

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL Town Maintenance contracts TAFF

Notes of the meeting held at 10:00am on Thursday 29th October via zoom.

Present

Councillor Ian Kirvan	IK	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Olly Davey	OD	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Tony Woodward	TW	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Frank Cullis	FC	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Steve Gazzard	SG	Exmouth Town Council (Ex Officio)
Chetna Jones	CJ	Deputy Clerk Exmouth Town Council

Apologies

No apologies were noted all attendees present.

1. Welcome and apologies

IK welcomed members to the meeting.

Apologies: Councillor J Whipps.

2. Notes

TW proposed, seconded by OD, and it was agreed, that the notes of the previous meeting held on 21st September 2020 were approved as a true representation of the meeting.

3. Winter work for EDDC Streetscene seasonal worker update

CJ confirmed that an update had been received from Streetscene and read out the email to members.

Members acknowledged that winter work was commencing from 2nd November but was concerned that only traffic islands in the residential area were going to be cleaned. It was agreed that a response be given to clarify that all traffic and pedestrian crossing islands needed to be weeded and cleaned.

The update from Streetscene also included details of changes in winter/spring planting and that much of the work would now include the introduction of more perennial planting.

Although members were keen to promote the use of more sustainable planting, it was felt that introducing perennial plants at this late stage in the procurement process may be detrimental. Members were disappointed that yet again a decision had been made without consulting the Town Council and that the work being done was not ideal and will not provide the vibrancy that was required for these sites.

FC proposed, seconded by OD and it was agreed that the Deputy Clerk responds as follows:

We appreciate that effort is being made to keep us informed, however, we are yet again, disappointed to be presented with a proposal that has been agreed without consulting with us. We are particularly concerned that although you are aware that a procurement process has already started on this work, that key changes are being made without our consent. It was felt the proposals below to switch to perennial planting will have a significant impact on the specification of work that forms part of our procurement process.

Additionally, we are concerned that the plants being suggested will not add as much vibrancy as we would want for these sites as well as the use of ornamental grasses. We query why plants such as violas which would have added an immediate vibrant colour to the beds are not being used.

Please can you provide us with a detailed planting plan for each site so that we may review the work and give approval before any work commences.

Action: CJ to email Nick Christo with the above instructions.

4. To review findings from site visits to assess grass cutting by DCC, EDDC and ETC for overlaps and possibility of incorporating into one grass verge cutting contract.

Additional as identified by members through site visits was circulated in advance of the meeting. It was agreed that these areas be added to the map identifying grass cutting areas.

IK highlighted an additional area, and this was on Hulham road between the footpath to Point of View and the junction with Summer Lane.

It was agreed that this and other areas as listed below be added to the grass cutting contract but only as special areas which needed an annual cutback and raking through of all the overgrowth.

Hedgerow on:

- Hulham Lane going towards the junction with Summer Lane
- Top of Dinan Way near Lidl
- Marley Road
- St John's Rd by the Playing Field

FC proposed, seconded by TW, and it was agreed, that the Deputy Clerk approach DCC to open a dialogue on combining DCC's visibility grass cutting with the work

Exmouth Town Council currently carry out for DCC owned highway verges in Exmouth.

5. Any Other Business

CJ confirmed that to date 12 expressions of interest had been received including a few local businesses.

CJ also advised that professional help will be needed to ensure a detailed and legally binding contract is drawn up with the successful contractor to minimise risks to the Town Council.

CJ also informed members that Streetscene had in the last few days mentioned TUPE issues. It was agreed that CJ email EDDC asking that ETC be informed immediately if there are any TUPE issues to enable any appropriate action to be taken before any decision on awarding the contract is made.

6. Date of next meeting.

Dates of future meetings:

Thursday 26th November 10am (To review tenders)

7. Close of meeting

The meeting finished at 12.37pm.