EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Festival and Events Working Party

Notes of the virtual meeting held at 1400 on Thursday 19th September 2024 via zoom

Present

Cllr Joy Whipps (Chair)	JW	Exmouth Town Council
Cllr Steve Gazzard	SG	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 Olly Davey	OD	Exmouth Town Council

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

JW welcomed attendees to the meeting and noted apologies.

2. To approve the notes from the meeting on the 22nd of August & matters arising

Members approved the notes of the meeting held on 22nd of August 2024 and there were no matters arising.

3. To agree Exmouth Festival will be on the 11th – 13th July 2025

Due to a date clash JM proposed bringing the festival forward by one week. Members agreed, JM will secure the booking through the EDDC events team.

4. To discuss the Winter Festival

The production quote has been received from a local production company who will be using a different stage set up. The theme this year will be polar magic which includes a giant light up penguin and other walkabout entertainment.

Devon based brass band Little Big Horns will lead the lantern parade this year and JM will organise some food stalls. JW queried if adult groups would be included in the lantern parade, JM confirmed that Open Door and Live to Learn who took part last year would be invited again.

LB was impressed by the large lantern puppet that headed the parade and queried if another would be commissioned this year, JM would like to commission another, but storage of preexisting puppets is causing issues. CJ suggested donating the old ones to free up storage space in the Town Hall, JM will either reuse the puppets or consider donating the ones that would be unlikely to be reused.

MC will liaise with Rev Steve Jones to see if it is possible to host the Christmas tree decorating event at the Holy Trinity Church, JW suggested contacting All Saints Church if Holy Trinity were unable to accommodate.

LB spoke to the Christmas market organiser this week who queried where the tree would be sited. Members discussed if a smaller tree should be purchased and sited in the original tree pit then moved to the Town Hall or whether a large tree should be positioned in the Strand where it was located last year. Members weighed up the pros and cons taking into consideration electric supply and decided a large tree should be sited in the same place as last year, CJ will contact the EDDC events team to request use of the pit in the inner circle of the Strand.

LB will liaise with the Christmas Village organiser to request if the overnight security team could patrol the tree area and if his CCTV can be directed towards the tree to deter vandalism. Torbay CCTV will also be asked to keep an eye on the tree in case any vandalism is caused.

CJ will contact Kings Garden Centre to see if they can donate a tree.

JM will request event permission through EDDC.

5. To receive an update on the proposed community organisation event being held in the Christmas Village marquee

LB updated members that marketing has not commenced yet but it was discussed at the last Full Council meeting on the 16th of September 2024. The Christmas Village organiser has offered to promote the event and provide a father Christmas for the day.

An article will be published in the Journal and advertised on the radio. Community groups will be asked to complete an application form to attend, LB would like a legacy of the event by providing a printed directory of Exmouth community groups.

The event will take place on Wednesday the 18th of December in the Christmas Village marquee and can accommodate up to 90 community groups, JW queried that if not enough groups expressed an interest in attending, would it take place. LB will make sure a deadline for interest is set so the number of attendees is known in advance.

6. Any other business

The dinosaur exhibit volunteer Liz Oram has approached ETC to request a dinosaur event in 2025. JM has investigated potentially booking a dinosaur experience day in the May half term which would include a range of activities including an animatronic dinosaur to highlight the dinosaur trail. Members discussed other suitable dates; JM will put some dates together to discuss in a future meeting.

LB reminded members that the Jurassic Trust were involved in previous dinosaur related events so could be involved again.

7. Date of next meeting 24th October 2024

The meeting ended 14:40