's non-Festival budget. The metal artwork bench is being made by a local blacksmith and will be installed soon, with EDDC's approval and support, along with an interpretation board to explain how it was made and with useful helpline information included.
- 5.2. CH further explained that Exmouth Pride would like to use the flagpoles around Exmouth to fly Exmouth Pride flags throughout June 2021. LB explained that this might not be possible due to other memorial events in June, so suggested she and CH revisit this outside the meeting.

#### **6. Dates for Exmouth Festival 2022**

- 6.1. After some discussion about the May bank holiday dates for 2022, which have been changed due to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, the working party agreed that the Exmouth Festival 2022 dates would take place over the long bank holiday weekend from **Thursday 2-Sunday 5 June 2022** (with a 6pm finish on the Sunday evening). In response to a query from CH, members

agreed to her going ahead and finalising contracts for the Festival acts for 2022 (many of whom were postponed from 2020).

- 6.2. CH will be on maternity leave at the time of Exmouth Festival 2022, and LB explained that existing staff will not be able to absorb her work on the event, particularly bearing in mind the importance of getting the 2022 safety and security right. She therefore anticipates employing a temporary member of staff to cover CH's role as Arts Manager during this period.

## **7. Any Other Business**

- 7.1. None raised.

## **8. Date of Next Meeting**

- 8.1. Members agreed to hold the next meeting on **Thursday 20 May 2021 at 1400**, to review progress on planning for the summer activities. The meeting finished at approximately 1450.