# EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
# Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Party

Notes of the meeting held at 6pm on Tuesday 20th May 2025 in the Town Hall Chamber

**Present**

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| Councillor Tim Dumper | TD | Exmouth Town Council (Chair) |
| Councillor Steve Gazzard | SG | Exmouth Town Council |
| Councillor Mike Rosser | MR | Exmouth Town Council |
| Councillor Louise Venables | LV | Exmouth Town Council |
| Councillor Dan Wilson | DW | Exmouth Town Council |
| Councillor Andrew Toye | AT | Exmouth Town Council |
| Councillor Andrew Woodward | AW | Exmouth Town Council |
| Lisa Bowman | LB | Exmouth Town Council |
| Zoey Cooper | ZC | Exmouth Town Council |
| Annie Trenoweth (intern) | AT | Exmouth Town Council |
| Sam Dorman (note taker) | SD | Exmouth Town Council |
| Lewis Connor | LC | East Devon District Council |
| Lou Doliczny | LD | Transition Exmouth |
| Adrian Toole | ATO | Transition Exmouth |

**Apologies**

| | | |
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| Councillor Andrew Colman | AC | Exmouth Town Council |
| Catherine Causley | CC | East Devon District Council |

## 1. Elect a chair

LB opened the meeting and welcomed members.

SG nominated TD to be Chair
AT seconded TD to be Chair

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

It was put to the vote and Councillor Tim Dumper was duly elected as Chair.

## 2. Welcome and apologies

TD welcomed members to the meeting, in particular to ZC's new Climate intern Annie Trenoweth, Lewis Connor representing EDDC and thanked the external representatives for attending. Apologies were noted.

3. **To approve the notes of the meeting on 8th April 2025 and any matters arising.**

The notes of the previous meeting were proposed for approval by LV, seconded by MR and agreed by all.

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

LC provided the following update:

**Climate Manager**

- The Climate Team is interviewing for a new Climate Change Manager. Following this recruitment, the new Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan will be published.
- EDDC has begun updating the Climate Change web pages and welcome feedback.
- Carbon Literacy training is ongoing.

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

Transition is collaborating with Friends of the River Exe, Sustainable Tiverton and Transition Exeter on a Heritage Lottery Fund bid. The bid process revealed infrastructure and steering group issues within the partnership that need resolution before moving forward.

Transition participated in organising the River Exe “Paddle Out” event which was well attended and effective in raising awareness.

A new community contractor role has been advertised for 6 months at 20 hours a week to lead a community engagement campaign in Exmouth. This campaign is titled Exmouth CAN (Community Action Network) focused on climate and nature, The role will involve door-knocking, stalls and local network building. Interested candidates with community organising experience are encouraged to apply.

6. **To receive an update from ZC regarding projects and resources for 2025**

**Tuk-Tuk update**

Awaiting an updated quote from Den at Tukxi to include solar panels, a leisure battery and a few other add-ons. A £4,000 grant has been awarded from East Devon Natural Landscape fund which will go towards the cost of the Tuk-Tuk. No date has been given for the delivery of the Tuk-Tuk but is hoped for around

September/October time. The Tuk Tuk will be kept in a secure container at Gorfin Hall and charged from solar panels. ZC said the company will bring along a similar model to showcase at the Exmouth festival.

**PR**

ZC and intern David Parslow appeared on Devon Air radio on 11th May, which was a positive and productive media opportunity. Topics discussed were the legitimacy of the climate crisis, the relaunch of the Exmouth cup and the recent NALC award win.

There was also an article in Business Green speaking about our award and local government strategies for effective climate action.

**Energy**

ZC received an update from Harry Bonnell (Eco Advice) to advise that thermal imaging visits have been completed for all four participating houses and reports shared with the homeowners. The next step is to schedule whole house plan assessments – dates are currently being arranged.

**Waste**

The Exmouth Cup has been relaunched at Postcards Deli (The Strand), Harbour View and Deli on the Strand. Postcards and Harbour View also have new Return Points. A promotional campaign launches next week with eight bus shelter ads going up explaining how the cup system works and where to borrow a cup.

Samudra has been taken away from Sideshore to be recommissioned into a storytelling sea serpent and will be relocated on the Mallow.

The tech robot will be collected from the compound and repurposed into a sea storytelling throne, utilising ocean waste materials.

The latest Cigarette Butt Ballot bin has arrived and will be installed at Harbour View by the Town Maintenance team.

Dates have been scheduled at primary schools in July for Reusable period product workshops and a session on 18th June at the Community College.

AT provided information on how she will be working with LV and ZC conducting some research with 18-25 years olds in Exmouth, targeted at understanding what barriers might prevent them from using reusable period products. She will be starting with a survey amongst local groups and putting up a leaflet in the Magnolia kiosk to try and get as many responses as possible. AT will then conduct some interviews and potentially focus groups, aiming for around 20 of these. ZC and LV will share the surveys with a younger audience to try and collate some additional data.

LV added that she was approached by an expert from the University of Exeter who looks into menstrual health, poverty and inequities - and has informed LV about a grant. LV asked if she could pursue an application for this grant. Members agreed for LV to pursue this.

**Food**

ZC and LV have been in conversations with a Plant Based Treaty representative about methods to campaign to eat less meat without stimulating push-back from some members of the community, for example with a focus on healthy eating and getting the recommended "five a day". Plant Based Treaty have said they can support with content and resources.

The Mushroom project is adopting "good food for all" and they are holding a lunchtime meet-up on Wednesdays. This is a bring-your-own-lunch (which doesn't have to be plant-based).

First lunches at Sideshore 12 – 2pm starting on 21/05/25.

MR mentioned recent activities in Littleham to create a Community Garden.

**Education**

ZC has been approached by various groups (eg Let's Go Zero, Planet and People, and Ecoschools) to help schools achieve their Climate Action plans. It is a DFE expectation that all schools should have a climate plan by September 2025. ZC suggested to Members an idea to convene an online forum with schools before the end of 2025 academic year. With a view to organising an in-person event for school representatives and some of these groups in September.

**Natural Environment**

The next Tree Forum will take place online on 28th May at 10am.

Members discussed the Tree Forum supporting protestors about problems with trees on Woodbury Common. LB advised that the council doesn't support lobby/protest groups.

**Transport**

There will be another Active Travel Exmouth meeting after the Bloor Homes public consultation on 22nd May at Bidmead Community Centre. Date tbc.

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

SG who is the Town Council's representative for Exmouth in Bloom reported they have decided to move away from the traditional wreaths and look at organic and recycled materials for wreaths.

Members discussed their carbon literacy pledges.

8. **Any other business**

Exminster Green Spaces are holding an event on 23rd May and have invited Councillors from Exmouth to join.

Sideshore Community Hub is celebrating its 1st Birthday on the 1st June, 2pm – 5pm. There will be cream teas. A Maker's Market is also starting on the plaza at Sideshore and will be present for the Exmouth Festival. Next one is Sunday 1st June.

People Planet Pint will be at the Grapevine on 29th May from 6.30pm. There will be three more events leading up to November. Link to sign up for one of the first ten free drinks.

SG asked ZC if she knew of any ecofriendly bbqs. ZC was unaware but will look into this.

9. **Dates of next meeting:** 1st July 2025, 6pm – 8pm, in the Town Hall Chamber.