

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Party

Notes of the meeting held at 10am on Tuesday 4th October 2022 held remotely via Zoom

Present

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| Councillor Tim Dumper | TD | Exmouth Town Council (Chair) |
| Councillor Mike Rosser | MR | Exmouth Town Council |
| Councillor Andrew Colman | AC | Exmouth Town Council |
| Councillor Andrew Toyne | AT | Exmouth Town Council |
| Councillor Frank Cullis | FC | Exmouth Town Council |
| Lisa Bowman | LB | Exmouth Town Council |
| Sam Dorman | SD | Exmouth Town Council (Notetaker) |
| Nicky Nicholls | NN | Transition Exmouth Chair |

Apologies

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

1. Welcome and apologies

TD welcomed members to the meeting and apologies were noted

2. Approval of previous meeting notes held on 28th June 2022

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

3. Matters Arising

MR asked if the future of these meetings could be considered. LB updated members that our new Climate Officer Zoey Cooper will be starting on 1st November 2022. Zoey will be the officer supporting the working party and LB expects she will have a few ideas on projects we can focus on that may give us an action plan to form the basis of this working party. LB went on to say that having a dedicated officer who can look specifically at climate issues will be a real advantage for us.

TD updated members about the issue with DALC regarding the task and finish group and what will happen next. At the County Committee a plan was agreed that there would be a standing committee on climate issues set up and would meet every six months. However, there will be a discussion at the DALC AGM and conference being held on 5th October 2022 about a refreshed way of doing representation to member councils around the county so TD will keep members informed on this matter.

FC joined the meeting at 10:17

TD raised the issue of disposable vapes and asked members if they had any feedback, they would like to give with regards to the public finding plastic waste in the town. FC updated members that he is still seeing the vapes lying in the road, but he is unsure what can be done about this littering.

LB updated members about the judging process for the Exmouth Chamber of Trade and Commerce award and that there hasn't been an executive meeting yet but in passing they had acknowledged the comments that the working party had raised. LB will talk about this at the next face to face meeting.

4. To receive a Plastics update

Plastic Free Exmouth – Accreditation of Exmouth as a plastic free community

TD reported positive news that Plastic Free Exmouth have achieved an accreditation for Exmouth as a plastic free community. TD gave tribute to Emma Carnell who has recently stood down as chair and who are now being led by Lucy and Ashley.

Water refill stations

The next stage of the water refill stations was launched on 2nd October 2022 with a water refill station at Foxholes toilets. This launch was funded differently as Plastic Free Exmouth did the bidding for the grant which paid most of the cost. TD thanked Chetna Jones for her work in smoothing the legal path with EDDC and others.

5. To receive a Trees update

Woodland Trust (Coombe Farm)

TD updated members that he and FC have been attending and supporting the Woodland Trust at Coombe Farm. The farm is developing plans for how they work on trees, hedges, and ecology. TD and FC will be attending the big launch meeting on Wednesday 12th October 2022. 14,000 trees will be planted at Coombe farm on 2nd, 3rd and 4th December 2022 and everyone is welcome to go along and plant some trees.

There was a discussion about the watering at Knappes Cross and LB updated members that she had received some correspondence from Jane Habermehl. She had informed LB that they had a new volunteer Carolyn Hallett who has taken on the tree project in her capacity as environmental officer with the Rotary Club. Jane Habermehl stated that the Rotary Club are happy to make an application to the Town Council on behalf of the tree project for some funding and are still potentially looking for some funding for a water bowser and trailer or towable bowser. LB said that the Rotary Club would need to put a plan together i.e., around who would be responsible for storage of the bowser, sourcing where they would get water and insurance. Concerns were raised from MR and LB about whether a bowser would be the right

thing to consider and whether an application from the Rotary Club would meet our criteria for funding.

TD updated members that Simon Pardoe (volunteer tree warden) gave some feedback about the ongoing loss of trees to development, disease and from private gardens. He believes that EDDC have employed a tree technician and have advertised for more tree officers. TD said that he hoped the local tree warden scheme would get some attention and training soon. Some good news was that Littleham Squilometre group had planted a lovely hornbeam at the weekend for the Queen's Green canopy.

MR said he had been thinking of a green vision and how Exmouth would look from a green point of view in the future when it's producing a lower carbon footprint and one of the features of the town would be a lot more trees. This is an idea that could be discussed when Zoey Cooper starts.

JC spoke about the loss of the big tree in Withycombe to disease and wondered if it had been replaced. Nobody could confirm if this had been.

6. To receive an update from Transition Exmouth

NN reported some good news that Rosie Johnson's illustration of an Eco Hub for Call of Nature was entered into the Net Zero Visions award for the Devon Climate Emergency and won first prize. TD sent congratulations to Rosie.

Exe Cargo bikes are now moving into a winter phase. The bikes will come out of rental from Exmouth cycles and Transition Exmouth are in negotiations around contracts. Street scene are going to borrow the Raleigh Stride for a month or two for some of their local work to see if they could move away from using a vehicle to using an electric cargo bike. NN asked if this would be something the Town Council would be interested in. LB said she would speak to Chetna Jones to see what she thought. A local GP will be borrowing the Turn to do his home rounds for a few months. NN said that the aim was for the community to try the bikes in the hope that they would swap their car for a bike.

NN also reported that she is doing some work for the Exmouth Food network with the Foodbank and Open door. They are going to launch a project called Mushroom on 21st November 2022. There are lots of ideas with Mushroom on how people could connect around the four key areas: food waste, food poverty, sustainability, and education. Vicky Rogers is heading the project and currently trying to get some seed funding for branding, website, and social media. LB reported that the Town Council has been in contact with Holy Trinity Church about warm spaces and that Chetna Jones has been doing some work around Community Resilience.

A discussion was had about funding for the Mushroom project for website costs, social media etc and NN will look at putting something together. TD proposed a motion that subject to approval we support the idea of grant funding for food

sustainability via the Mushroom joint network. MR seconded and all voted on this motion. LB asked NN to liaise with TD to put together a shopping list for what the project is looking for and then this could be discussed with the committee.

NN asked if there was an update on the Levelling Up Funding bid and commented that if the bid was unsuccessful in securing funding for the Dinan Way extension, that Transition Exmouth would like to have a conversation about having Summer Lane as an active travel highway. TD referred to DALC and a specific piece of work they are doing and how the committee are talking to government and working on active travel.

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

LB updated members that Chetna Jones has been in touch with Jayne Souter and we are working on the draft lease. Heads of terms have been agreed and work is going on behind the scenes involving Jayne and our solicitors. Chetna Jones has also been looking at getting some help to put a business plan together.

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

AONB

AT updated members about the public rights of way meeting and one of the ideas from AONB was to divert one of the footpaths onto Woodbury common via Exton – The East Devon Way, to avoid walking on the main roads. Chetna Jones has commented that the officer supporting public rights of way is really proactive.

TD said that he had attended the recent annual meeting at Froginwell Vineyard. He stated that this was a very useful meeting around the theme of rewilding. One of the big things AONB have done is working with the farming community to try and bring in sustainable methods of agriculture.

FC mentioned for information that during the last planning meeting, the gas turbine at Liverton subject came up. The Town council and District council voted against the scheme, it came up for appeal and it was voted against it again.

Community Resilience WP

There will be a meeting on Wednesday 12th October 2022 and discussions will be around preparing for extreme weather conditions, whether they be extreme heat or extreme cold.

9. To note that the new Devon Carbon Plan has been published

TD congratulated NN on bringing Rosie on board with the Eco Hub and her idea of Call of Nature and Eco Hub. Involving the community is key and the stakeholders

have recognised this and there has been a large input which has put the new Devon Carbon Plan together.

NN said it would be good to go through the plan and look at which things could be Town Council initiatives for example clothes swapping, baby library, toy library and see what we could support.

TD wanted to extend our thanks to all the volunteers who do work on all these initiatives locally.

10. Any other business

There was no other business.

11. Dates of future meetings

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 6th December 2022 at 10am.

The meeting ended at 11.24