

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Festival and Events Working Party

Notes of the virtual meeting held at 1400 on Thursday 21st July 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 Cherry Nicholas	CN	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 Eileen Beech	EB	Exmouth Town Council

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies (JW)

JW welcomed attendees to the meeting and noted apologies.

2. To approve the notes from the 9th of June 2022 and matters arising (JW)

SG proposed and FC seconded the accuracy of the notes which were approved with no matters arising.

3. To receive an update and report on the Jubilee Beacon Trail (CJ)

CJ provided feedback that numbers were not high for the trail but the event organiser had confirmed that this was the same nationally probably due to other events taking place at the same time. CJ has received positive feedback on Facebook but has not received any feedback from the businesses as yet.

FC agreed that it was a busy time which likely effected the trail. LB made members aware that a similar APP is used by the TIS to promote Secret Stories which is a dinosaur trail in Exmouth and they are also looking to use the platform for other trails to engage the public.

CJ advised the platform created by Highstreet Safari houses all the information and QR codes and could possibly be used for future projects. FC queried if you needed a subscription for this service and CJ confirmed that although this was a one off they do offer this service which you would need to subscribe to and their local agent based in Dawlish has offered to discuss this further, free of charge if we were interested. LB stated that this was an event provision and does not want a crossover with the tourism agenda.

4. To discuss the next Christmas event (CT)

CT asked members what sort of event they would like this year, members agreed that they would like a similar event as last year. JW was concerned that people left early last year so it was suggested that the light switch on should be delayed by 1 hour.

LB asked members if they were in agreement that a market should not take place as this involves a lot of work and risk re adverse weather conditions, members all agreed that a market should not take place.

JW was keen for schools to get involved with decorating Christmas trees at the Holy Trinity Church if they were in agreement and taking part in the lantern parade. CJ agreed that the lantern parade was very popular and that schools would be contacted.

CT confirmed that the lantern parade was very successful last year and suggested a light night theme and possibly an interactive light installation could be commissioned in the Manor Gardens with light based performers for families to visit. OD and FC agreed that a light theme was a good idea as the samba band and roller skating ladies that took part in last year's event were lit up.

CT confirmed that the event will take place on Saturday the 3rd of December 2022 and she will put together a draft programme with costs to present at the next meeting in August.

LB and CT had previously discussed the possibility of holding lantern making workshops for community groups to get involved.

FC queried if ETC provide the Christmas trees and decoration to the schools and CT advised that ETC provide the trees and the schools provide the decoration. CT informed members that a local garden centre usually donate the main tree displayed in The Strand and the other trees are provided at cost price, CJ advised members that all trees were donated in previous years but this no longer happens.

FC was keen for a laser display on New Year's Eve rather than fireworks, LB stated that a policy is currently going through EDDC which is likely to ban permission for fireworks, drone flying and Chinese lanterns on council owned land. SG has already queried how this would apply to council tenants such as the rugby club who hold annual firework displays on council land as opposed to organisations who apply to hold events on council land as this may pose a conflict if events are denied permission but tenants are allowed. This policy is being put through on the grounds of animal distress and environmental pollution. LB confirmed that we would need to make the public aware that no firework display would be held this year because of the likely ban. CJ agreed that a laser display would be in keeping with the festival of light theme.

FC offered to look at costings and video's for laser shows to present at the next meeting.

5. Any other business (All)

CJ queried improving the Christmas lights on the lampposts and LB confirmed that there is not much scope to add on as fixing points are limited and extra lights were purchased last year although money is in the budget to replace lights. LB stated that the 14 lamp column motives could be replaced as they are starting to lose their sparkle and this could be signed off through the budget, then we can apply for the licence to use the cherry picker to install them in time. LB thought it would be good to refresh the lighting system and will look at idea's to include in CT's report in the next meeting.

JW requested that an early September meeting date is arranged.

CT informed members that she is planning a public consultation on the 2023 Exmouth Festival via a light survey that will be circulated through the Exmouth Journal and public groups to gain some feedback. JW thought this was a good idea.

FC queried when acts and stages are booked for the festival and CT confirmed that as long as we make a decision on the festival in the next meeting we should look to start booking in September.

CJ informed members that a thank you meeting is usually arranged for the festival volunteers in August/September.

SG queried if the festival dates would be moved as elections will be taking place and LB confirmed that the bank holiday dates are a busy time and staffing pressures also need to be factored in so would be advantageous not to hold the festival over a bank holiday weekend.

6. Date of next meeting

11th August 2022

The meeting ended at 14:45