

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL Festival and Events Working Party

Notes of the virtual meeting held at 1400 on Thursday 23 September 2021 via Zoom

Present

| | | |
|-------------------------|----|----------------------|
| Cllr Joy Whipps (Chair) | JW | Exmouth Town Council |
| Lisa Bowman | LB | Exmouth Town Council |
| Chetna Jones | CJ | Exmouth Town Council |
| Charlie Tapp | CT | Exmouth Town Council |
| Natasha Smart | NS | Exmouth Town Council |
| Cllr Brian Bailey | BB | Exmouth Town Council |
| Cllr Olly Davey | OD | Exmouth Town Council |
| Cllr Steve Gazzard | SG | Exmouth Town Council |
| Cllr Cherry Nicholas | CN | Exmouth Town Council |

Apologies

| | | |
|--------------------|----|----------------------|
| Cllr Aurora Bailey | AB | Exmouth Town Council |
| Cllr Eileen Beech | EB | Exmouth Town Council |
| Cllr Frank Cullis | FC | Exmouth Town Council |
| Cllr Alex Sadiq | AS | Exmouth Town Council |
| Cllr Joe Whibley | JW | 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 and Matters Arising

- 2.1. The notes of the last meeting on 1 July 2021 were approved without issue.
- 2.2. OD asked whether it had been possible to add friezes to the Magnolia Kiosk for the Summer Lift Off event. LB explained that branding stickers were added to the kiosk windows, although all the Summer Lift Off signage would be removed shortly. JW wondered whether the bunting could remain, which LB thought would be possible in the short term.

3. Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022: Beacon Lighting Ceremony

- 3.1. CJ summarised the plan for Exmouth to register the Town Council's involvement in the Queen's Platinum Jubilee beacon lighting ceremony on 2 June 2022, which had recently been agreed at Full Council. She understood from a conversation with SG about the 2012 Jubilee that a beacon had been lit at the Geoneedle at Orcombe Point, so proposed to do the same again for the 2022 celebration. The idea was for beacons to be lit at midnight across the country by parish and town councils. ETC would then receive a certificate for taking part which could be publicly displayed.

- 3.2. The next steps were to register ETC's interest in the event and to gain permission from the landowner (believed to be the National Trust). Then a decision could be made about the type of beacon. In an initial discussion, members favoured a tall basket-style beacon, raised off the ground. CJ explained that kits are available (eg a gas bottle kit at £490 +VAT), but that she would do further work on the options available (plus registering interest and gaining landowner permission) and revert at a future meeting to discuss this.

4. Christmas 2021 Events

- 4.1. CT outlined her current plans for a Christmas event, aimed at welcoming the community back into town in a safe way (after two years of not being able to host a Christmas event due to Covid). She proposed a short event taking place on Saturday 4 December from 4pm to include walkabout performers, carol singing and a schools' lantern parade, leading up to the Strand Christmas tree lights switch-on. LB highlighted the fact that ETC does not have the capacity to organise a Christmas Fayre, which may also still not be appropriate due to the ongoing pandemic. Members supported the proposal for a smaller and simpler 2021 Christmas event as suggested.
- 4.2. CJ explained that 5 primary schools had so far responded regarding involvement in the lantern parade, with 4 keen to take part (which totalled 120-150 students). BB offered AB's help (as a school governor) in seeking a response from Bassetts Farm Primary School, which members gratefully accepted. CJ raised the fact that the parade route may need to be amended (to avoid the narrow pavements of the previous route from Exeter Road to the Strand) and suggested the parade start at Holy Trinity Church and walk along Rolle Street to the Strand, which members supported.

CJ left the meeting

5. Exmouth Festival 2022

- 5.1. CT explained that the Exmouth Festival 2022 would take place Thursday 2-Sunday 5 June 2022, to coincide with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee weekend. So far she has met with PL1, the production company, as well as the security team, and been able to give them a heads up to changes on site brought about by the completion of the Tidal Defence Scheme work around the Imperial Recreation Ground. She has been in touch with EDDC regarding securing the land/event permission, and has already booked the big top, toilets and first aid provisions, which are key to the event. Carla Hiley had already booked the event programme acts for 2020, which CT will now revisit to check if the acts would still like to be booked for the event (and she has already confirmed the two headline acts). She explained that she issued the Festival dates the previous day on social media (and a new Festival website landing page) and was met with a very positive response.
- 5.2. Next steps are to issue tenders for the bar contract and to contact food and drink and other traders, again with priority offered to those who had secured a place in 2020 (and this would include places for charity stalls). In

response to a query about previous security concerns, CT explained that the event will be using heightened security (as had been planned for 2020), which will incur increased costs (such as fencing). She is also working with a designer on fresh branding with a family-friendly, community feel.

6. Exmouth Youth Survey

- 6.1. CT explained that she has been approached by new Exmouth resident Pip Piper regarding a project to survey and capture young people's views on the now and future of Exmouth from their perspective. Pip has a youth work background, and LB explained that he created a short video on the recent Town Clean so appears keen to engage with the town. CT stressed that the project is in its early stages, but Pip is keen to see whether ETC will support the project and whether members know of any similar previous initiatives.
- 6.2. Members briefly discussed the idea, and the following points were highlighted:
 - Members supported the project in principle but would like a better understanding of how it would work in practice and the costs involved;
 - LB suggested that Pip contact EDDC Community Liaison Officer Jamie Buckley, who would be able to provide useful community contacts;
 - OD suggested trying to incorporate the views of young people outside schools and youth organisations, who are harder to reach.
- 6.3. CT thanked members for their initial support for the project and stated that she would be meeting with Pip again shortly to get more details and would revert at a future meeting.

7. Poems For Hope (Exmouth School and Community Group Project)

- 7.1. CT updated members on her recent successful funding bid to DCC's Reconnect Rebuild Recover Community Fund for a poetry-writing project, aimed at developing a greater sense of community within Exmouth. She will now commission four poets to create a video series of poetry-writing exercises, before asking the local community to contribute poems under the theme of *Hope*. She then plans to print and display the poems around the town, eg in empty shop windows, and on a website, and possibly also to publish them in a booklet. She will update members on progress at a future meeting.

8. Any Other Business

- 8.1. None raised.

9. Date of Next Meeting

- 9.1. Members agreed the date of the next meeting as **Thursday 4 November 2021** at 2pm. The meeting finished at approximately 1450.