EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Party

Notes of the meeting held on Tuesday 6 October 2026

Present

Councillor Nicky Nicholls	NN	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Louise Venables	LV	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Daniel Wilson	DW	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Andrew Woodward	AW	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Olly Davey	OD	Exmouth Town Council
Zoey Cooper	ZC	Exmouth Town Council
Adrian Toole	AT	Transition Exmouth

Apologies

Catherine Causley	CC	East Devon District Council
Lisa Bowman	LB	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Tim Dumper	TD	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Graham Deasy	GD	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Steve Gazzard	SG	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Mike Rosser	MR	Exmouth Town Council

1. **Welcome and apologies**

The Chair welcomed members. Apologies were noted and the meeting was confirmed as quorate.

2. **To approve the notes of the meeting on 8 September 2026 and any matters arising**

The notes of the previous meeting were approved. Proposed by LV and seconded by NN.

3. **EDDC updates**

The regular monthly EDDC update had been removed from the agenda following the September agreement to receive less frequent, fuller updates. Transition Exmouth would continue to provide updates at each meeting.

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

AGM and public engagement

AT reported a successful AGM and changes to the trustees (Craig Jolly and Craig Griffiths are now trustees. Carole Jay has stepped down). Sarah Kersey had engaged around 350 residents through the Exmouth CAN project, with surveys and polls at different locations. Food, food waste, plant-based eating and personal finance attracted interest. Residents wanted clearer guidance on green energy tariffs; attitudes to electric cars were generally negative except among existing

owners. Members noted that the poll was effective but was not a fully random sample.

Transition Exmouth would develop an action plan with its new trustees. Members supported aligning this with the Council's strategy and annual action plans to share resources and avoid duplication.

Action: AT to ask Sarah to present her findings at a future CEE Working Party meeting.

Friends of the River Exe

A Heritage Lottery Fund bid of approximately £100,000 was being prepared, mainly for citizen science. If the application is made, and it is successful, it would increase community engagement and require consideration of separate accounting arrangements. Transition Exmouth reported that its finances were in good shape.

5. **To receive an update from ZC**

Joy Rides and cycling confidence

The Ride On sessions were well attended and building confidence and social connections. Capacity was currently eight riders with one leader. ZC proposed training Mike Cherry at an estimated cost of £200, potentially increasing capacity to 16; the next training was in 2027. Rides cost approximately £150 each, with up to two more envisaged before Christmas. Contributions or limits on repeat attendance were discussed, with no decision recorded.

Members suggested cycling-confidence training for councillors and staff. Active Devon courses were already promoted and start from the library as well as Exmouth Cycles.

Action: ZC to continue promoting Active Devon cycling-confidence courses.

Upcoming events and volunteer support

Withycombe Raleigh School would hold community-support events on 20 and 22 October, 3.30 – 6pm. These offered an opportunity to promote Council activity and recruit Green Team volunteers. OD offered support on both days. A table and posters were considered more practical than the tuk-tuk for these indoor events.

Gate to Plate on 25 October, 10am – 4pm, would feature the tuk-tuk, Exmouth Cups, a kitchen utensil and cookery book swap, and Sarah's Exmouth CAN polling. Craig had prepared a briefing and rota; AT had volunteered. Further volunteers and confirmed transport arrangements were needed, with tuk-tuk driver familiarisation discussed. OD said he would also be available on this date.

The Green Team social and planning session was planned for 26 October at 5.30pm at Sideshore, subject to ZC's availability. "Craft Your Christmas" would take place on 5 December, 10am – 3pm, involving the Salvation Army, library, museum and other potential partners. Volunteers would help direct visitors between venues; participant offers and free event tickets were being explored.

Action: ZC to circulate volunteer requirements; members to confirm their availability for the October events.

Exmouth Film Festival

The Council would support the film “Derek vs Derek” at Scott’s on 22 November, with the executive producer attending a Q&A. ZC was seeking farming or regenerative-farming panellists and inviting local farmers and landowners. OD suggested contacting Henry Gent.

A “People’s Emergency Briefing” screening was also planned at the Town Hall on 21 November. Pip Piper (Exmouth Film Festival coordinator) was coordinating arrangements, including improvements to the sound. Green Team support was suggested for the screenings.

Action: ZC to progress Q&A arrangements and identify potential panellists.

Electric vehicles and public information

Members discussed costs, charging reliability and negative perceptions of electric vehicles. Experiences of charging in Exmouth differed. A public session addressing myths about electric cars, electric bikes and green tariffs was suggested; no event was agreed.

6. Climate and Nature Strategy

The draft had been revised using the September discussion and Sarah’s engagement findings. It would be recirculated and return to the next Working Party meeting, followed by consultation with relevant groups, including the Climate and Nature Network. Adoption by Full Council was planned for early 2027, with an April 2027 start and annual action plans beneath the strategy.

Members highlighted the need to embed climate and nature considerations across all working parties and strengthen links with resilience and the Council’s wider strategy. Climate champions would be important in supporting implementation. Electric or hybrid maintenance vehicles were discussed as an example of the need to test assumptions about practical capability; no purchase decision was made.

Action: ZC and the Chair to circulate the revised strategy and progress consultation arrangements.

Action: All members to review the draft and bring comments to the next meeting.

7. Updates from Council working parties and outside bodies

Public Rights Of Way and Tree Forum

As a result of the latest Public Rights of Way meeting, Mark Devin (Deputy Clerk) had contacted DCC about the feasibility of working with landowners to plant trees and hedgerows near public rights of way. Members discussed the Council’s maintenance and reporting role and (if appropriate) supported exploring closer relationships with landowners to prevent flooding.

The Tree Forum had discussed the THaWS (Tree, Hedgerow and Woodland Strategy) ambitions, limited funding and delays associated with local government reorganisation.

8. Any other business

Green Scene

The final Green Scene event of the year would take place on 25 October at 5pm, with Eventbrite booking, an energy-focused film and community-energy speakers. Promotion to visitors attending the daytime food festival in the Strand, was suggested.

University student project

Members supported resubmitting the proposed master's student project on plant-based options in local eateries and opportunities to promote and increase provision. The previous proposal had attracted no takers.

Action: Resubmit the project when the university invites proposals.

Community resilience

Members raised whether the Council should signpost residents to government preparedness guidance. Discussions with Graham Deasy were already considering what information should be shared, by whom and when; no separate action was agreed.

Sideshore Eco Hub

Members received an update on plans for a permanent eco hub, replacing the temporary retail-pod space. The project would provide more event space, storage and toilet facilities, with native planting and possible art about the changing coast. A £10,000 crowdfunder was planned for environmental features, with Aviva match funding sought. The existing pod could return to retail use; suitable businesses would need to reflect Sideshore's green values.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting was agreed for Tuesday 24 November 2026, replacing the previously planned meeting dates. The strategy would return for final review before Christmas.

Action: ZC to circulate the revised meeting date.