EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Festival and Events Working Party

Notes of the virtual meeting held at 1400 on Thursday 19th June 2025 via zoom

Present

Cllr Steve Gazzard	SG	Exmouth Town Council
Cllr Olly Davey	OD	Exmouth Town Council
Cllr Nick Hookway	NH	Exmouth Town Council
Joy Whipps	JW	Festival Volunteer
Lisa Bowman	LB	Exmouth Town Council
Chetna Jones	CJ	Exmouth town Council
Jess Magill	JM	Exmouth Town Council
Lisa Greenway	LG	Exmouth Town Council

Apologies: None

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

SG welcomed members to the meeting.

2. To approve the notes from the meeting on the 22nd of May 2025 & matters arising

SG proposed and OD seconded the accuracy of the notes from the meeting on the 22nd of May 2025.

LB made members aware that after discussing the Pride flags being flown in the previous meeting, the matter has not concluded, as one of the complainants remains dissatisfied and has continued to raise objections. Despite being provided with the council's complaints policy, the individual has now escalated the issue to the appeals panel. As a result, an appeals panel hearing must be arranged within eight weeks to formally address the complaint.

3. To discuss an additional item for VJ Day as proposed by Graham Kirby

Graham Kirby had previously proposed a concert for VE Day, but the council had decided they couldn't take on another celebration at that time. GK has now requested a concert for VJ Day in August. JM asked members whether they wanted to reconsider. After further discussion, it was agreed that while the VE Day event was organised following guidance from the Pageant Master, no such request has been made for VJ Day. As a result, the Town Council concluded they would not be able to support a concert for VJ Day.

An email will be sent to GK to inform him of the outcome of the decision.

4. To discuss the summer festival 2025

JM confirmed that the festival will begin in three weeks, and while preparations are underway, there's a mix of stress and optimism. Marketing efforts are progressing well, with posters being distributed, estate agent boards going up around Exmouth, and upcoming bus stop adverts arranged through Fernbank. Press coverage is also secured in local publications like the Exmouth Journal.

On the logistical side, JM and CJ have been working on organising the town team and volunteers, though there's a noticeable shortfall in volunteer numbers compared to previous years. Volunteers have been more selective about their availability and preferred locations, making coordination challenging.

CJ emphasised the importance of donation tools, such as free-standing card machines but noted cost barriers for purchasing or renting them. Alternative strategies are being considered, such as using volunteers and comperes to encourage donations during events, potentially adding a fun and competitive element. A suggestion to give out stickers to donors to help identify contributors is also being explored, and JM will investigate the feasibility and cost of this approach.

5. Any other business

No other business.

6. Date of next meeting 3rd of July 2025

JW sent apologies for this meeting.

The meeting ended at 14:36