

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Festival and Events Working Party

Notes of the virtual meeting held at 1400 on Thursday 4 November 2021 via Zoom

Present

Cllr Joy Whipps (Chair)	JW	Exmouth Town Council
Lisa Bowman	LB	Exmouth Town Council
Cllr Cherry Nicholas	CN	Exmouth Town Council
Cllr Eileen Beech	EB	Exmouth Town Council
Cllr Olly Davey	OD	Exmouth Town Council
Cllr Frank Cullis	FC	Exmouth Town Council
Cllr Steve Gazzard	SG	Exmouth Town Council
Lisa Greenway	LG	Exmouth Town Council
Charlie Tapp	CT	Exmouth Town Council

Apologies

Trevor Huggons	TH	Festival Volunteer
Cllr Alex Sadiq	AS	Exmouth Town Council
Cllr Joe Whibley	JW	Exmouth Town Council
Chetna Jones	CJ	Exmouth Town Council

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies (JW)

1.1 JW welcomed attendees to the meeting and noted apologies.

2. Notes of meeting of 23 September 2021 (attached) and matters arising (JW)

2.1 FC asked about progress on the Jubilee Beacon lighting. JW explained that Chetna is leading on this and will be discussed at the next meeting in early January.

2.2 SG asked whether we would deliver a window decorating competition to align with the Christmas events. To be discussed further at item 3.

3. Exmouth Winter Festival, including Christmas Tree Festival and Lantern Parade (CT)

3.1 CT summarised plans for the Exmouth Winter Festival event, where local

choirs and performance groups will perform on the strand from 4pm-8pm. The children's lantern parade will leave from Holy Trinity Church at 5.30pm before making its way to the strand led by a samba band. CT shared the poster design and asked for help in distributing them once printed. CT to follow up via email.

- 3.2 FC asked about late night shopping. CT explained we have contacted the food & drink businesses on the strand but haven't done any wider communication. LB explained that we haven't had much luck with late night shopping before but we are in touch with Exmouth Chamber of Commerce about how we work together moving forwards, with the intention that they take responsibility for retail engagement.
- 3.3 LB suggested we could do a blanket communication to local businesses about the event and if they want to stay open we'd welcome it and support with promotion. JW suggested focusing on shops in the strand and if we persuade them to join in, it may spread out in future years.
- 3.4 CT confirmed that we are providing the Christmas trees. A preference for using King's as a supplier was noted. There was discussion around whether or not to make the festival a competition.
- 3.5 CT will circulate details for how councillors can help with promotion and marshalling of events.

4. Exmouth Festival 2022 (CT)

- 4.1 Plans for the festival are progressing well. CT is in touch with all performers from 2020 and is now looking at new performers.
- 4.2 The brief for the bar provision is out and being considered by Spoken and Oddfellows. Deadline 1st week December.
- 4.3 CT has begun making sponsorship approaches. If anyone thinks of anyone please send them to exmouthfestival.co.uk/sponsorship or directly to CT. Jurassic Fibre are currently interested.
- 4.4 FC suggested approaching LLC who are delivering the the Devon Live festival.
- 4.5 OD suggested a swing band from Exeter that performed at a GWRSA event.
- 4.6 The issue of the state of the Imperial Recreation ground was raised by JW & FC. We have approached EDDC previously and they haven't done anything to rectify it. LB suggested we contact Tom Wood- new area manager @ EDDC and register our concerns about the state of it. LB to follow this up.

5. Exmouth Youth Survey update (CT)

- 5.1 An update from Pip Piper was circulated prior to meeting.
- 5.2 LB explained that there is some money in reserves (£1,000) for youth work/ youth council. We could give £500 towards the project to help us with youth engagement. It was agreed that this a good idea & an appropriate use of the money, particularly given the proposal references the neighbourhood plan which we will begin to refresh in the coming months.
- 5.3 There was some discussion around whether this was the correct working party to deal with this project. It was agreed that this is the best fit from our options and it was proposed by OD that we consider renaming the WP Community Events.

6. Any other business (All)

- 6.1 LB updated the group on Remembrance Sunday plans which Exmouth Council is now leading on following an approach by RBL. There has been a national edict that RBL branches can no longer be event organisers/take out insurance for these events. The event permission request has been submitted to EDDC in the town council name. We've also organised rolling road closure to follow the usual format. Whole event now covered under our insurance. James from Sound Events is employed to look after sound on the day, should address previous years complaints about sound.
- 6.2 LB clarified that RBL are organising the parade itself, as well as the bugler and Exmouth Concert Band. The Grounds Maintenance team will be working, along with Lisa & Mollie as marshals. If anyone is available to help marshal to cover road junctions that would be appreciated. Email going out for this soon.
- 6.3 The last minute hand-over of this event has meant it's been a little tricky to organise. A wash-up meeting will be arranged after the event and next year we can do more proactive organisation of the event.
- 6.4 FC questioned if we are arranging New Year's Eve fireworks this year. LB updated that we haven't currently organised anything. There is conflicting advice around this at the moment and we've come under criticism over fireworks and local residents with pets. JW suggested we could put warning posters up around Manor Gardens. LB confirmed we could also do a letter drop. The usual budget for this event is £3,000. After some discussion it was agreed that this event

would be expected of the council, and we would proceed but with consideration for various environmental concerns. LB to speak to our usual firework company.

- 6.5 LB suggested we will need a marshal briefing for lantern parade. CT to pick this up.

7. Date of next meeting (JW)

- 7.1 The next meeting will take place on Thursday 6th January at 2pm over zoom. They will then be scheduled every 6 weeks.