

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL Festival and Events Working Party

Notes of the virtual meeting held at 1400 on Thursday 12th October 2023 via zoom

Present

Cllr Joy Whipps (Chair)	JW	Exmouth Town Council
Cllr Steve Gazzard	SG	Exmouth Town Council
Cllr Nick Hookway	NH	Exmouth Town Council
Cllr Aurora Bailey	AB	Exmouth Town Council
Cllr Brian Bailey	BB	Exmouth Town Council
Cllr Louise Venables	LV	Exmouth Town Council
Pip Piper	PP	OSBD Media Charity
Jess Magill	JM	Exmouth Town Council
Lisa Greenway	LG	Exmouth Town Council

Apologies:

Cllr Olly Davey	OD	Exmouth Town Council
Lisa Bowman	LB	Exmouth Town Council
Chetna Jones	CJ	Exmouth Town Council

1. Welcome, introduction and apologies

JW welcomed attendees to the meeting and noted apologies.

2. To approve the notes from the meeting on 14th September 2023 and matters arising

JW proposed, NH seconded, the accuracy of the notes from the 14th of September 2023 which were approved with no matters arising.

3. OSBD to provide a report on the youth survey

JW reminded members that last year CT asked ETC to support the survey so that we could understand what young people thought about Exmouth.

PP introduced himself and provided members with some brief background information about how One Small Barking Dog (OSBD) media charity was formed. PP advised that through a series of networking over the past few years they became aware that young people were not being talked to about how they felt about Exmouth. PP thanked ETC who provided funding which allowed several interventions with young people to take place within the school and Hive Youth Centre who helped devise the survey, EDDC hosted the survey on their common place platform so that young people could access it online.

PP presented the PowerPoint survey results which were collated statistics of 21 questions put to young people aged between 11 and 18 about how they felt about Exmouth.

PP will share the survey results after the meeting and confirmed that the survey was freely available through the EDDC common place platform and was anonymous.

NH thought the mental health questions within the survey were very important and was interested to know if ETC could help in anyway, JW confirmed that mental health help is available at the community college as well as other organisations in Exmouth. LV thanked PP for the survey results which were insightful and wanted to get in touch later to discuss it further.

LV left the meeting.

JM and LB have discussed a mapping exercise to ascertain what provisions are available for young people in Exmouth and where the gaps might be. PP had previously tried to engage groups for information but found this process difficult, voluntary youth clubs that did respond said that since covid numbers are down. PP has discussed with LB how young people could have more of a voice within the Town Council such as youth councils. PP will look into funding next year for creative art projects to enable young people to express how they feel and possibly have an exhibition that could be presented to the town.

JW thanked PP for his time and presentation.

PP left the meeting.

4. To discuss the mayors Christmas tree school competition

JM confirmed that the event will take place again this year at the Holy Trinity Church and ETC will fund the purchase of the trees through the Christmas budget. JW provided members with a brief history of the event.

5. To discuss Winter Festival/Christmas Cracker

JM advised that there has been an update on the Christmas tree since the last meeting, the tree providers have informed us that they can supply a 1 tonne concrete stand which would enable the tree to be in the Strand at the round seated area. JM confirmed that CJ submitted a risk assessment to EDDC but today they have refused to give permission citing that it would be too windy to place a tree in the Strand. JM did not think we had any other choice now then to put the tree in the Manor Gardens which would mean applying to EDDC to ask permission.

JW requested that all EDDC councillors on this WP should get in contact with the events team to ask for the true reasoning for refusal as the tree has always been in the Strand, so the refusal has come as a surprise. BB urged JM to apply for permission to use the Manor Gardens as soon as possible as EDDC are very strict on timings. JW urged BB and NH to put pressure on EDDC to reverse the refusal and grant permission for the tree to be in the Strand. SG will email EDDC after the meeting.

NH the portfolio holder for culture, leisure, sport and tourism confirmed that event delivery falls within his remit, and although he did not know the full reason for refusal he reassured members that there would have been a genuine health and safety reason. JW was disappointed that EDDC events allowed Outspoken to put the Christmas village stage over the Christmas tree spot and queried why they have cited the reason for refusal as the location being too windy as it has been in the Strand for years. NH advised that when the Christmas market application was submitted everyone would have been informed prior to the application being agreed and would have been given the chance to query it at that point, JW confirmed that we were not made aware that the stage positioning would affect the Christmas tree being put up.

JM had expected a more detailed reason for refusal and this now raises concerns as to whether the vehicle that delivers the tree and the cherry picker can access the Manor Gardens.

JM has extended the insurance to include a fire show as part of the entertainment as well as a giant walk-a-bout snow globe with an ice queen inside. JM was approached by Centre Stage to ask if they could hold their charity firewalk event within ours as their event was cancelled earlier in the year, they have their own insurance so no cost implications would be involved, JM agreed the request.

JM confirmed that the lantern kits have been ordered and will work out the route with CJ. BB queried what music would be played at the festival, JM provided BB with a list of all the artists taking part. AB wanted to know if Christmas carols would be sung like in previous years, JM confirmed that carols would be sung.

6. Any other business

JM updated members that Sideshore have agreed to financially support the 2024 festival. JM has tried to book Queens Drive, but it is currently out to tender although if no tenders come forward which we should know by December we may be able to secure it.

JM has a small budget available and proposed a small event to take place in the spring which would include recycling workshops and craft skills which could be held at community centres and/or churches.

BB queried if the festival broke even this year, JM confirmed that it was only slightly over budget but does not have the final figure as is still waiting for invoices to come in although reserves are available to cover the short fall. BB was keen to know how much the bucket collections and card readers raised, JM confirmed the total collection figure was £3700.

7. Date of next meeting 9th November 2023

The meeting ended at 14:45