EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Party

Notes of the meeting held at 6pm on Tuesday 14th May 2024 in the Town Hall Chamber

Present

Councillor Tim Dumper	TD	Exmouth Town Council (Chair)
Councillor Graham Deasy	GD	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Andrew Woodward	AW	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Louise Venables	LV	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Daniel Wilson	DW	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Andrew Toye	AT	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Steve Gazzard	SG	Exmouth Town Council
Zoey Cooper	ZC	Exmouth Town Council
Catherine Causley	CC	East Devon District Council
Lou Doliczny	LD	Transition Exmouth

Apologies

Councillor Olly Davey	OD	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Mike Rosser	MR	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Andrew Colman	AC	Exmouth Town Council
Lisa Bowman	LB	Exmouth Town Council

1. Election of new chair

GD nominated TD to be Chair
AT seconded TD to be Chair

LV nominated DW to be Chair
DW seconded DW to be Chair

It was put to the vote:
TD received x3 votes
DW received x3 votes
There was one abstention
The casting vote went to TD who voted for TD.

TD was elected as Chair.

It was suggested by SG (and agreed by all) that DW should be Vice Chair. It was noted that the role of the Vice Chair is to support the Chair during meetings, to assume the role when the Chair is unable to attend a meeting and to join any relevant consultations between meetings.

2. Welcome and apologies

TD welcomed members to the meeting and apologies were noted.

3. **Meeting notes** (5th March 2024) were approved and there were no matters arising

GD proposed to accept the previous notes.
LV seconded

4. **To agree a change to Terms of Reference to move CEE WP meetings to bi-monthly with an email update in the interim**

   It was agreed that the CEE WP meetings would remain monthly. They will provide drive and support to allow ZC to maintain momentum. The next meeting will be face-to-face and in the Sideshore Community Hub at 6pm. Shorter, more dynamic meetings with participative action will be trialled (1.5 hours), with a quarterly strategy update meeting.

5. **To provide an update from ZC regarding ongoing projects to reduce plastic WASTE in Exmouth**

   a. *The Exmouth Cup*: a 6-month report has been circulated to all Members and to Sideshore. Next steps are to review and decide whether to buy more cups and how to promote the new and/or existing cups. A review meeting is scheduled at Sideshore w/c 27th May. ZC will update the CEE WP group after this event. It was agreed that the next few weeks are prime time for the Mystery Shoppers (TC, DW and GD) to provide research prior to the meeting with Sideshore. The Exmouth Cup will be one of many initiatives to build on the 'reuse' message of the 2024 Exmouth Festival. More details of festival plans will be shared at the next CEE WP meeting. There will be an Exmouth Cup display in Tourist Information. There was a consensus in the meeting that the Exmouth Cup is an excellent initiative and should receive ongoing support.

   b. *Samudra*: is coming back on May 28th. Messaging will be 'clean plastic' if Hangtime moves to recycled plastic cups. Or will be 'clean plastic bottles' if Hangtime sticks with the Vegware smoothie cups. CC confirmed that this waste stream is complicated and it's not 100% clear what the most sustainable option is re material for containers for cafés as the industry for recycled plastic also needs to be supported. We will manage the emptying of Samudra ourselves. And invite schools to join us and get involved with the whole topic of recycling and/or reusing.

c. *Cigarette ballot bins:* The Railway Club has agreed to the installation of a ballot bin outside their club. The cost is £355. It was agreed to use some of the CEE WP budget to buy the bin and thereby encourage the sensible disposal of cigarette butts. AT suggested the WP consider chewing gum litter as well. ZC mentioned temporary cigarette ballot bins that would be purchased for the Exmouth Festival.

d. *Reusable nappies and period products*: with Bosom Buddies, ETC is supporting a Real Nappy scheme in the Sideshore Community Hub in June (launching during the Big Green Week 8-16th June). ZC attended ECC to talk about reusable period products and aims to integrate this content into lesson 42 of the PHSE curriculum. In September, ZC will approach Exmouth primary schools with a similar initiative and LV offered her assistance. ZC has asked Geoff Jung (EDDC) if Exmouth can pilot the recycling of disposable nappies (and other sanitary products), in parallel with promoting a rethink/reuse mindset.

6. **To receive an update from ZC regarding "The Melt" installation**

   There is no fixed location as yet. ZC is waiting for confirmation from the artist, who is waiting for confirmation from the Harbour Master. Dates are the second week of August to the second week of October. TD suggested

7. **To receive an update from ZC regarding ongoing projects**

   a. **FOOD**: *Plant Based Treaty initiatives* (ZC and LV): the Bring and Share launch is on Monday 20th May (6-8pm) at Open Door. LV is organising ongoing events at Sideshore Community Hub (second Sunday of the month, 12.30-2.30pm). ZC to talk to the Head of DT at ECC about organising a plant-based Ready Steady Cook with students, inviting parents to watch and potentially filming the event. The focus for the plant-based initiative is: how to reduce your carbon footprint by eating less meat rather than moving to a 100% vegan lifestyle. The goal is to educate on how to buy and cook with more plant-based options.

   b. **NATURAL ENVIRONMENT**

      i. Both *water butts* have been purchased and are arriving w/c 20th May. There will be a subsequent initiative to promote rainwater harvesting and reduce runoff in gardens, with a promotion of the *Devon Wildlife Garden Scheme*, which both EIB and EWG have

agreed to support. In the Town Hall on *World Environment Day* (June 5th), there will be film, Q&A and plant-based supper. The film is: “Trees Are The Key”, commissioned by Word Forest. The group discussed an idea MR emailed regarding tile whipping – a Dutch initiative and potentially a challenge to Exmouth residents to see how many tiles/paving slabs they could take up (in their own gardens) in return for seeds/plants. The idea is to be fleshed out by ZC ahead of the next CEE WP meeting.

c. **TRAVEL** *“Chasing the Sun” and Active Travel*: ZC recommended the film ‘Chasing the Sun’, which she said was excellent and uplifting and is showing again in Exmouth on May 28th. She described the enthusiasm in the audience for more cycling and better cycling infrastructure in Exmouth – a critical mass bike ride, bike buses etc – and a renewed interest in the Exmouth Active Travel Group (although this did not translate into numbers attending the Active Travel Day on May 11th). The WP discussed what could be done as a Town Council to support cycling & walking, and to support the Exmouth Active Travel Group. CC suggested a bike bus to reduce car congestion and dangerous driving/parking outside school, especially Withycombe Village Road. AW had just received an email from ECC asking for help to deal with the traffic issues outside the school and it was agreed that ZC would organise a site visit to Gipsy Lane, to take pictures and video. TD asked about walking buses in Exmouth and it was thought that there are currently none. LV suggested short road closures and also suggested talking to parents to determine next steps. DW suggested we asked schools to garner parent feedback. TD agreed to write a letter to the Journal on this topic. CC suggested we contact schools with support in this area as it would be a relatively low-cost initiative to help them achieve net carbon zero by 2024.

d. **COMMUNITY** *The Sideshore Community Hub* and *Round Table* meetings happen monthly in the Sideshore Community Hub (which is now officially open) and involve all the community and climate groups in Exmouth. There is a schedule for the Hub for May and June and there are plenty of ideas for the rest of the year, providing there are

volunteers to keep the Hub open. It was decided to trial having CEE WP meetings there.

e. **CARBON FOOTPRINT** Exmouth Festival & Climate Fresk training, A La Ronde festival.
    i. The proposal to ACED and the Green Team regarding sustainability of *the Exmouth Festival* was met with enthusiasm. ZC and Jess Magill are therefore progressing with the plan. Most urgent requirement to activate the plan fully is a team of volunteers (ideally 20 people) on the ground for the three days (19th, 20th and 21st July).
    ii. Climate Fresk (interactive card 'game' style of training) is happening in the Sideshore Community Hub on the 29th May – facilitated by ZC. The training is free to attend but booking is required. Climate Fresk is an excellent way to raise awareness of climate change and brainstorm solutions.
    iii. A La Ronde eco festival is from the 16th to 20th July and ZC has agreed to attend with a green pledge stall. Volunteers are also needed for this event.
f. **ENERGY** There was a meeting with Harry Bonnell (ECOE) on 9th June, with ZC and CC attending. Harry shared some printed flyers and it was agreed that ETC would share the digital versions and help ECOE promote impartial home advice visits to support all people – at various life and income – to receive an appropriate service. TD referenced the problem with private landlords and the difficulties of tackling community energy from this perspective.

8. To receive an update from EDDC

a. The new Climate Change Strategy (2025-2030) has just started going through the approval stage and was presented to the Green Team on the 13th of May. The goal is to demonstrate a 50% reduction by 2030. The strategy should be completed by the end of summer 2024 to influence service planning in October/November. It will go through the official channels including consultation with town and district councils (potentially in the form of workshops), and then will go out to public consultation. The Interim Climate Action Plan will be available on the

website very soon.

b. EDDC has applied for a low-carbon skills fund to help fund heat decarbonisation plans for swimming pools and will know (in the next month or so) if the application has been successful. SG asked about housing stock and retrofit/insulation etc regarding the new Climate Change Strategy. CC confirmed that EDDC's housing team is working on a housing and assets strategy. It's a huge, complex and very costly piece of work, with statutory obligations. There is currently a very strong focus at EDDC on this work stream.
c. EDDC's Descent Plan work is ongoing. EDDC's carbon footprint will be recalculated to measure the impact of the previous strategy. It was noted that there is a potential reduction of 13k tons of carbon (25k tons from 38k tons, which was the baseline).
d. The first tranche of carbon literacy training will be rolled out in July.
e. CAP fund – the first stage of this climate action funding for SMEs will launch imminently.

9. To receive an update from Transition Exmouth

a. It was agreed to rearrange and rotate the agenda to allow for our external stakeholders and partners to provide updates earlier in the meetings.
b. Transition is now officially a CIO and operates under the Charities Commission (and the additional scrutiny that comes with that).
c. There was a good meeting last month to discuss Transition's partnership and relationship with the Town Council.
d. The OPOP website (hosting) will be funded by ETC for another year and Transition will take responsibility for its future.
e. With Friends of the River Exe (FORE), LD is leading on the Big Paddle Out to protest about the sewage situation (part of a national Surfers Against Sewage action day). FORE is looking for more funding. Without more funding, there is some uncertainty about whether the Festival of the River Exe will go ahead in September. A crowdfunder for FORE has been launched.
f. A freelancer has been contracted to do some work on the Transition website to build connections with existing members and grow the

membership.

10. **To receive an update on other relevant matters from Town Council working parties and outside body representatives** There were no updates.
11. ***11.*** **To receive a proposal from Councillor Dan Wilson to aim for Exmouth to be Britain's Greenest Town by 2027**

    It was agreed by DW and all to move this proposal to the next meeting to give it due time and consideration, and still be ahead of the next Full Council meeting on the 24th June. *NB: the Full Council agenda will need to be finalised on the 20th June with this additional agenda point.*
12. **Any other business** There was no other business.
13. **Date of the next meeting** The next meeting will be on Wednesday 19th June 2024 (6pm – 7.30pm) in the Sideshore Community Hub.

The meeting ended at 20:17