

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Extraordinary Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Party

Notes of the meeting held at 10am on Tuesday 6th June 2023 held remotely via Zoom

Present

Councillor Tim Dumper	TD	Exmouth Town Council (Chair)
Councillor Fred Caygill	FC	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Olly Davey	OD	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Steve Gazzard	SG	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Mike Rosser	MR	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Andrew Toye	AT	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Daniel Wilson	DW	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Andrew Woodward	AW	Exmouth Town Council
Lisa Bowman	LB	Exmouth Town Council
Zoey Cooper	ZC	Exmouth Town Council
Nicky Nicholls	NN	Transition Exmouth Chair
Catherine Causley	CC	East Devon District Council

Apologies

Councillor Brian Bailey	BB	Exmouth Town Council
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1. To elect a Chair

FC self-nominated himself to be chair, there was no seconder to his self-nomination. MR and GD proposed, seconded by OD that TD be re-elected as Chair of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Party. No other nominations were received, and all members agreed that TD be re-elected as Chair.

2. Welcome and apologies

TD welcomed members to the meeting and apologies were noted.

3. Approval of previous meeting notes held on 4th April 2023

The notes of the previous meeting held on 4th April 2023 were proposed for approval by NN, seconded by OD, and agreed by all.

4. To decide whether to recommend a reusable cup solution for Exmouth to Full Council on 12th June

Member discussed the reusable cup and ZC gave a brief explanation of the proposed 'Exmouth cup' being a free scheme compared to a deposit scheme. Please see corresponding Exmouth Cup Proposal pdf for full details. Questions were raised by members as follows –

- **Do the cups contain the chemical BPA?**
ZC confirmed the cups do not contain BPA.
- **What budget will the £3000 come out of that ETA will fund?**
The money would come out of the CEE budget.
- **What will the branding of the cup look like?**
This will be an Exmouth cup and the main message will be to promote reusable cups with a logo e.g., Reuse me. As Sideshore will be partly funding the scheme they will have their logo on the cup as well as ETC logo.
- **How many cafes have said they will sign up to the scheme?**
ZC explained that when she initially approached cafes, she was proposing a deposit scheme where cafes would buy the cups and customers would then buy them when they purchased a drink. At this point there were about 10 cafes who were really interested in signing up. She expects that more cafes would be interested in signing up if the scheme were free.
- **How will we monitor the usage of the cup and gather data?**
ZC hopes that cafes will help monitor and capture data.

Concerns were raised around the Exmouth cup being littered if members of the public did not have to pay a small fee for the cup however the majority of members were in favour of the free cup and thought this was an excellent idea.

NN proposed, seconded by AW to take this recommendation of a reusable free cup scheme to Full Council on 12th June 2023. MR abstained.

5. To decide whether to pursue the Eco Hub/toilet block proposal, make the recommendation to Full Council on 12th June and (if in agreement) ask EDDC for an extension to work through and agree Head of Terms

ZC shared a presentation for The Exmouth Eco Hub and explained what stage we are at with the project. Please see corresponding Call of Nature pdf.

ZC concluded that this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to build an Eco Hub in Exmouth. It is a wonderful vision, a beautiful exemplar building which would put Exmouth on the map. However, there are many challenges we face as follows –

- We need more time, more money and more expertise to take this forward.
- The financial and reputational risk is too great for ETC to pursue an Eco Hub on this site at this present time.

LB explained that we are under pressure to agree the Head of Terms or EDDC will remarket the property. The risks are too great to pursue this project on that site at this time and she does not feel in a position to take this recommendation forward with the challenges we face.

Members discussed the proposal and there were lots of support for the Eco Hub but members also understood the risks involved to the Town Council.

SG asked if district councillors on this working party could ask if the time for Heads of Terms could be extended at EDDC's cabinet meeting. ZC answered that it is not just about time but also resources and expertise that we would need to buy in.

Members raised questions as follows –

- **Is there a possibility of purchasing the toilet block?**

The toilet block is not for sale. There is an existing tenant on the site.

- **Would one of the toilets be accessible for people in wheelchairs?**

Yes, there will be an accessible toilet.

- **Is there a fundraising plan?**

There is a list of potential funding sources in the business plan but at the moment we don't have any plan or resources in place to raise the necessary funds to move forward with this project.

- **Overage?**

We are under time restraints to negotiate Heads of Terms. The decision to market the toilets and fund the toilets for twelve months are decisions that have been made at Cabinet at EDDC.

- **Have EDDC portfolio holders for Coast, Country & Environment and Climate Action & Emergency been involved?**

They are aware of the idea, but they have not been involved in the project to date.

- **How does this fit in with the levelling up funding that has been awarded to Exmouth?**

It doesn't fit at all because the funding is focussed on the specific realm of the train station and the underpass.

- **Could we work collaboratively with EDDC on this project?**

This topic was discussed, and it was agreed that district councillors in this CEE working party would raise the issue of the Eco Hub at the next EDDC cabinet meeting.

LB said that there is an item on the Full Council agenda to ratify the CEE notes and said that it could be added to this item to receive an update on the Eco Hub. It could also be added that district councillors would raise the question, would EDDC be interested in working collaboratively with ETC and Transition Exmouth on the project. TD proposed this recommendation, seconded by OD.

LB said that she would email Tim Child tomorrow morning to say that ETC are not in a position to commit to the Heads of Terms and the district councillors on the working party will elevate the matter at the district council cabinet meeting to see what scope there is for a collaborative project with EDDC. ZC will share the business plan with Emily Reed at DCC.

Action(s):

LB to email Tim Child at EDDC.

ZC to email Emily Reed at DCC.

SG to raise the issues of separation of the project from the Public Toilet review and possible collaboration on finance and expertise on this ground-breaking project at next EDDC Cabinet meeting.

6. Dates of future meetings

11th July 2023 (6-7.30pm in person meeting)

8th August 2023

5th September 2023 (6-7.30pm in person meeting)

3rd October 2023

7th November 2023 (6-7.30pm in person meeting)

5th December 2023

The meeting ended at 20:08