

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Party

Notes of the meeting held at 10am on Tuesday 28th June 2022 held remotely via Zoom

Present

Councillor Tim Dumper	TD	Exmouth Town Council (Chair)
Councillor Frank Cullis	FC	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Mike Rosser	MR	Exmouth Town Council
Lisa Bowman	LB	Exmouth Town Council
Nicky Nicholls	NN	Transition Exmouth Chair

Apologies

Councillor Steve Gazzard	SG	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Olly Davey	OD	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Brian Bailey	BB	Exmouth Town Council
Catherine Causley	CC	East Devon District Council Officer

1. Election of Chairman

FC proposed that TD be re-elected as Chairman for the forthcoming year. This was seconded by MR and agreed by all.

2. Welcome and apologies

TD welcomed members to the meeting and apologies were noted

3. Approval of previous meeting notes

The notes of the previous meeting were proposed for approval by MR, seconded by FC, and agreed by all.

4. Matters Arising

TD updated members that he had not yet managed to speak to Jane Habermehl about the scope to do a talk at St Joseph's School about trees.

LB confirmed that she had spoken to Adrian Toole about the possibility of the Town Council tabling a Motion for the Ocean and framed in such a way that it acknowledges Joanna Toole's legacy and that he had agreed to help put something together.

TD reported that a full report relating to the Active Travel day had been received at Exmouth Transport Partnership. The feedback was generally positive; however disappointment had been expressed about the lack of representation by public transport providers and cycle retailers as well as the fact that Stagecoach did not attend.

It was noted that MR had proposed a motion relating to SWW at the recent Full Council meeting. The motion was supported through the public speaking forum by members of ESCAPE and after a robust debate, the majority of Council members voted to accept the motion with a minor amendment. LB will subsequently be issuing a press release and writing to the CEO of SWW, the Environment Agency and Ofwat.

TD brought forward the agenda item relating to recruitment and asked LB to provide an update on the status of recruitment of a Climate Officer for the Council. LB explained that the process had been hindered by a lack of suitable candidates but that a few new applications had recently arrived and that these would be reviewed ASAP.

5. To receive a Trees Update

MR expressed concerns about the 200 trees planted at the Knapps Cross playing field and his attempts to get them mulched in the absence of any volunteers coming forward to look after them. It was noted that there is a resource issue at both Town and District Council level however, the appointment of a Climate Officer might help with recruitment and retention of volunteers in the future.

FC reported that the big copper beech in Withercombe Raleigh is due to be felled due to disease and Members expressed regret over the loss of such an important feature.

6. To receive a plastics update

MR reported that the water refill bottle sign outside M&S had been obscured by a banner and although he had been into the store to report it, it had not been moved.

Action point: LB to follow up with Chetna Jones.

It was also noted that a store on Rolle Street is selling electronic disposable vapes which are proving to be a litter nuisance.

A general discussion ensued about ways in which the Town Council could engage with businesses on sustainability and the scope for workshops to be offered to local businesses, possibly in the context of the Town Council's sponsorship of the Chamber of Trade's Environmental Impact Award, which had recently been awarded to Plastic Free Exmouth for 2022. Zero Exmouth had also expressed an interest in getting involved but it was noted that Plastic Free Exmouth and Transition Exmouth were both actively involved in the dialogue with businesses already.

Members queried the judging process for the Chamber of Trade Awards and expressed concern that the criteria had not been established by the Town Council itself for the award and expressed a view that sponsors should perhaps have a role in shortlisting for the award they sponsor (e.g. as a member on the panel).

Action Point: LB to raise this with the Chamber at the next Executive meeting.

Members also discussed the waste disposal and recycling arrangements for the recent Exmouth Festival and it was agreed that further work needs to be done to understand and improve matters in future.

TD reported to members that he had recently participated in the Green Peace Big Plastic Count and that he will feed back on results in due course.

7. To receive an update from Transition Exmouth

NN provided an update on the ExeCargo bikes and explained that the different wholesalers' needs are complex which is challenging in terms of promotion and administration.

NN also reported that she had attended the recent Eco festival at Sideshore, which had generally been worthwhile.

8. To receive an update from LB on anticipated next steps for the Call of Nature Eco-hub project

LB updated members on recent correspondence with EDDC and explained that draft Heads of Terms were being prepared for the Town Council to use as the basis of its offer for the Imperial recreation Ground toilets. The Exe Estuary Management Partnership had expressed support for the project.

Action Point: LB to contact EDDC to arrange for access to the toilets by a potential architect.

9. NALC Climate Network Webinar

TD reported that he had attended the recent NALC Climate Change webinar and that the presentation from Kendal Town Council had been of particular interest. It was agreed that LB will contact their Town Clerk to share best practice.

Action Point: LB to contact Kendal Town Council Clerk.

10. DALC update

TD reported that he is compiling the final report from DALC's Climate Change TAFF and that there will be a recommendation that there is a permanent committee created to deal with the topic. There is an ongoing challenge in terms of connecting local initiatives with NALC. There is also an aspiration to devise a mentoring scheme to help other Councils and to look at broader training opportunities for Councils.

11. To receive an update on other relevant matters from Town Council Working Parties and outside body representatives

Fairtrade Exmouth

TD reported that the Steering Group is applying for renewal of the Town's Fairtrade status and that this will need to be reaffirmed at a future Full Council meeting.

12. To discuss the future objectives of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Party

Members agreed that the Working Party should still aim to hold a special meeting to discuss the future objectives of the Working Party when the new Climate and Ecological Emergency Officer has been appointed.

13. Any other business

There was no other business.

14. Dates of future meetings

Councillors noted the date of the next meeting, scheduled for Tuesday 2nd August 2022 at 10am.

The meeting ended at 11.20am.