

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Party

Notes of the meeting held at 2pm on Tuesday 7th February 2023 held remotely via Zoom

Present

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| Councillor Tim Dumper | TD | Exmouth Town Council (Chair) |
| Councillor Steve Gazzard | SG | Exmouth Town Council |
| Councillor Mike Rosser | MR | Exmouth Town Council |
| Councillor Olly Davey | OD | Exmouth Town Council |
| Councillor Frank Cullis | FC | Exmouth Town Council |
| Lisa Bowman | LB | Exmouth Town Council |
| Chetna Jones | CJ | Exmouth Town Council |
| Zoey Cooper | ZC | Exmouth Town Council |
| Sam Dorman | SD | Exmouth Town Council (note taker) |
| Alex Mitchell | AM | East Devon District Council |
| Nicky Nicholls | NN | Transition Exmouth Chair |

Apologies

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| Councillor Andrew Colman | AC | Exmouth Town Council |
| Catherine Causley | CC | East Devon District Council |

1. Welcome and apologies

TD welcomed members to the meeting and apologies were noted.

2. Approval of previous meeting notes held on 6th December 2022

The notes of the previous meeting were proposed for approval by Nicky Nicholls, seconded by Councillor Olly Davey, and agreed by all.

3. Matters Arising

TD updated members that the revised Motion for Ocean is still being reviewed and that this will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

4. To receive an update on the acquisition of the public convenience at Imperial Recreation Ground and work to develop an ECO and general community hub in this space (previously item 8 on the agenda)

An update was provided by CJ around the Heads of Terms and working with East Devon District Council. A sub-committee meeting was held to agree the next steps regarding the current Heads of Terms. Advice given from the solicitors was to not sign it in its current format but to sit down and agree what we want and then see if we can

get our requirements into the Heads of Terms. At the sub-committee meeting it was decided to do a bullet point summary of what we are setting out to do and approach some people to help draft a business plan. This business plan could then be used to negotiate with EDDC. If we decided we want to for example expand, negotiate the length of term, add a breakout clause or are going to sub-let, then these things will need to be added to the Heads of Terms. CJ has emailed East Devon officers to let them know what we are doing and to keep them informed.

A scoping document was put together by ZC which describes what the ECO hub is going to be, who it is for and what we want to achieve. ZC has meetings arranged with Sarah Kersey, Martin Woods, and Andy Locke regarding a business plan. She also added that Footprint Architects are keen to work with us to put together some initial concept designs to present alongside the business plan.

NN added that we also need cost of build estimates, running cost estimates and how we involve and share this with the wider Exmouth community.

OD asked if a site visit could be arranged for members to visit the public convenience and other members were in favour of this.

ACTION: Site visit to be organised by ZC.

5. To receive a Plastics update

CJ explained that she has not gone back to SWW yet after they had offered £1K towards a water refill unit in Phear Park as she has not been successful in finding a grant for further funds. She suggested that a recommendation could be made to the Town Council to provide some funding. LB advised that if we could not get external funding that there are some funds available, but this would be with agreement of the working party and a recommendation to Full Council. CJ added that EDDC are happy for us to have a water refill unit installed. Members discussed the location of where this could be placed in Phear park and what the cost and installation would be. Members were all in favour of going forward with the installation of a water refill unit in Phear Park and to make a recommendation to the Town Council for some funding towards this.

CJ informed members that she had spoken to Tom Wood about Coastal Waste, and he said he would be happy to attend a CEE WP meeting and give a brief overview of what StreetScene does and where the various waste streams go.

ACTIONS: CJ to obtain an updated quote and agreement from EDDC that they agree to the proposed location in Phear Park.

CJ to arrange with Tom Wood to attend next meeting.

6. To revisit the proposal to engage schools and a local artist to design and build a sea creature to educate, inform and encourage recycling

ZC said that she had spoken to other councils to see how successful this had been in their area, and positive feedback received was that the PR element was huge and there was little contamination in the sea creature. She had been in discussion with an artist from a company called Lost Robot and the artist had some great ideas for the sea creature. Simon Findel-Hawkins from Sideshore is keen to put in some funds to match what we put in and have the creature located near Sideshore.

Members raised concern about where the recycle waste would go after it had been emptied and agreed that they need to understand more about the process at Coastal Waste. Members were in support of the sea creature if it can be established that the material for recycling will genuinely be recycled.

ZC said that she is looking into using compostable cups for the festival from Vegware who will collect cups and compost them.

7. To agree costs for a visioning session, hosted by Devon Communities Together. The estimated cost for this initial visioning session, including the prep work, the event, some filming and short interviews, is £3500

ZC explained that although she had been working with Harry Bonnell about hosting a visioning session she had since made contact with Rob Hopkins who founded the Transition Movement and he has agreed to give a talk about visioning on 15th April 2023. His fee is £500. Members agreed for ZC to go ahead with booking this event.

ACTION: ZC to confirm this session with Rob Hopkins and book venue.

8. To agree in principle the draft Climate Plan

The Climate Plan was discussed and ZC said that this would be a living document that would evolve and adapt. She explained that the plan reflects what she has learnt since joining the Town Council in terms of what can and cannot be achieved by ETC. It focuses on our specific areas of influence, getting our own 'house in order' and celebrating the good work that is already happening.

Members discussed councillors being given tablets and LB confirmed that this would be on the Full Council agenda in March or April for all elected councillors to have their own tablet supplied by ETC.

Youth focus was discussed and ZC said that she would add this to the plan.

Training sessions will be given to all new elected councillors around sustainability and the climate change and biodiversity loss and will be embedded in the Terms of Reference for each working party.

It was suggested an extra column be added to the Climate Plan to note who we need to work with to achieve something for example local businesses, organisations, EDDC or DCC.

ACTION: ZC to amend draft plan to add extra column and about youth focus.

9. To receive an update from EDDC

AM updated members on the following –

- Projects set out by John Golding to include Green Travel Plan and Improving their website.
- Redoing their Carbon Footprint.
- Event at the Town Hall on 8th February co-hosted by Catherine Causley is a practical workshop towards Net Zero for businesses.
- Two campaigns being worked on are “Biodiversity Starts on your Doorstep” to be run between April and May and “East Devon Together” to run in June.

10. To receive a Trees update

In the absence of someone from the Trees department, TD asked AM if she had an update about trees being planted in Exmouth. AM said that she had no specific figures but know that StreetScene does have plans. LB had no update on timeframe.

Yonder Oak Wood held a tree planting session last week and they are holding another one in a couple of weeks.

A tree forum was discussed, and it was felt that it would be good to convene this so we know what the plans are for planting trees and how we can go about protecting trees.

TD said there was encouragement from the government that hedgerows are going to be properly protected.

ACTION: AM will speak to Tom Wood about the timeframe for trees being planted in Exmouth and feedback to members.

11. To receive an update from Transition Exmouth

NN gave members an update as follows –

- Fab having ZC on board and to have that energy.
- Mushroom has launched and have secured £2500 grant funding from the Devon Communities foundation for a research phase for Mushroom.
- The Friends of the Exe project has appointed two part time project workers. One to cover source to the city and another to cover the city to the sea
- World Rivers Day is 24th September and there will be a Festival of the Exe with lots of different events all the way up the river.
- Transition Exmouth is going through the process of becoming a charitable incorporated organisation. This will help with grant funding.
- NN will be working with ZC on all things “Call of Nature” related.
- Idea to have a mushroom farm under the underpass.
- Active Travel – NN asked OD what it could look like this year. She gave some ideas to members and asked for more new and exciting ideas around Active Travel. OD said still undecided whether to run it again this year.

12.To receive an update on other relevant matters from Town Council working parties and outside body representatives

TD said that he was confirmed as representative on the new bus user group. He will report back to Exmouth Transport Partnership after the meeting on Thursday.

13.Any other business

No other business.

14.Dates of future meetings

4 April 2023

13 June 2023

8th August 2023

3rd October 2023

5th December 2023

TD spoke about having meetings a bit more frequently. ZC would like to see monthly or six weekly meetings, and these could be held in the evening. It was decided to review once elections have been held.

The meeting ended at 16:12