EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Party

Notes of the meeting held at 6pm on Tuesday 19th May 2026 in the Town Hall Chamber

Present

Councillor Nicky Nicholls	NN	Exmouth Town Council (Chair)
Councillor Tim Dumper	TD	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Olly Davey	OD	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Mike Rosser	MR	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Steve Gazzard	SG	Exmouth Town Council (arrived 6.30pm)
Councillor Dan Wilson	DW	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Andrew Coleman	AC	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Louise Venables	LV	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Brian Bailey	BB	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Graham Deasy	GD	Exmouth Town Council (ex officio)
Lisa Bowman	LB	Exmouth Town Council
Zoey Cooper	ZC	Exmouth Town Council

Apologies

Councillor Andrew Woodward	AW	Exmouth Town Council
Catherine Causley	CC	East Devon District Council
Lewis Connor	LC	East Devon District Council

1. **Appoint a Chair**

LB opened the meeting. Andrew Coleman nominated TD to be Chair.
There was no seconder

DW nominated NN to be Chair
LV seconded NN to be Chair

It was put to the vote and Councillor Nicky Nicholls was duly elected as Chair. The WP members thanked TD for his hard work and dedication to the CEE WP, since it was first formed six years ago.

2. **Welcome and apologies**

NN welcomed members to the meeting. Apologies were noted.

3. **To approve the notes of the meeting on 14th April 2026 and any matters arising**

The notes of the previous meeting were proposed for approval by TD seconded by DW and agreed by all.

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

CC emailed an update:

"The Green team recently agreed some funding from 5 projects. 1 of which will need to go to Cabinet for approval due to the sums involved. The Green Team funding will extend the CAG project for another 17 months, through March 2028, which is great news for their community projects.

No Meat May is going well – no complaints; even the kids are on board, and my 12-year-old loves beans as long as I don't tell them there are beans in the dish!

On Thursday, we have a biochar workshop at Blackdown Eco hub with Cllrs and officers from EDDC attending. This will be a useful session that is run by CAG to promote the use of this as a solution to manage cuttings taken from hedgerows and potential uses on our land.

The carbon footprint for the previous year is well underway and I should be able to report if we have seen a reduction in the next month or so.

Lewis has been nominated for an award with Exeter University due to the great work he has undertaken whilst being a graduate intern at EDDC – the ceremony is on Friday, please keep your fingers crossed for him."

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

No update from Transition Exmouth.

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

- **Engagement & Events**

ZC reported on a recent visit to Buckingham Palace (ZC, LB and OD), describing how attendees felt genuinely valued despite the large crowd.

She then updated members on the People's Emergency Briefing film, a 50-minute summary of last year's Westminster climate briefing featuring expert speakers from multiple sectors. The Exmouth screening was very well received, with twelve attendees now planning to host their own events, including Rotary and local schools. Although the film is not available online, groups can request access, and the National Emergency Briefing website provides resources and an events map. More screenings are scheduled for 24 May and 18 June, with follow-up sessions planned to help residents connect with local climate groups. Attendees receive information packs covering climate cafés, hosting screenings, lobbying MPs and volunteering. ZC has been invited onto BBC Radio Cornwall to discuss the film and is preparing to deliver a full hour-long session on Exmouth's climate work at the National Association of Local Councils conference. The Green Team has also created

volunteer T-shirts for events, and although the last screening suffered from no-shows despite a waiting list, the group is considering overbooking future events.

- **Food**

Members discussed plans for the 4 June follow-on event linked to the climate film screenings. A table promoting a more plant-rich diet will be included. Around fifteen people from earlier screenings have expressed interest in attending, but planning is still in progress because it is not yet clear which groups will take part, what they want to contribute, or whether they intend to run talks or workshops. Further coordination is due later in the week, and additional help may be needed once the programme is confirmed.

- **Waste**

Exmouth Cup Scheme

Loco Joe's café, part of the Exmouth Cup scheme, has asked for a cup-deposit bin outside because of high demand, and members agreed to purchase an additional unit. The existing bin at Kids Cove continues to be heavily used. Two new cigarette ballot bins have also been bought for the Pavilion and the Pilot, though installation at the Pilot will wait until the new caretaker starts.

Reuseable Period Products

Several schools have asked for more workshops, including one in Budleigh, so ZC will attend those sessions with representatives from Lympstone Council and Plastic Free Budleigh as they fall outside the town council's remit. A year-long National Institute for Health Research project begins on 1 August, and a degree student has also offered support, particularly with policy and community-engagement work.

Recycling

Members raised strong concerns about the town-centre recycling bins after a Streetscene employee confirmed that the waste from recycling bins is not kept separate for recycling, owing to regular and consistent contamination. This caused frustration in the group, as the bins give the public the false impression that recycling is taking place. Long-standing discrepancies between Streetscene's recycling efforts and the more efficient household recycling contracts were noted. TD affirmed that it was a campaign, driven by Exmouth Town Council and off the back of a street-bin audit, that led to the street recycling bins being installed several years ago.

Streetscene plans to trial keeping the waste separate in order for their waste contractor to assess contamination levels. Some members felt the only reliable option may be encouraging people to take recyclables home, where kerbside/household recycling rates are high. Members agreed the situation must be

monitored closely and that further updates will be needed once Streetscene's trial (and research into other coastal towns) progresses.

- **Natural Environment**

At the latest Eco Forum, several Exmouth schools reported a strong focus on rewilding and food-growing projects, with many prioritising improvements to their natural environments. Support has been offered to help them develop these initiatives. An EDDC consultation, linked to local nature recovery, is currently underway and is something the Working Party should engage with or share more widely.

- **Energy**

No updates.

- **Transport**

The community bike ride last Saturday was a great success, despite poor weather, and everyone who signed up attended. Mike from Cycle Hive provided some bikes, the group cycled to A La Ronde for refreshments, and many said they would like the event to run again. The timing also allowed several riders to join the paddle-out afterwards, and the Tri-Hards supported the ride with bike leaders.

Plans for the Exmouth Festival include a large Active Travel area in the Imperial Hotel Gardens, featuring stalls, games, workshops, adult cycle lessons, e-bike demos, races and the smoothie bike. With such a big programme, ZC stressed the need for volunteers. The "wild things" theme will shape activities such as "wild your bike" and a daily parade, and a large walking-and-cycling map will invite visitors to add their own route ideas.

MR reported progress on the Exmouth Cycling campaign, which now has two strands: infrastructure campaigning and community engagement. He and Peter Ashwin have nearly completed a new website and Facebook page after expected support from Transition Exmouth did not materialise. The outdated "Getting Around Exmouth" site remains difficult to update, and ZC suggested that a new volunteer might emerge through upcoming events.

The tuk-tuk project is close to completion, with the vehicle sprayed, branded and awaiting delivery. Insurance and storage at Gorfin Hall are in place, including power for charging and a mural on the container. A ramp is being built. The tuk-tuk will appear at the festival and has already attracted interest, though it will only be used within Exmouth by named, insured drivers. Some public criticism has surfaced, so clear messaging about its purpose and partial grant funding will be important.

The discussion broadened to the council's own vehicle fleet, with members noting the need to consider carbon reduction when leases are renewed. Electric vehicles had been explored previously but were limited by charging and storage constraints.

Concerns about the lack of EV charging infrastructure in Exmouth were also raised, with LV planning to take these issues to the Exmouth Transport Partnership.

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

No updates.

8. **Any other business**

TD reported that the planning committee continues to prioritise environmental considerations, though legal constraints make this difficult. BB highlighted ongoing air-quality problems on the A376 and frustration that developers often fail to deliver promised sustainability measures, frequently citing viability late in the process. He also criticised the trend of building housing before infrastructure. TD noted that some developers do meet their commitments and that active-travel links remain an important factor in assessing whether sites are sustainable.

Date of next meeting: 30th June 2026, 6pm – 8pm, in the Town Hall Chamber.