EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Festival and Events Working Party

Notes of the virtual meeting held at 1400 on Thursday 2nd May 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
Cllr Steve Gazzard	SG	Exmouth Town Council
Cllr Nick Hookway	NH	Exmouth Town Council
Jess Magill	JM	Exmouth Town Council
Lisa Bowman	LB	Exmouth Town Council
Chetna Jones	CJ	Exmouth Town Council
Lisa Greenway	LG	Exmouth Town Council

Apologies:

Cllr Aurora Bailey	AB	Exmouth Town Council
Cllr Brian Bailey	BB	Exmouth Town Council
Cllr Joe Whibley	JoW	Exmouth Town Council

1. Welcome, introduction, and apologies

JW was experiencing IT issues accessing the meeting, in her absence SG welcomed attendees to the meeting and noted apologies. NH requested that his apologies were noted for the previous meeting on the 28th of March 2024.

2. To approve the notes from the meeting on 28th March 2024 and matters arising

OD proposed, CN seconded, the accuracy of the notes from the 28th of March 2024 which were approved with no matters arising.

3. Gate 2 Plate festival wash up

JM confirmed that the event was successful and well attended with no issues. The event organiser (Eat Festivals) and EDDC are happy that ETC can take future events forward with a 50% financial support for the next event and 100% thereafter on a sliding scale. The organiser is happy to run two events a year in the spring and autumn, but this would have a financial impact. However, these food festivals are extremely popular and are likely to be beneficial for the town. LB advised that the first event would cost 2.5K (50% of the cost) and the second event would cost 4K (100% of the cost), Town Management reserves could be used to underwrite the costs of these events until the reserves were used up, therefore having no financial impact on the festival and arts budget. Members thought using the reserves was an excellent idea.

NH proposed, seconded by OD that the reserves be used to cover the cost for delivering these events. LB stated that the proposal will need to go forward for recommendation at Full Council for noting to use the reserves for audit purposes.

CJ queried if any feedback had been received from traders. JM spoke to traders on the day who were surprised by the high attendance which led to some of them selling out of their produce.

JM received an email from Rob Murrey at EDDC who spoke to the businesses around the Strand who were happy with the event which did not impact on their sales.

LB suggested holding the next event during the October half term, members discussed the scope to hold a second festival in October 2024. JM will discuss this with the event organiser and add to the already suggested 2025 spring dates:

26th April 2025
27th April 2025
4th May 2025

Members agreed that Sunday the 27th of April would be suitable, JM will provide the preferred date to the event organisers.

JW joined the meeting.

JW queried if the same event should be held twice a year, JM advised that although it would be the same concept the traders would be varied each time. OD thought two events could be sustained each year as produce is seasonal and Eat Festivals are very popular in other towns.

4. Summer Festival 2024 update

JM updated members that the traders have been approved and one bar tender application for Manor Gardens has been received. As the deadline has passed, members agreed to proceed with this tender. JM will ask them if they want to run a second outlet in the Strand or possibly speak with some other local businesses to see if they are interested.

A potential sponsor has approached JM and is keen to sponsor the event, further details will be provided once all sponsors are confirmed. £500 has been received from Tesco Stronger Starts through voting in the Exmouth store.

JM had the idea to create a lasting impact from the festival via a possible mural art down Langerwehe Way if landowner's permission is granted. JM has already been approached by quite a few mural artists keen to be involved which could be part of the festival events. Members agreed that this was a good idea, SG suggested a local artist as a potential artist for the project, JM has already spoken to this artist who said that landowner's permission could prove difficult.

JM confirmed that all the licences have gone in and are being advertised throughout the consultation period.

LB raised concerns that if the seawall work taking place at Sideshore is delayed what impact would it have on the summer events, JM has received conflicting answers to this question. CJ was under the impression that work would stop in June then reconvene in September so this should not be a problem through the summer period although she will contact the EDDC Engineering Project Manager for confirmation. JM confirmed that although the premises licence has gone in for Sideshore there is a contingency plan in place to use the green space land near Sideshore to host the event if needed.

5. To discuss the Winter Festival

CJ has spoken to the Town Maintenance Team regarding the Christmas tree, realistically a tree of between 12 and 15 feet would be a manageable size to carry from the Strand to the Town Hall. CJ added that there will be less concern of putting the tree in the flower bed at the Town Hall rather than on the front canopy flat roof.

6. Any other business

JM advised members that two events have been put forward by Villages in Action who promote arts in rural areas. The first event will take place in the Strand on the 8th of June 2024 which is a theatre piece performed in a car about men's mental health with the audience being three people sat in the back of the car. The second event will take place in the Strand on the 16th of August 2024 which is a piece of street theatre called Those in Glass Houses. The show involves breaking glass and both events will be free.

7. Date of next meeting 23rd May 2024

The meeting ended at 14:48