# EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
# Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Party

Notes of the meeting held at 6pm on Tuesday 3rd February 2026 in the Town Hall Chamber

**Present**

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| Councillor Tim Dumper | TD | Exmouth Town Council (Chair) |
| Councillor Olly Davey | OD | Exmouth Town Council |
| Councillor Nicky Nicholls | NN | Exmouth Town Council |
| Councillor Mike Rosser | MR | Exmouth Town Council |
| Councillor Louise Venables | LV | Exmouth Town Council |
| Councillor Andrew Woodward | AW | Exmouth Town Council |
| Zoey Cooper | ZC | Exmouth Town Council |
| Lou Doliczny | LD | Transition Exmouth |
| Adrian Toole | AT | Transition Exmouth |
| Matthew Elmes | ME | Pollenize |

**Apologies**

| | | |
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| Lisa Bowman | LB | Exmouth Town Council |
| Councillor Graham Deasy | GD | Exmouth Town Council (ex officio) |
| Councillor Steve Gazzard | SG | Exmouth Town Council |
| Councillor Dan Wilson | DW | Exmouth Town Council |
| Catherine Causley | CC | East Devon District Council |
| Lewis Connor | LC | East Devon District Council |

1. **Welcome and apologies**

TD welcomed members to the meeting. Apologies were noted.

2. **To approve the notes of the meeting on 16th December 2025 and any matters arising**

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

3. **To receive a short presentation from guest speaker Matthew Elmes, founder of Pollenize CIC, followed by questions.**

ME provided an overview of Pollenize and answered questions from members. Next steps:

- working party to agree on ways in which the town council can work with ME

- ZC to connect ME to Exmouth's various wildlife groups, care homes and potentially to Exmouth schools (via a planned schools' eco forum, currently work in progress)
- Connect ME to Exmouth Library (Together for Tomorrow) with a view to supporting seed swaps and a seed bank

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

There was no EDDC representative in attendance to provide an update. No written report was provided.

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

**Plumb Park Allotments**

Transition Exmouth met with Lisa Bowman (LB) and ZC today Tuesday 3rd February, regarding the Plumb Park allotments and community orchard. A long-term objective (with Mushroom) is for Transition Exmouth to support community growing.

**Together for Tomorrow (Libraries Project)**

The project continues to develop libraries as environmental community hubs**.**

A productive meeting took place with the lead librarian and the new Libraries Unlimited staff member Clare Jeffery (previously involved with Friends of the River Exe). A third staff member will join soon.

Exmouth Library is one of only a few **"**in-focus" libraries in Devon, meaning it will host significant activity.

The library has created a dedicated display board to promote environmental events, volunteering and information on how to tackle the climate and nature crisis.

**Exmouth CAN Project**

The door-knocking campaign has been delayed until early March due to the poor weather. Sarah Kersey will now be available more regularly (Wednesday mornings) to support the project. A challenge is the outdated Transition Exmouth website, which is difficult to maintain and not serving its purpose as an information hub, signposting tool and 'one stop shop' for Exmouth community on all thing's climate and nature related.

A Service Level Agreement (SLA) request has been submitted to the Town Council. Funding would be used to improve website content and maintenance and support the migration to a new platform in August**.**

**Eco Hubs**

The team will run eco hubs in the library over the coming months to test what works well. If successful, the model could expand to other areas such as Brixington and Littleham, but further rollout depends on recruiting additional volunteers.

6. **To receive an update from ZC regarding:**

- **Energy**

**Energy exhibition and event**

Polly Meyrick's We Are All People Of Power portrait exhibition opened in the library Feb 2nd 2026. It features 8 portraits celebrating local energy heroes and runs until 26 February.

On 26 February (6:00–8:30pm) there will be a 20-minute film about the making of the portraits. And a Q&A with guest speakers.

Guest speakers from local energy groups, including:

- Ecoe Advice
- Sune Nightingale (Energy Estate)
- Juliette from SeaDreams
- Catherine Causley (speaking about her retrofit changes)

**Leafleting**

TD has leafleted the Colony and Elmfield Crescent area. ZC has leafleted Meadow Street and the surrounding houses. The remaining areas are Lyndhurst Road, Waverley Road, and similar nearby streets. Once complete, around 1,000 homes in Exmouth will have received invitations.

Ecoe Advice is no longer actively promoting their retrofit audits but will still attend the event and honour requests and enquiries.

Leaflets for three of the four archetype areas are now available in the library. The library has provided display stands so that leaflets are more visible.

- **Food**

**'Vegan for March' councillors**

Two councillors, AW and Councillor Dianne Conduit, have agreed to go vegan for the month of March. AW has written a short profile explaining his reasons, which will be used in social media posts.

AW is approaching the challenge with an open mind, supported by his wife. He is reading the recommended book and already learning new things. He doesn't plan to become vegan or vegetarian permanently but sees value in being better informed as part of the climate and nature working party. His household already eats roughly

75% vegetarian. He highlighted ongoing issues with poor vegan options in local restaurants and cafés. He expects certain things (like butter) to be difficult but is willing to try alternatives. He recognises the importance of offering better vegan choices in a town promoting itself as environmentally conscious.

Throughout March, the councillors will record video diaries, write blogs, share experiences, challenges, and observations.

The Plant-Based Treaty group is supporting the initiative: They will share and repost content. They will provide recipes. We may help arrange Plant Hood meals for participants.

After March, ZC hopes to launch ongoing public 30-day challenges. The Plant-Based Treaty team has offered to host sign-ups, emails and the technical side of the challenge. This should make it easy for anyone to join and share their progress.

- **Transport**

**Exmouth Active Travel**

The next Active Travel meeting is scheduled for 2 March**.** Everyone who previously expressed interest after the Chasing the Sun film (over a year ago) has been contacted. Most respondents prefer to stay informed but not actively participate**.**

Planned focus areas for the upcoming meeting include:

- Organising small community bike rides**.**
- Engaging with schools about walking buses and cycling buses**.**
- Exploring ways to increase active travel participation across the community.

- **Waste**

**Clothes swap**

The most recent clothes swap had to be postponed due to heavy rain and flooding**.** The next event is scheduled for 17 February**,** 6–7:30pm at Sea Dog Art Gallery**.**

ZC has been rethinking to reformat the clothes swaps as monthly swaps are labour-intensive and not highly attended. After visiting a larger clothes swap in Abbotskerswell, this has prompted the idea that fewer but larger events may work better. ZC plans to approach the Salvation Army about using their hall for a Saturday event in late Spring/early Summer with the aim of heavily publicising the event to boost the turnout. ZC added that she would need more volunteers to help with setup.

**Cigarette butt ballot bins**

Members considered ordering one new ballot bin for Wings Bar, and possibly another for The Pilot**,** which would bring the total to eight bins in Exmouth**.**

ZC contacted Hubbub**,** the organisation that produces the bins, to highlight Exmouth's high number and ask whether they could help promote or feature the town's efforts. Hubbub agreed to discuss this in early March to explore how they can "big up" Exmouth's work. A request for a discount was made, but Hubbub said discounts only apply when ordering 50 bins**.**

- **Nature**

**Trees and Rotary Club**

Collaboration continues with the Rotary Club to find a site for planting 100 centenary trees, potentially linking with the Tiny Forest project.

A site visit is scheduled for 10 February at a small unused pocket of land near St John's playing field, close to the nature reserve. The site was originally identified by Paul Fealey, who is no longer involved.

Another potential site identified on The Maer has been ruled out by James Chubb.

- **Community**

**Schools and an eco-forum; forum for churches**

Work is underway with LD, Nicki Schantz (Climate Ambassador Network), and Heads of Schools to propose an Eco Forum for Exmouth schools. The forum would allow schools to share eco-initiatives, collaborate, and exchange ideas. The idea will be presented at a Heads of Schools meeting on 24 February. Time will be limited, but the aim is to give a brief overview of the concept and gauge interest.

Several local churches are making strong progress on sustainability, including: improved biodiversity in churchyards and sustainable heating. ZC has proposed an eco forum in which churches can share sustainability projects and learn from one another.

**Tuk-Tuk**

ZC will contact Tukxi to confirm the current status of the tuk-tuk.

A proposal has been submitted to the Town Council Premises and Assets working party to purchase a storage container, position it next to Gorfin Hall and connect it to Gorfin Hall's electricity supply. This proposal will be discussed at the working party meeting on Thursday**.** Once approval is confirmed, the next step is to reconnect with Tukxi to determine when the tuk-tuk will be ready. ZC needs to do some work on planning and designing the interior layout of the tuk-tuk.

**Sustainable Shores Initiative**

A joint project with Visit Exmouth is underway, focused on promoting Exmouth as a sustainable, green town. The initiative is called Sustainable Shores. Content has

already been written for the next Visit Exmouth guide, with sustainability messaging woven throughout. Although the initiative is branded Sustainable Shores, the material heavily features and promotes the Exmouth Way. This forms part of the wider set of community-focused sustainability activities.

- **Future CEE WP guest speakers**

At the next working party meeting Nicki Schantz has been invited to speak about the Climate Ambassador Network**,** her role, and how the group can support the initiative.

Future potential speakers: Sue Mosley**,** to share updates on her church's eco-initiatives and the local wildlife group**,** to be invited at a later stage.

7. **To agree whether to endorse and make a donation to The People's Emergency Briefing –** an Environment crowdfunding project in Totnes by National Emergency Briefing

Members discussed the People's Emergency Briefing**,** a full-day climate event previously held nationally. Its creators, Simon and Nick Aldridge from Totnes, are producing a new 45-minute film that condenses the original material into an accessible format suitable for community screenings and discussions. A crowdfunder is underway to raise £150,000**;** around £95,000 has already been pledged.

Members discussed making a £1,000 donation**,** provided LB confirms the council is permitted to fund this type of community initiative and the film can be shared locally once completed.

Members felt the film could help raise climate awareness in Exmouth, encourage informed public discussion and support efforts to engage the local MP in climate issues.

A local screening could be organised once the film is released.

**ACTION: ZC will confirm the donation rules and sharing rights before proceeding.**

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

A discussion emerged about ensuring climate impact is considered in every working party and every council decision.

The council's terms of reference already state that decisions should align with the Climate Action Strategy, but this is not always followed in practice.

9. **Any other business**

No other business

10. **Date of next meeting:** 3rd March 2026, 6pm – 8pm, in the Town Hall Chamber.