EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Party

Notes of the meeting held at 6pm on Tuesday 4th March 2025 in the Town Hall Chamber

Present

Councillor Tim Dumper	TD	Exmouth Town Council (Chair)
Councillor Louise Venables	LV	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Mike Rosser	MR	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Dan Wilson	DW	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Olly Davey	OD	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Andrew Toye	AT	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Andrew Colman	AC	Exmouth Town Council
Lisa Bowman	LB	Exmouth Town Council
Lewis Connor	LC	East Devon District Council
Zoey Cooper	ZC	Exmouth Town Council
David Parslow	DP	Exmouth Town Council
Lou Doliczny	LD	Transition Exmouth
Adrian Toole	AT	Transition Exmouth
Anne-Marie Culhane	AMC	Tidelines
Matt Palmer	MP	MET Office and Bristol University

Apologies

Councillor Andrew Woodward	AW	Exmouth Town Council
Catherine Causley	CC	East Devon District Council
Annabelle Stidwell	AS	Exmouth Town Council

1. **Welcome and apologies and congratulations!**

TD welcomed Matt Palmer, Anne Marie Culhane and David Parslow to the meeting and apologies were noted.

Members celebrated Exmouth Town Council winning the NALC's Star Council Award for Climate Response of the Year highlighting the community's commitment to environmental action.

2. **To approve the notes of the meeting on January 14th 2025 and any matters arising.**

The notes of the previous meeting were proposed for approval by OD, seconded by MR and agreed by all.MR queried a pending action from the last meeting regarding the inclusion of energy

3. **To receive a proposal from AMC and MP regarding a potential training course in May.**

AMC and MP presented a proposal for a potential new training project called the "Community Knowledge Exchange." This project aims to bring together scientists, local institutions (like the Met Office and the University of Bristol), and community members, including artists, to explore climate change and its impacts. The program will run over five weeks, with weekly evening sessions lasting three hours each. The sessions will cover topics such as climate systems, sea-level rise, environmental impacts on species, and shoreline management.

Questions raised during the meeting included the geographical scope of the project, with a focus on Exmouth, and the legacy and outcomes of the project. It was agreed that the project would serve as a starting point for building knowledge and connections, with hopes for spin-off activities and continued collaboration with institutions like the University of Exeter.

LB suggested an outcome of the training could clarify Exmouth's position regarding a "Motion for the Ocean", this having been in abeyance for a long time.

Indicative figures as a contribution to the project from ETC were £500.

The next steps were agreed that ZC would support AMC and MP to refine the proposal to include outcomes and legacy. Together, they would invite some potential attendees to get an indication of interest. ZC to report back on progress.

4. **To receive an update from EDDC.**

LC provided a brief update on the ongoing work on a revised climate change strategy and corresponding action plan. Also efforts taking place to network and encourage collaboration between Town and Parish Councils in the District regarding climate change plans and actions.

A second Carbon Literacy training group is being formed. The next round of training is expected in April, with various people showing interest, including groups from Sidmouth and Broadclyst and one Exmouth Town Councillor.

5. **To receive an update from Transition Exmouth.**

LD provided a brief update, mentioning a recent meeting with AT, ZC and LB in the Town Hall about potential collaboration and the introduction of a new temporary role that Transition is working on and will advertise in the coming months. It was agreed that the OPOP website was no longer practical and will be hidden from view but stored for future use (by Tim Mann, who initially designed it) if needed.

6. **To receive a proposal from ZC regarding an e-tuk-tuk/mobile eco hub.**

ZC presented a proposal for a mobile eco hub, specifically a converted electric tuk-tuk. The goals are:

- To create a sustainable, mobile space that can be adapted for use at schools, community events, fairs, and open days
- To promote Exmouth as a destination that puts climate and nature first
- To raise awareness of the climate and nature emergency

The tuk-tuk would be filled with relevant training materials and activities, designed to engage the community and promote sustainability. This would replace the traditional method of hosting events and encourage outreach to a broader audience by attending existing local events.

Two options for the tuk-tuk were presented:

Option 1: A custom-built Italian electric tuk-tuk, converted and fitted by a local company in Axminster. This option is highly customisable and would cost around £23,000. It comes with a three-year warranty, easy charging, and a compact, reliable design. A case study from Portsmouth City Council showed positive results, including increased engagement at schools and community events, though no concrete data on impact was available. The vehicle could be delivered by mid-July.

Option 2: A slightly cheaper alternative from a company in Southampton, using electric tuk-tuks from India. This option would cost around £20,270. The vans are robust, come with aftercare support, and can be delivered by May. However, the conversions are not as high-spec, and the company hasn't provided as many case studies.

A third option from Portugal was considered but is currently unavailable in the UK, with an estimated cost of £20,000.

Discussions included considerations around storage, with some concerns about security and the practicalities of storing the tuk-tuk. (ZC explained that an all-weather cover would be provided). Members also discussed whether it would be possible to adapt the mobile eco hub for various events to encourage sustainable practices and raise awareness about climate change. The mobile eco hub would be insured as one of the Town Council's fleet – with named drivers.

LB explained storage and some potential logistical challenges would need to be addressed.

Members generally supported the idea of having a mobile eco hub and discussed options for securing the vehicle, with a preference for something visually appealing and attention-grabbing. The option of commissioning the build from the team in Axminster was preferred.

MR suggested an e-cargo bike and has sent ZC a link for further investigation. There was some concern that this wouldn't handle the steep Exmouth hills.

This proposal (with a preference for the Axminster tuk-tuk conversion) will go to Full Council on April 7th, with the third option included for an e-cargo bike/van.

7. **To receive a proposal from ZC regarding ongoing support for the Real Nappy Project.**

The Real Nappy Project is currently meeting in the Sideshore Community Hub. They have suggested increasing exposure of the scheme by having Real Nappy Experts at their two baby groups in Exmouth that are currently underway: Bosom Buddies (Wednesday in Scott Drive Church Hall) and Nurture Baby Group (Fridays in the Old Gospel Hall). This would be particularly beneficial during the winter months when it's cold in the Hub. They have asked ETC to contribute to half of the cost of the halls from March to July 2025, which would amount to £405. Members agreed unanimously to support this project.

8. **To receive a proposal from ZC regarding the purchase of another cigarette butt ballot bin.**

ZC proposed buying and installing a fourth cigarette butt ballot bin on the wall outside Harbour View. PFE has identified this area as a problem for cigarette butt litter. The other three butt bins are proving very popular and the bins have quickly filled. Members agreed unanimously to the purchase of a fourth ballot bin.

9. **To receive an update from Zoey regarding projects and resources for 2025:**
    a. *Waste* – Exmouth cup (spring); reusable period products.
    DP updated members regarding the Exmouth Cup – reducing concentration to x3 cafes (Harbour View, Postcards and Deli in the Strand) who will make this their default cup and incentivise the scheme. ZC agreed to approach Coffee One later in the year. We will retain a minimum of a box of Exmouth Cups (165) to loan to community groups etc for events. ZC and AS have been visiting primary schools to offer a workshop in July to educate, engage and inform re reusable period products. Five Exmouth Primary Schools are very interested. LV reminded us that we have a new intern starting end of March who will be researching barriers to reusable period products.
    b. *Energy* – retrofit project with Eco Advice. This project has proven very popular, thanks to social media promotion and 750 leaflets distributed by TD. 16 houses have applied so far and a decision will be made by the end of week commencing 3rd March.
    c. *Travel* – support the Active Travel group (ongoing). ZC updated the group regarding the status of the Nature Save Fund application. This has been made by Transition Exmouth and will go into their bank account. If the Exmouth Active Travel Group wants to sit under the Transition Exmouth 'umbrella' however, it will need to become an affiliate group.
    d. *Food* – "I could never go vegan" film; "Green Table", August
    The film is showing at Scott Cinemas for one night only on April 5th 2025.

We are encouraging as many non-vegans as possible to go and see it. Tickets are £5, with a £1 booking fee. The film will be followed by a short talk and Q&A with Dr Alan Desmond, renowned Consultant Gastroenterologist and plant-based eating expert. The “Green Table” vegan event is being planned with Sideshore for August. More details to follow.

10. **Misc: comedy workshop with Maggie Irving; carbon literacy training;**

TD, LV and ZC all reported on the success of this pilot comedy workshop and hoped Maggie went on to deliver more of them.

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

LB mentioned the new funding available for Active Travel in Devon (£3.9 million funding support for Active Travel in Devon - News).

LB mentioned the inclusion of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) in Planning now, and referenced her Carbon Literacy pledge which is to increase understanding of BNG with the members of the Planning Committee.

12. **Any other business**

13. **Dates of next meeting:** 8th April 2025, 6pm – 8pm, in the Town Hall Chamber.