

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Party

Notes of the meeting held at 6pm on Tuesday 9th January 2024 in the Town Hall

Present

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| Councillor Tim Dumper | TD | Exmouth Town Council (Chair) |
| Councillor Olly Davey | OD | Exmouth Town Council |
| Councillor Graham Deasy | GD | Exmouth Town Council |
| Councillor Louise Venables | LV | Exmouth Town Council |
| Councillor Steve Gazzard | SG | Exmouth Town Council |
| Councillor Andrew Woodward | AW | Exmouth Town Council |
| Councillor Daniel Wilson | DW | Exmouth Town Council |
| Councillor Mike Rosser | MR | Exmouth Town Council |
| Councillor Andrew Toyne | AT | Exmouth Town Council |
| Catherine Causley | CC | East Devon District Council |
| Zoey Cooper | ZC | Exmouth Town Council |
| Sam Dorman | SD | Exmouth Town Council |
| Lou Doliczny | LD | Transition Exmouth |

Apologies

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| Councillor Andrew Colman | AC | Exmouth Town Council |
| Lisa Bowman | LB | Exmouth Town 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 2023 and any matters arising therein

The notes of the previous meeting held were proposed for approval by OD, seconded by GD, and agreed by all.

In matters arising, OD gave a short update on the Tiny Forest project which is progressing nicely with heartening support from EDDC, the football club, Exeter Road School and Carter Avenue residents. The Tiny Forest group is currently seeking sponsorship and the group is in the process of becoming a CIC. To date, no clarification re. whether planning permission is required, but planning permission is unlikely as it's EDDC land and planning permission isn't usually required to plant trees. GD asked about plans for more Tiny Forests in Exmouth, but nothing further is planned. Each Tiny Forest will cost approx. £10,000 and takes up the surface area of a tennis court.

In further matters arising, ZC spoke about the EDDC Green Team funding to support ETC in making the Exmouth Festival sustainable, count the carbon footprint of the

festival and then endeavour to reduce the carbon footprint of 2024's festival. Ultimately, ETC will make a template for the rest of East Devon to use. This work is ongoing.

A proposed water campaign to urge individuals to take responsibility for what they flush down the loo and sink, and use in the garden, is currently being discussed with Exe Estuary Management Partnership (EEMP) and South West Water. *(This campaign has since been moved to spring and will NOT be launched at the EEMP public forum on February 6th.)*

There is a meeting with Plastic Free Exmouth on Tuesday 23rd January at 1.30pm in the Town Hall to discuss how ETC can support them.

3. To discuss a proposed budget for climate action in 2024

After a discussion, it was put to the vote and the CEE WP agreed that a budget of £50,000 (as opposed to £30,000) would be acceptable for the year 2024-2025 and this figure should be presented at the second budget meeting and then to Full Council. ZC will adjust the breakdown in the Climate Plan (the ten-point plan) accordingly and circulate to all CEE WP members in time for the budget meeting (10th January).

ZC mentioned the research currently underway to potentially move ETC's banking from Barclays to a more ethical and greener bank that accepts Town Councils as account holders. NALC is also researching and addressing this issue.

4. To receive an update from ZC on the Exmouth cup

The Exmouth cup scheme is going well but is very time-consuming. The goal is to make it more sustainable, based on case studies and other approaches shown to nudge 'borrowers' to return the cups. And to remind the cafes to offer and explain the cup scheme.

ZC is looking to recruit a team of volunteers to help raise awareness with the general public (what the cup is and how to use it) and to keep pressure on cafés to promote the scheme. The mystery shoppers (GD, TD and DW) agreed their areas of responsibility. ZC is looking to BBC Spotlight and Newsquest to help promote the cups to the general public. Physical drop-off points for the cups are another option.

ZC has a meeting with Nicky Nicholls January 10th to agree next steps to promote the cup.

It was agreed to remove the Exmouth Cup as an agenda point for a few months for the next steps to get underway and instead for ZC to prepare a report later in the year.

5. To receive an update from ZC about thermal imaging and energy efficiency workshops

ZC and Anderson Jones from Devon Communities Together (DCT) have spoken with x3 households in Waverley Road to offer energy-saving advice and utilise the thermal imaging camera. For a 'test' this has worked well.

There are x2 Energy Saving Workshops planned for Littleham Leisure Centre (January 30th and 31st) and more in Open Door in February, to reach a wider audience. DCT will have a stall at the Magpies Festival of Thrift on the 9th March. CC provided several useful links and funds that should also be offered in discussions about saving energy. Carol Jay (Transition), via LD, suggested contacting Gary at ECOE who is looking for houses where they can demonstrate their service. Carol (via LD) will provide Gary's contact details. Men's Shed is also willing to make a doll's house with cutouts to show how to make houses more efficient. ZC to contact LD after the meeting.

Ideally, ZC needs a team of volunteers to handle the thermal imaging project or we a camera is lent to a whole street and for a short period. A team of volunteers in general would be beneficial to ETC in achieving its Climate Action Plan.

6. To receive an update from ZC regarding water butts

ETC now has a licence to install a water butt outside the Town Hall, colour tbc. ETC is waiting on the licence to install a water tank at the back of the Pavilion, for Exmouth in Bloom to use for the Sensory Garden - this in principle is approved. ZC to have a conversation with the illustrator Garf to integrate the water butt with the artwork at the back of the Pavilion. Costs for the Pavilion water tank are still to be provided – they could be up to £500, plus the cost of Garf to make the illustration.

7. To receive an update from ZC about the Plant Based Treaty

ETC has approved a pared-back version of the international Plant Based Treaty. There is a tentative plan to launch the treaty (and our plant-based campaigns) with a bring-and-share plant-based meal and an appropriate film screening. ZC is considering showing a film from WordForest, who are very experienced with bring-and-share meals. TD offered the support of the WP to organise the event. A press release has been written and will be shared on the 10th January. GD urged that the focus is NOT on preaching to the converted but on reaching a wider audience.

TD mentioned the organisation HALF that we have supported in the past and could support again or other similar community organisations. ZC is already in conversation with Mushroom, the food bank and the Allotment Society. LV mentioned spreading the word regarding bring-and-shares and helping to get more off the ground in Exmouth. Transition still has funding available for Mushroom and is also in contact with Craig from the food bank.

It was agreed that the focus should be on explaining how reducing meat intake, is one simple way in which we can reduce our carbon footprint.

8. To receive an update from EDDC

CC showed a presentation that described the Carbon Action Programme (CAP: see accompanying pdf), which provides holistic support to businesses and community groups/organisations in terms of training and funding (up to £207K in total), to help them become carbon zero. It's made up of three stages. The first two are expert support and guidance (training and workshops, 1-6 hours) followed by carbon surveys and action plans to reduce carbon emissions. These two stages will launch in spring. The last stage is the funding application itself, and this will open in autumn – all applicants must have completed stages 1 and 2.

CC mentioned the carbon training coming up on the 22nd, 23rd and 30th January. All councillors are being encouraged to attend and CC is working on a pack for Parish Councils to help them develop Climate Action Plans.

9. To receive an update from Transition Exmouth

The CIO application has gone in. LD is keen to get a meeting with ZC, Nicky Nicholls from Sideshore and Helen Vines (CAG Devon) to discuss how the networking element of our climate work is best organised.

The Transition AGM will be held on 24th January 2024 for the existing organisation to present accounts for the last year, to give a report on updates and find out who's who. Open to members and non-members. And this AGM will be the last of its kind as it will be the 'old' Transition (pre CIO). The AGM will be in the back room at Glenorchy Church at 6.30 pm. Transition is looking for a Treasurer trustee.

10. To receive an update on other relevant matters from Town Council working parties and outside body representatives, and any other business

ZC mentioned that 'Magpies – Festival of Thrift' will be from March 2nd to March 9th. There may be an event at the Recycling Centre organised by Recycle Devon. The festival team have reached out to Mushroom, the Allotment Society, Launchpad, Recycle Devon, Men's Shed, the Repair Café, Ride On, Exmouth Coastal Churches and various other Exmouth groups. There was a discussion around the word 'Thrift', which is now a trendy and topical word.

Tree Forum – ZC to organise a date for the Tree Forum.

Wednesday, 7th February 2024 (10am – 12pm) on Zoom.

The meeting ended at 7.50pm