

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL Festival and Events Working Party

Notes of the virtual meeting held at 1400 on Thursday 22nd February 2024 via zoom

Present

Cllr Joy Whipps (Chair)	JW	Exmouth Town Council
Cllr Nick Hookway	NH	Exmouth Town Council
Cllr Olly Davey	OD	Exmouth Town Council
Cllr Cherry Nicholas	CN	Exmouth Town Council
Lisa Bowman	LB	Exmouth Town Council
Jess Magill	JM	Exmouth Town Council
Chetna Jones	CJ	Exmouth Town Council
Lisa Greenway	LG	Exmouth Town Council

Apologies:

Cllr Steve Gazzard	SG	Exmouth Town Council
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1. Welcome, introduction, and apologies

JW welcomed attendees to the meeting and noted apologies.

2. To approve the notes from the meeting on 25th January 2024 and matters arising

The notes from the previous meeting dated 25th January 2024 were approved.

CJ confirmed she had emailed EDDC, as instructed by the working party, to request permission for the Christmas tree to be erected in the original location for 2024. EDDC advised that this conflicted with an event application already submitted for the Christmas Village, the footprint of which covers the tree pit. CJ and LB met with Streetscene and passed on feedback provided by the working party as to why the council wanted to put the tree back into the original tree pit location.

Subsequently an email has been received by the Christmas Village event organiser querying why ETC had not been consulted on his application. LB explained that the application has not gone through the event application process yet so ETC have not formally been consulted and were only made aware of the event when EDDC advised that the tree position request would conflict with an event application already submitted. The event organiser stated that the footprint could not be changed and therefore could not accommodate the tree. LB has agreed for the event organiser to attend an informal meeting between Festival and Events members to discuss the matter.

If a compromise cannot be found, a report will be written up by EDDC Events officers and sent to EDDC ward councillors to make a decision.

JW suggested using the triangle area of grass called the paddock in the Strand for the Christmas tree, CJ confirmed she has already investigated this, but unfortunately the dinosaurs in that area are concreted into the ground so it would not be possible to move them.

LB provided members with a brief overview of the protocol implemented by ETC in 2015/2016 in conjunction with Streetscene to make sure events taking place in the Strand did not

inadvertently affect fixed businesses. LB will circulate this protocol to members after the meeting.

3. Update on the Gate 2 Plate festival

JM advised that the event organisers Eat Festivals are making headway with the event taking place on Sunday the 28th of April 2024 in the Strand but will provide a further update in due course.

4. Update on the Magpies Festival of Thrift

JM confirmed that the festival will take place between the 2nd and 9th of March 2024. The website is live which includes a programme of events and social media publicity has resulted in bookings and enquiries being received. The majority of activities are drop-in sessions taking place on weeknights focusing on adults and weekends for families and children although there are some weekday activities. If the festival is successful JM hopes to make it an annual event.

JM advised that several of the activities are in collaboration with the students from the ECO group at Exmouth Community College and children at Littleham School.

5. To discuss the Summer Festival 2024

JM updated members that as part of the carbon reduction plan a local production company will oversee the Sideshore site this year with the view to potentially running all sites going forward if successful this year.

Event permissions were submitted which resulted in the EDDC events team coming back with some queries on the risk assessment, JM will meet with them next week to discuss this further.

NH queried if any funding/sponsorship had been received, JM hopes that the Deaf Academy will sponsor the festival again this year and Inconf TV have confirmed they will live stream. JM intends to slightly redesign the trader packages this year as she believes they were set too high last year for local businesses.

JM hopes to hear back from the Arts Council within the next month to confirm if our funding application was successful. JM has also applied for a grant through the Tesco Bags of Help scheme which could provide funding of between £500 and £1500.

6. Any other business

JW urged members to attend the informal meeting on Monday at 10am in the Town Hall with the Christmas Village event organiser. Unfortunately, many gave apologies due to other commitments.

7. Date of next meeting 28th March 2024

LB sent apologies in advance.

The meeting ended at 14:36