

## **EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL**

### **Community Resilience Working Party**

Notes of the virtual meeting held at 2pm on Wednesday 12 January 2022 via Zoom

#### **Present**

Councillor Tony Woodward (Chair)	TW	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Maddy Chapman	MC	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Tim Dumper	TD	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Steve Gazzard	SG	Exmouth Town Council
Chetna Jones	CJ	Exmouth Town Council
Anna Jones	AJ	Exmouth Town Council

#### **Apologies**

Councillor David Poor	DP	Exmouth Town Council
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#### **1. Welcome and Apologies**

TW welcomed attendees to the meeting and noted apologies. As the meeting was initially inquorate, it was agreed to proceed with the meeting on an informal basis. Once SG joined the meeting, members proceeded with the meeting on a more formal basis.

#### **2. To approve the notes of the meeting held on 21 January 2021**

Once quorate, SG proposed, seconded by MC, and it was agreed that members approved the notes of the last meeting on 20 January 2021.

#### **3. Matters Arising from the previous meeting**

##### Sandbags

Members had previously discussed finding an appropriate location to store and supply sandbags in the town centre. CJ confirmed that sandbags are held in the Town Hall, by certain individual councillors, and by Streetscene. As a suitable location to collect sandbags at any time has not been identified, CJ suggested continuing to operate in the current manner. TD commented that a list of councillors who hold sandbags is kept in Reception and can be used to contact the appropriate councillors when necessary.

#### **4. To discuss updates on grit bins**

CJ confirmed that the grit bin status table was updated following the February 2021 Full Council Meeting (circulated prior to the meeting by AJ) and this was incorporated in the Emergency Plan. This highlighted some more grit bins which did not appear on the map provided by Devon County Council. CJ suggested that the

Town Council continues to check the status of the grit bins to ensure the list in the Emergency Plan is kept up to date and to inform DCC of any issues.

TW provided an update on the grit bins in his area, which are rock hard and filled with dog bags and other rubbish. TD raised that DCC seem to be reluctant to resolve this issue, however we should continue to persevere with DCC and continue to update them with the status of the grit bins.

CJ asked members to encourage other Councillors to check the status of grit bins in their wards. Going forward, the Community Resilience Working Party will meet in September so that grit bin status can be assessed before the winter months.

**ACTION: Councillors to continue checking the status of grit bins in their wards and assess this again at the next meeting in September.**

#### **5. To discuss updates on emergency boxes**

CJ confirmed that all emergency boxes have been put together and most distributed and are ready for use. A list of these can be found in the Emergency Plan under Community Shelters.

#### **6. To discuss updates on Exmouth Flood Gate Volunteers**

TW confirmed he and TD attended the practice run of the Flood Gates.

CJ explained the test run on 12 November highlighted several issues, which she highlighted to Kate Pearson from the Environment Agency. Kate passed these on to the relevant people, but CJ has received no feedback. CJ discussed with Kate about organising another Flood Gates practice event, however ETC's volunteers are confident with operating the gates safely and efficiently. It was agreed we will wait to hear from Kate about organising another practice.

CJ further confirmed that the Environment Agency are now handing the project over to EDDC. She explained that as a lot of the Environment Agency staff have now moved on to other projects, the pace of the project has slowed. However, CJ continues to stay connected with Kate to keep each other updated.

CJ confirmed we have compiled a list of Flood Gate volunteers with Kate. The list is used to keep track of people who have attended training and have collected hi-vis jackets. We will continue to communicate with the volunteers and have plans for another training session and a meeting via Zoom.

**ACTION: AJ to contact Flood Gate Volunteers regarding collecting hi-vis vests.**

**ACTION: CJ to organise another Flood Gates practice run with Kate from the Environment Agency.**

*SG joined the meeting.*

## **7. To discuss updates on completion of Flood Gate MOU**

TW confirmed the appendices on the back needs completing and confirmed the Environment Agency will be in touch when it becomes available.

## **8. To discuss updates on additional names for Community Resilience Volunteer List**

TW explained that through the Car Park Volunteer list at the Tennis Centre, there are an additional sixty volunteers happy to be added to the Exmouth Town Volunteer list, as a separate category. Since then, forty people from that group have volunteered at the LED Leisure Centre, and over Christmas a smaller group at Claremont Surgery providing stewardship. TW confirmed that the volunteers have given consent to Exmouth Town Council to assist with supporting its work in Exmouth. He will combine the three lists of names into one, ensure each complies with GDPR regulations, and send to AJ to store with the other volunteer names.

**ACTION: TW to combine the lists of volunteers and send to AJ to store with the other volunteer names.**

## **9. To receive an update on EDDC's mobile trailer for use at flood prevention awareness event**

CJ provided some background information on EDDC's mobile trailer. Exmouth Town Council previously borrowed the trailer from the Countryside Team for use at a flood prevention awareness event in the Strand. The trailer now sits with the Thelma Hulbert Gallery and has been refurbished with a focus on the environment and climate change. Consent has been given to Exmouth Town Council to use the trailer again, and THG was keen to provide support and promote their current activities too. CJ suggested a two-armed approach, through both the Community Resilience Working Party and the Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Party.

CJ confirmed the flood prevention awareness event in the Strand received valuable feedback but suggested it may be better if held in the Magnolia Centre to catch the attention of more locals.

Councillors discussed specific flooding problems during the recent storms, particularly in Victoria Road, Imperial Road, Exeter Road, St Andrews Road and the Parade. It was confirmed that the Clear Plan leaflets left over from the previous event are up to date, aside from a few phone numbers that have changed, but these can be corrected with a sticker. It was agreed that a second flood prevention awareness event will be organised in the Magnolia Centre for a Saturday in March to encourage people to be proactive about flooding rather than reactive.

**ACTION: CJ to consult with the Thelma Hulbert Gallery to organise an appropriate Saturday in March to use EDDC's mobile trailer at a flood prevention awareness event.**

## **10. Any other business**

### Flooding caused by Goodmores Farm Development

MC raised the issue of flooding in the Parade and Exeter Road, due to heavy rainfall. She explained her concerns regarding the Goodmores Farm development, that despite the underground springs and holding tanks being installed, the extra water from an additional 220 houses combined with heavy rainfall will still be going into the old drains and may cause more flooding. CJ confirmed that the issue had been previously raised at a Flooding and Land Drainage Working Party meeting. She explained that the DCC Flood Risk Team representative present at the meeting said that they would investigate it further. MC confirmed that South West Water did raise objection when the development proposal went to the Planning Committee, but she is not aware of the outcome of this.

It was agreed to add these flooding risks concerns in the Brixington area on the Flooding and Land Drainage agenda for 25 January 2022, and suggested an early invitation to DCC Flood Risk team so they can investigate the development further.

### Membership

Members discussed the issue of membership in the Working Party. The Terms of Reference state the Working Party should have five members, one from each ward, however currently there are two representatives for Littleham Ward and none for Town Ward. It was agreed that CJ will put this on the next Full Council agenda to appoint TD as a representative for Town Ward.

Additionally, SG proposed, seconded by MC, that TW be re-elected as Chairman of the Community Resilience Working Party.

**ACTION: CJ to raise appointing a Town Ward representative for the Community Resilience Working Party on the next Full Council agenda.**

## **11. To agree date of next meeting**

The date and time of the next meeting will be Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at 2pm, although members agreed to meet in March for another flood prevention awareness event.

The meeting finished at approximately 3.05 pm.