

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Festival and Events Working Party

Notes of the virtual meeting held at 1400 on Thursday 8th December 2022 via zoom

Present

Cllr Joy Whipps (Chair)	JW	Exmouth Town Council
Cllr Frank Cullis	FCu	Exmouth Town Council
Cllr Olly Davey	OD	Exmouth Town Council
Cllr Cherry Nicholas	CN	Exmouth Town Council
Cllr Eileen Beech	EB	Exmouth Town Council
Cllr Steve Gazzard	SG	Exmouth Town Council
Cllr Brian Bailey	BB	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: None

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies (JW)

JW welcomed attendees to the meeting and noted apologies.

2. To approve the notes from the 10th of November 2022 and matters arising (JW)

FCu proposed and OD seconded the accuracy of the notes from the previous meeting with no matters arising.

3. To discuss the Winter Festival 2022 (wash up) (CT)

CT was pleased with attendance at the festival and has received good feedback from the entertainers.

CT received feedback that people were disappointed that no market was present during the festival, but this was anticipated. CT does not think we have the capacity to hold a market in the future but has been talking to EDDC about the possibility of teaming up next year for them to hold a market. CT asked members if they were happy for this to be explored by putting a proposal in place.

JW was concerned about the high prices that market stall holders would charge as the last market held in 2019 was very expensive which resulted in a lot of negativities.

LB advised that other factors to take into consideration are the risk of adverse weather which is the reason the original Christmas cracker format was changed and that ETC have to use their own weighted professional marquees or hire them in as the pop up marquees that some traders use are not robust enough for the Strand. LB was also concerned about the impact on local traders as every time a market is held complaints are received from the fixed traders around the Strand as it has a detrimental impact on their business trade.

CT was pleased that the cafes that stayed open around the Strand were busy, CJ raised concerns that the cafes were using glasses so next year they will need to be advised not to use glass.

FCu attended the Bridport festival which was mainly aimed at children and their parents and wanted to share some ideas with members:

- Lit up fairground ride for small children which gave a festive atmosphere before the lights were switched on
- Arts Centre in town was used to host a craft fair
- Mayors Christmas card competition, local school children are asked to design a Christmas card and a prize is given to the winner at the festival. The Christmas cards are then sold for whichever charity the mayor supports that year.

CT confirmed that the Christmas Tree Festival held in the Holy Trinity was a success and SG has chosen his favourite school tree who will receive a shield in January.

CJ raised concerns about the amount of people involved in the lantern parade this year as they were spreading out onto roads especially outside the Pavilion and suggested going forward we should consider a mobile road closure while the parade takes place. LB confirmed that we can apply for a rolling road closure which is a straightforward process for which we give 3 month's notice and put the road signs out.

LB noticed that some families attended the lantern parade with their own lanterns so wondered if there would be scope to open it up to encourage people to participate next year with their own lanterns.

OD was pleased with the lanterns as they went through the gardens but wondered whether the lanterns should all be together for more impact as parents accompanying children made the lanterns more spread out with breaks in the lights.

4. To discuss the Exmouth Festival 2023 (CT)

CT confirmed that we need to appoint a technical production team and as mentioned in the previous meeting CT has met with 3 different companies to quote, of which 2 have provided quotes. CT advised members that both quotes are very similar and asked members if they were happy for LB and CT to make the decision based on other factors. Members were happy to leave the decision to LB and CT who will put some criteria together to make the decision on a scoring system.

LB queried the price quotes in the context of the Council's financial regulations and CT confirmed that 3 companies were asked for quotes and the 2 companies quoted between 11 and 12K for the technical production team and the stages in the Strand and the Manor Gardens.

CT updated members that a proposal has been sent to Simon at Sideshore for what the programming might look like and what it might cost, Simon will put the proposal to the board next week to see what financial contribution they might make.

CT confirmed that Sideshore are excited as a potential solar panelled stage has been found which is a converted double decker bus. Unfortunately, we cannot use the carpark at Sideshore for the skate activity, but we could use the grassy area nearby called the Mallow. CT has

spoken to King Ramps who can put up a small pop up ramp on the grass to run demos and workshops.

CT has spoken to the events team in EDDC who advised that we cannot use Queens Drive space which we intended to use for the film event, however the Rugby Club are keen to hold the event. CT confirmed that this would be a ticketed event and the Rugby Club have waived the hire fee as they will provide a BBQ and bar and take the income from that and ETC will take the income from the ticket sales. Members were happy to move forward with the event being held at the rugby club. CT advised that the rugby club are holding their own music festival in August 2023.

CT has had a meeting with the programming support team who are happy to support the new Arts Manager.

CT has approached Tonic Creatives who are arts and events managers based in Devon, they have put forward a proposal for some delivery that they could do for the festival, one of which is the opening celebration working alongside schools and workshops to deliver an opening parade. Members agreed that they were happy for this to progress further.

CT is currently working on the arts council bid and will try and draft it in its entirety before leaving. CT queried if the non-festival arts budget of 10K could be repurposed and used for the festival. LB stated that she would look into this as there is scope to use this budget as it would go into reserves if not used within the year.

CT updated members on some programming for the festival which she will pass over to the new arts manager.

LB thanked CT for all the work she has contributed and commented that she was grateful that it is being handed over to the new arts manager in a really good state which gives a good framework to work from. JW also thanked CT for all the work put into the festivals over the past year and wished her luck for the future.

5. Any other business (All)

No other business.

6. Date of next meeting

26th January 2023 @ 2pm

The meeting ended at 14:34