

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL Festival and Events Working Party

Notes of the virtual meeting held at 1400 on Thursday 28th March 2024 via zoom

Present

Cllr Joy Whipps (Chair)	JW	Exmouth Town Council
Cllr Olly Davey	OD	Exmouth Town Council
Cllr Cherry Nicholas	CN	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
Lisa Bowman	LB	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 22nd February 2024 and matters arising

The notes from the previous meeting dated the 22nd of February were approved with no matters arising.

3. Update on the Gate 2 Plate festival

JM reminded members that the event will be held on the Strand, Sunday the 28th of April 2024 with 55 food and drink producers attending as well as walkabout entertainers and musicians.

4. Magpies Festival of Thrift wash up

JM advised that the festival was a success although engagement was slightly lower than expected which could have been down to limited marketing time. Positive feedback was received from the people that participated in the activities and JM hopes that it will be held again next year at a similar time. JW suggested bringing the event forward to coincide with the February half term, JM will consider this for next year as a possibility.

5. Summer Festival 2024 update

JM confirmed that the grant application to the Arts Council was successful, and she will begin to confirm bookings for the festival. Landowner permission has been received from EDDC, and the next step will be to apply for the premises licences. A potential sponsor has approached JM and is keen to sponsor the event. Further details will be provided once all sponsors are confirmed.

JM is currently booking the bands for all 3 festival sites and was thinking that the Vintage Day could be hosted in the Pavilion Gardens on the Sunday which would join up all 3 sites. Weather permitting the event will take place in the grounds otherwise the event will be moved inside. ETC would assist by funding the entertainment and the Pavilion would provide the sound production, security, staff, and seating and generally host the event.

JM was concerned that if the seawall work taking place at Sideshore is delayed it will affect the festival as the site is currently being used as a building site, however EDDC have offered the green space land near Sideshore to host the event if needed.

6. To discuss the Winter Festival and alternative proposals for tree lighting

JW updated members that EDDC have approved permission for the Christmas Village to go ahead in the Strand which means that the Christmas tree cannot be relocated back to the original tree pit location. JW discussed alternatives with LB and OD prior to the meeting and suggested using an artificial tree for the light switch on in the Strand using the original tree pit location then relocating the tree to the Town Hall before the Christmas Village set up begins.

JM went through all other lighting alternatives last year when the original Christmas tree location was compromised but had not thought about moving the tree after the light switch on which may be an option for this year.

CJ read out an email to members that was received from LB in her absence:

The Christmas Village event organiser has offered the festival use of their marquee for any events. OD and JW have looked at the Town Hall frontage and agreed that there is potential scope to site a tree above the entrance porch at the Town Hall but also suggested a tree pit in the flowerbed to the right of the Town Hall to house a tree.

The matter was discussed, and members agreed there would be no need to use the Christmas Village marquee.

CJ advised that EDDC property services will need to grant permission for a Christmas tree to be placed on the front porch roof of the Town Hall and they may have health and safety concerns so we may want to think about the flowerbed on the right-hand side of the front entrance as an alternative site.

OD was concerned that an artificial tree would be substantially smaller than the real tree that has been supplied in previous years, and the reason for the change would need to be explained in advance to manage expectations of the public. CJ added that if the Christmas Village does not take place in future years, we may be able to use the original position again.

There was concern that the artificial tree could be stolen and having a real tree maybe a better option especially if it is placed in the tree pit and then moved.

Members agreed that it was a good idea to use a smaller size real tree in the original tree pit location for the light switch on then manually moving it to the Town Hall flowerbed. CJ will investigate the maximum size tree that could be moved easily and report back.

EDDC will also need to be approached for an electric supply for the lights.

It was agreed some further investigations need to be carried out and reported back at the next meeting. In the meantime JM will confirm the Winter Festival event application with EDDC.

7. Any other business

No other business.

8. Date of next meeting 25th April 2024

OD and JM were unable to attend the meeting on this date so it was agreed that the meeting would be rescheduled to the 2nd of May 2024.

The meeting ended at 14:26