2019 AGM of Transition Exmouth

Saturday 14 September at 14.30 in Glenorchy Church rooms, Exeter Road EX8 1PL

Minutes

Welcome by the chair: Adrian Toole

There were 18 present : Adrian Toole, *(2018 Chair, Secretary, Newsletter Editor*),

Noel Harrower (*2018 UG member*), Jane Ashton (*2018 UG member*), Andy Lock ( *2018 UG* *member),* Cllr. TimDumper ( *UG member*), Cllr. Mike Rosser, Carol Jay, Simon Pardoe, Elinor Scott, Roger Gibson, Jenny Gibson, Carol Metcalfe, Ron Metcalfe, Jan Gannaway, Jane Habermehl, Anne Bentham, Katherine Causley, and Geoff Skinner.

All but Jenny Gibson and Cllr. Tim Dumper were members and were given voting slips.

Elinor Scott offered to take the minutes. Jane Ashton welcomed members and gave out the voting slips.

### 1. Apologies

The Chair noted that apologies had been received by Jan Pawson, Doreen Sandham, Pam and Mike French, Gordon Hodgson, Lynne and Ian Wycherley, Geoff Smith, Paul Ives, Olly Davey, Ian Cann, Nikki Nicholls and Rob Masding.

### 2. Approval of the minutes of the last AGM held on 22nd September, 2018

A motion to approve the minutes was proposed by Andy Lock and this was seconded by Noel Harrower and carried unanimously by all members present.

### 3. Matters Arising from the AGM minutes

There were none raised.

### 4.Chair/Secretary's Report

Outgoing chair, Adrian Toole, presented his report, initially pointing out that in his agenda he had highlighted that this was a crucial event for T.E, now in its 10th year. There had been some recent developments since then, and all was not lost. He then went on to describe events and campaigns that had been undertaken during the year

1. Monthly Green Drinks with 29 Minute talks with different speakers on items related to sustainable living attract a regular audience of around 20-30 people.
2. Umbrella Group meetings were attended by 6 to 8 people every 6 weeks, discussions here supported those representing Transition at external meetings.
3. The monthly newsletter was collated and edited by Adrian , 9 issues circulated by email to our mailing list of 70 members and supporters.
4. Andy and Adrian met several times with Councillors to push for an Eco-positive development on the seafront and were instrumental in getting Hemingway’s consultation in place. Transition encouraged participation through the newsletter and Green Drinks.
5. Noel continues to campaign for Exmouth’s Environmental Interpretation Centre
6. Andy led in our long-term engagement with the Neighbourhood Plan draft. The document, which contains good aspirations for environmental protection, was later approved at referendum. Transition encouraged participation through the newsletter and Green Drinks.
7. Apple-pressing day led by Anne Marie was publicised – the next is 21 October 2019
8. Bread Club meets on occasional basis
9. Campaign against single-use plastics supported; Doreen lobbied eateries. Thanks to Rob Masding’s & Tim Dumper’s proposals, we now have a dedicated Town Council working group on that.
10. Dawn and Ian delivered their Action for Happiness course and Dawn was later instrumental in organising the Exmouth Mini-fest. Other Transition members helped on the day and among other good outcomes , raised money for the Joanna Toole Foundation.
11. We supported East Devon’s ‘Wild Exmouth’ project which gained Lottery funding ; several of our members are now active volunteers
12. Simon Pardoe planted our trees at the National Trust’s Lower Halsdon Farm
13. Competitioin held for copies of Noel’s novel ‘Yestermorrow’
14. Doreen sewed 35 fabric shopping bags, these were given away in the Magnolia Centre
15. We supported the re-launch of LETS, our cash-free trading scheme
16. Adrian attended Community Organisation Liaision Panel at the Town Council and battled to amend the terms of reference
17. We wrote in support of the attempt to get DCC and EDDC to declare a Climate Emergency, this was eventually successful .
18. In the spring, several of our members signed up to Extinction Rebellion and told us about it at 29-minutes. WE continue to support XR and the School Strikers
19. Rob Masding has given support in the essential management of our website but we need to improve it and keep it up to date
20. Our Jan Gannaway and Heath Nickels formed the Exmouth Wildlife Group and have been surveying wildlife and footpaths
21. After the local elections the balance of power has shifted one more sympathetic to environmental sustainability. Transition played some part in this. Councillor Tim Dumper, Chair of the TAFF working group on addressing Climate Change, has invited Transition to advise the group, describing us as “the only local overarching environmental group”
22. Jane Habermehl and other members helped with organising a special meeting with the Quakers focussing on local tree planting opportunities.
23. Simon Pardoe has kept up the group’s FaceBook page and for most of the year Adrian kept up Tweeting as Green Man Exmouth.
24. On the down-side, we did not apply to the Exmouth Community Fund for monies that we were being offered, or appear at the Festival this year.
25. The Clean Beach Exmouth and Clean Street Exmouth, both of which are affiliated groups, have been successful.
26. For personal reasons Adrian cannot continue holding all the roles that he took on at last year’s AGM and Others of your Umbrella Group would like to stand down. The Chairman concluded wondering where we go from here?

At the time of drafting the agenda, he had no reason for optimism that members could offer to take on any of those roles and so included a motion to close the group down.

### 5.Treasurer's Report

As the treasurer, Doreen Sandham, was not present, Adrian Toole presented her report on her behalf. There has been little cash movement over the year reflecting limited activity within our organisation. Total assets now amount to £338.22, of which £105 was received as membership fees and the rest was carried over from last year. There had been expenditure of £84.74 of which £50 was for tree planting and £34.74 was for the website.

The motion to approve the report was proposed by Elinor Scott and seconded by Simon Pardoe and was overwhelmingly carried by the members.

### 6. Motion from the Chair

As, when the agenda was circulated, it didn't look as though anyone was prepared to take on the roles of Chair or Secretary and Adrian Toole was unable to continue in these roles due to personal reasons, Adrian then proposed the motion on the agenda:

*"Your Umbrella Group having agreed that a decision on dissolution be delegated to this AGM, I propose that Transition Exmouth be closed down and that remaining funds be handed over to a local group with similar aims, that will submit, in writing an application for funds"*

The chair invited those present to oppose the motion. There then followed input from Carol Jay, who spoke on the climate emergency and the town council's support of community organisations who are environmentally conscious, telling us that a website was to be set up and that the town council would have the role of advocacy. This was not then the time for Transition Exmouth to fold. Carol was not prepared to take on multiple roles, but was prepared to take on one role. She read us her statement of work and life experiences and her commitment to environmental causes. Carol then explained that she had met recently with Nicky Nicholls,a Transition Exmouth member since the day before, who was unable to attend the meeting but who is also someone committed to environmental causes and who wanted to take on the role of Chair to prevent Transition Exmouth from folding. Carol read out a statement from Nicky which highlighted her very relevant experience and her enthusiasm for supporting action to combat climate change.

Catherine Causley who was present, and a member of Transition Exmouth since the day before also expressed interest in taking on a role on the Umbrella Group and read her statement of considerable relevant experience and commitment.

There then followed a discussion from the floor on the prospect of continuing Transition Exmouth with Tim Dumper upholding the commitment of Nicky Nicholls and her status within the community. Noel Harrower made the very strong point that it was essential that TE. was kept together and that now was not the time to disband, especially as the climate emergency was at the forefront of many people's thinking.

After the discussion from the floor, the Chair put forward the motion asking if Transition Exmouth should be disbanded. As there was no seconder for this motion, the motion failed so the meeting moved on to the election of officers for the continuation of Transition Exmouth.

It was agreed the Adrian should continue to chair the meeting and this was proposed by Simon Pardoe and seconded by Mike Rosser.

### 7. Election of Officers

Nicky Nicholls was elected as Chair, nominated by Carol Jay and seconded by Jan Gannaway . This was carried by a unanimous vote.

Carol Jay was elected as Secretary, nominated by Jane Habermehl and seconded by Noel Harrower and this was carried unanimously.

As Doreen Sandham had indicated that she would continue as Treasurer if Transition Exmouth continued and no-one else wanted to take on the role, she was nominated for this role by Mike Rosser and it was seconded by Anne Bentham. This was overwhelmingly passed, so Doreen was re-elected as treasurer.

Simon Pardoe asked about the role of membership secretary and Adrian explained what it entailed.

He was then proposed as membership secretary by Elinor Scott. This was seconded by Carol Jay and passed unanimously.

There was a short discussion on the other roles of members of the Umbrella group.

Catherine Causley was proposed by Roger Gibson as Events officer and this was seconded by Jan Gannaway and passed unanimously.

There followed a short discussion on the role of Newsletter Editor and it was indicated that Paul Ives had expressed an interest in sharing the role of Newsletter Editor but as he was not present at the meeting this position was left vacant for now.

There were no nominations for Press & Publicity Officer although it was agreed to be a vital role and the post remained vacant.

The role of Fund-Raising officer was discussed and Catherine pointed out that a lot of new grants would be made available soon, so there would be potential funding for projects.

Comments were made about linking up with Exmouth Museum and about Noel's long term desire for an Environmental Interpretation Centre. However no-one volunteered to take on this role, so it is not filled at present.

The Transition Exmouth presence on COLP( Community Organisation Liaison Panel )was left unfilled for now, but Noel explained what it was and how it involved a wide spread of community groups and the influence they had. Andy Lock was asked if he would take on this role but explained that, due to other commitments, he would rather just stay on the Umbrella Group in a supporting role.

It was agreed that Jane Habermehl would take on the role of Transition Exmouth's LETs liason representative and Adrian proposed her for this role, seconded by Mike Rosser. Again the proposal was passed unanimously.

All the elected officers are automatically on the Umbrella Group. Adrian Toole, Andy Lock, Noel Harrower, Cllr. Tim Dumper and Jan Gannaway were then proposed in a group as additional Umbrella Group members by Elinor Scott . This motion was seconded by Simon Pardoe and carried unanimously.

### 8. Subscriptions for next year

There was a short discussion on subscriptions. At the time of the meeting there were 31 paid up members and 45 supporters. Catherine Causley suggested that any businesses involved in T.E. should pay a higher rate than individuals, with the proviso that their environmental credentials would be highlighted and publicised. Agreement was reached that this would be brought up again at a later date.

That the subscription remain unchanged was proposed by Adrian Toole,( *refer 2017 minutes )* but a change was proposed by Carol Jay that the wording "unemployed" be changed to "people on low incomes" which was to be self-declared. This was seconded by Roger Gibson and carried unanimously, so the subscription remains at £10 per individual with a zero rate for children, students and those on low incomes. Corporate membership is £10. Every member has an obligation to plant a tree every year.

Membership subscriptions were collected from some members on leaving the meeting.

### 9. AOB

As there was no other business notified to the Chair in advance, the retiring Chair closed the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. He was presented with a framed print of old Exmouth and the Estuary in appreciation of all his hard work and commitment.

ENDS