EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Party

Notes of the meeting held at 6pm on Thursday, September 12th, 2024 in the Meeting Room (downstairs) at the Town Hall.

Present

Councillor Tim Dumper	TD	Exmouth Town Council (Chair)
Councillor Daniel Wilson	DW	Exmouth Town Council (Deputy Chair)
Councillor Steve Gazzard	SG	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Graham Deasy	GD	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Olly Davey	OD	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Mike Rosser	MR	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Andrew Colman	AC	Exmouth Town Council
Catherine Causley	CC	East Devon District Council
Zoey Cooper	ZC	Exmouth Town Council
Lou Doliczny	LD	Transition Exmouth

Guest

Robert Bates	(work experience student)

Apologies

Councillor Andrew Woodward	AW	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Louise Venables	LV	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Andrew Toye	AT	Exmouth Town Council
Lisa Bowman	LB	Exmouth Town Council

1. **Welcome and apologies.**

TD welcomed members to the meeting, apologies were noted and introductions were made for guest Robert Bates. Rob has recently graduated from Leeds University (Geography and Geology) and is interested in sustainable development and renewable energy. There may be a project with Exeter Community Energy, Transition Exmouth and ETC that he can get involved with.

2. **Meeting notes (9th July 2024) were approved.**

SG asked whether another cigarette ballot bin would be installed outside Wings bar (on request of EIB). *ZC to follow up on this to see if EIB would like to go halves on the new bin. ZC to investigate more seaside locations (eg The Bath House) for a cigarette ballot bin.*

3. **Update from CC and EDDC**

Substantial departmental and personnel changes are being made, with the structure and format of each team under scrutiny. EDDC will not replace Alex Mitchell (previously CC's Supporting Officer) and the climate work may move to another department. EDDC's housing stock has the biggest carbon footprint and funding is challenging. There may be a change of focus from in-house emissions to looking externally at impact, with potential support for businesses, community action groups etc. A programme manager-type function may be required to eliminate silo working. CC is still working on the strategy and a new action plan, linked to the Descent Plan (20% reduction by 2030).

4. Carbon Literacy Training provided by CC and EDDC

CC informed the working party that an internal training team is on its way to getting Carbon Literacy Training certification. As a pilot, they are working with ETC and Broadclyst. The training is free, but ETC would pay a £20 fee per Councillor/Staff member to cover training external community members. Training is on Tuesday morning – x1 in-person training and x1 online (totalling 8 hours of training). Context with the ETC climate action would be provided. Groups should be between six and eight people. *ZC to coordinate groups.* CC is working on a Parish and Town Council workbook.

5. Transition update

LD informed the group that Transition is making progress, and solidifying relationships with affiliated groups (eg Tiny Forest and Mushroom) who can use the Transition bank account, insurance and pay-by-card machine. Transition will be in the Hub every Thursday pm (2-4.30 pm). The newsletter has been reinvigorated – with more regular and more calls to action. There is potentially an appetite to kick-start Transition Streets (work with people in your street – ask them about reducing their carbon footprint etc and go through the programme with people in your area). The next goal is to sort out membership and increase the volunteer base. OD asked about the cargo bike. LD explained that there was not enough business to sustain it at Parallel 50, but the Tern is now available through the Library of Things. The Stride has been sold. Transition applied to ETC for some funding to help with the work. And next year there may be an (Service Level Agreement) SLA in place.

Regarding the **Active Travel** group – this needs some attention and support. *ZC to set up a meeting with Jan, Mike etc and brainstorm some other activities before the Exmouth Festival (no agreement currently to bolt Active Travel Day to the festival).*

ZC to reach out to Deidre Ryan regarding any 'stay warm/save money' initiatives this winter.

6. Exmouth Cup

After some discussion, and having read the Final Report, the group agreed to purchase 4,000 more cups (to bring us up to the agreed total of 10,000) and keep the scheme barrier-free but reduce the number of cafes the cup is available from. In short: refine the message on the cup, get more buy-in from the cafes, but keep the overall design, continue to raise public awareness. *ZC to inform Sideshore of this decision and order more cups.*

7. Britain's Greenest Town proposal

DW will send more details at the end of the month (September). He has contacted a lot of organisations and businesses to sound them out and they are all very positive. ZC suggested Britain's Cleanest, Greenest Town. GD agreed that this would give us a focal point, celebrate the good work we're already doing, show us to be progressive and get people excited about the vision.

8. Exmouth Green Screen Eco Film & Discussion Club

The question arose as to whether we need a licence to show the film. *SG will double-check with JW (Joe Whibley)*. The group agreed that mainstream films regarding food, plastic, fashion, climate change etc would work well in the Town Hall, to reach a wide audience. The next film and discussion night will be Chasing the Sun in November (as part of the Independent Film Festival – date tbc) and it was agreed that after this, Jan or Feb 2025 would be preferable for the next eco film.

9. Proposal from ZC for a plant-based food night, with speakers and activities

ZC proposed a plant-based 'expo' on October 16th (World Food Day), in the Town Hall and Committee Room, with a speaker, activities, games, samples, recipes etc. It was agreed this should go ahead, potentially with a short film as well. *ZC to get costs and share more details.*

10. Next Tree Forum Meeting

ZC asked who was attending the tree strategy meeting at BDH on Tuesday 17th September. TD said he would most likely make it. It was agreed ETC should convene the next Tree Forum in October or early November at latest. *ZC to share some dates.*

11. **An update on other relevant matters from Town Council working parties and outside body representatives**

Oaktree felling: GD is going to write and TD will speak to Rons Boatman (13th September) about it.
Sewage and SWW: GD has been working tirelessly to stay on top of the ever-changing situation. He mentioned the open meeting with LeighDay (the lawyers who are potentially leading the class action against SWW) is on Tuesday (18th September) at Ocean at 7pm. LD mentioned a "March for Clean Water" – and asked whether ETC could fund the coach. TD mentioned the Fair-Trade ethical fashion show, to which everyone is welcome, 7-9pm, in Glenorchy, 14th September. Entry £5.

12. **Any other business**

ZC mentioned a new water refill station will be installed in the Magnolia Centre.

13. **Next meeting**

ZC to circulate some dates for the next meeting.

The meeting ended at 8.05 pm