EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Waterfront Working Party

Notes of the meeting held at 10am on Tuesday 7th January 2025 via Zoom.

Present

Councillor Pauline Stott	ST	Exmouth Town Council (Chair)
Councillor Tim Dumper	TD	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Steve Gazzard	SG	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Louise Venables	LV	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Mark Williamson	MW	Exmouth Town Council
Chetna Jones	CJ	Exmouth Town Council

Also present non-member
Councillor Graham Deasy Exmouth Town Council

Apologies

Councillor David Poor	DP	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Joy Whipps	JW	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Ian Kirvan	IK	Exmouth Town Council
Andrew Gordon-Raby	AGR	EDDC Streetscene

1. **Welcome and apologies**

PS welcomed members to the meeting and apologies were noted.

2. **To approve the notes of the last meeting dated 11th June 2024 and the inspection form dated 10th September 2024, and matters arising from therein**

The notes of the previous meeting and the inspection form were agreed.

Members discussed the upcoming inspection in March and decided to request an update from PB and AGR before the walkabout. CJ was tasked with sending an email to both PB and AGR to provide an update on the inspection actions. Members also discussed the participation of Julia Woodbridge in the last walkabout meeting, and it was decided to include her in the upcoming discussions.

Councillor Mark Williamson apologised for being late due to passcode issues.

3. **To discuss the Exmouth Beach Management Plan options and agree a draft response to be approved by the Town Council on the consultation.**

Members discussed the three different options for beach management that were presented at a recent meeting. Both PS and GD, representatives of ETC gave brief updates after attending this meeting. The options are 1) an encasement sea wall, 2) local aspirational leading option (installation of groynes), and 3) a 'do nothing' approach. Each option had concerns about its effectiveness and the most favoured option, the groynes, was the most expensive. GD emphasised the importance of

considering the economic benefits for the town and the potential effects of sea level rises. He also highlighted the need for access to the beach for the lifeboat and leisure users, and the potential disappearance of Dawlish Warren Spit. CJ also mentioned that any chosen option would require extensive modelling work and could affect other areas along the coast.

Members favoured the use of wooden groynes option over rock armour or doing nothing, as groynes would help retain the sandy beach while being less visually intrusive. The consensus is that groynes, though not a permanent solution, offer the best balance of preserving the beach's recreational use while mitigating erosion in the short-to-medium term.

It was agreed to respond to the consultation with a neutral stance on the sea wall encasement option, while expressing strong agreement with the local aspirational leading option. The group also discussed the need for further consideration of the growing option's impact on lifeboat launching and navigation as well as ease of use by water users, particularly kite surfers. TD added that the decision-making process should be ongoing, with potential changes due to evolving circumstances such as climate change and government policy. Members also agreed to continue working in partnership and potentially provide financial contributions, with the understanding that these would be discussed in detail at a future Town Council meeting.

The working party members agreed to recommend these draft responses to the Town Council for approval and to respond to the consultation before the deadline of 10th of February 2025.

4. **To receive an update on the repairs to the sea wall**

There was no update other than the work had started. PS added that pedestrian access had been left clear over the Christmas period which was beneficial to businesses in the surrounding area.

5. **To receive an update from EDDC Streetscene on seafront, bins, toilets, and beach signs**

There was no Streetscene representative present so there was no update**.** It would be useful to receive an update on which toilets and showers were available for public access. LV raised a question about the accessibility of the toilets in Mickey's, and it was agreed she would ask Sideshore about this and using the showers.

6. **Any other business**

GD mentioned the consultation regarding camper vans and car parking on the Echelon and Maer Road car park and it was agreed this would be discussed in a separate working party meeting.

7. **Date of next meeting: 11th March 2025 – Walkabout meeting**

The next meeting was scheduled for March 11th, as a walkabout meeting from The Ocean to the Marina.