

# **EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL**

## **Festival and Events Working Party**

Notes of the virtual meeting held at 1400 on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2022 via Zoom

### **Present**

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

### **Apologies**

Trevor Huggons	TH	Festival Volunteer
Cllr Cherry Nicholas	CN	Exmouth Town Council

### **1. To elect a chair and a vice chair**

SG proposed and OD seconded that JW be re-elected as Chair of this working party. No further nominations were received. Members were asked to vote, and JW was duly recommended as Chair. SG proposed EB as vice chair, seconded by OD.

### **2. Welcome, introductions and apologies (JW)**

JW welcomed attendees to the meeting and noted apologies.

### **3. To approve the notes from the 20<sup>th</sup> of May 2022 and matters arising (JW)**

The notes of the last meeting were approved with no matters arising.

### **4. Exmouth Summer Festival 2022 wash up (CT)**

CT confirmed that the festival was hugely successful with attendance at 25 thousand for the whole weekend, Saturday night was particularly busy with 7 thousand festival goers. The doors were closed earlier on Friday and Saturday night as the event was at full capacity. Donations came in at 9-10K so were down on the 2019 figure of 13K, CT thought this may be down to the QR code donations not being followed through.

SG congratulated CT, town staff, councillors and volunteers for all the work put into the festival this year. SG was impressed with the security team and was pleased that leaded dogs were allowed on site as it made the event feel more family orientated. SG had spoken to the shop owners in the Strand who confirmed that they were busy and trade was not affected by the festival.

EB advised that the 2 different wristbands (adult/child) handed out by volunteers at the entrance were taking too long and caused a blockage at the entrance, EB proposed that maybe in future just one type of wristband should be supplied. Members discussed the possibility of having a table at the entrance to put wristbands/festival flyers on as they had too much to carry. OD confirmed that not enough wristbands were supplied as they ran out by 6pm each evening, CT agreed that not enough were ordered and the pull off tab to stick them caused excess plastic and waste problems as they were discarded on the grass. Overall members agreed that the wristbands were a very good idea but could be improved in future.

FC and OD were concerned that people were not following through on Paypal donations using the QR code system, CT agreed that a tap and go system will most probably be used in future.

OD advised that he did a litter pick and thought this may have been caused by the recycle and general waste bins not positioned correctly, he hopes this will be rectified in future.

JW confirmed that she had to question and stop several under 14's from entering the festival and was concerned that security staff were allowing under 14's to enter without an adult. CT agreed that security may have needed more guidance on under 14's but they did a good job of keeping them from entering through the barriers. OD advised members that a large sign was displayed at the entrance confirming rules of entry. CT updated members a no under 18's without ID was imposed in the evenings to keep the family feel.

LB received an email from the police confirming they were impressed with the security and conditions of entry and in their view the festival was crime free with no associated disorder. CT confirmed that the extra police supplied for the weekend were quiet. For added security CT thought that the whole festival should be sealed by barriers in future.

CT advised that all the traders were happy with the event and the free food gift cards were a success with 86 out of the 200 issued being claimed. The bar was busy and reported they were happy with how everything had gone for them.

CT confirmed that many drugs were confiscated by the security team and a drug dealer was apprehended although managed to escape leaving behind a weapon and his drug supply. A larger security team and additional drug dogs may be required in future to deal with this issue.

Feedback from the artists was positive and John Bailey the photographer took lots of photos of the artists performing.

OD asked CT for the final festival cost, CT confirmed that the cost was 120K to put on the event and it currently stands at a 12K deficit. CT supplied members with the breakdown of monies received which totalled just under 70K.

LB was concerned that only 4 staff members covered the festival this year and due to its growing size, this would need to be reviewed in future. LB asked members to take into consideration the elections next year which will clash with the festival dates as this will be a busy period. JW confirmed with members that the future of the festival would be discussed at the next meeting.

## **5. Queens Jubilee and Beacon Lighting wash up (CJ)**

JW thanked CJ for a fabulous evening. There was a very good turnout of people both at the beach and up at the top by the Geoneedle. Behaviour of people at the Geoneedle was good

and generally stayed away from the cliff edge. People also stayed behind to take photos with the lit beacon. FC commented that the view from the beach right by Orcombe Point was not great and CJ explained that the public were advised to stand more towards the RNLI building. FC added that a portable PA system would have been advantageous as he could not hear SG. CJ and LB will check the Town Hall as they believe a portable PA system was purchased for previous events.

SG was proud to be part of the event and is looking forward to the drone video being available to view.

CJ updated members that the statistics for the Platinum Jubilee Marketing Trail are not yet available as the trail is still running but will provide feedback at a later date.

## **6. Any other business (All)**

JW informed members that the future of the festival will be discussed at the next meeting and CT advised that the Christmas event should also be discussed in this meeting as schools will need to be contacted. FC queried when CH would be returning to work, LB will ask CH to attend the next meeting as part of her keep in touch days.

## **7. Date of next meeting**

21<sup>st</sup> July 2022

The meeting ended at 14:54