

## **EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL Town Maintenance Contracts TAFF**

Notes of the meeting held at 10am on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021 via Zoom.

### **Present**

Councillor Ian Kirvan	IK	Exmouth Town Council (Chair)
Councillor Olly Davey	OD	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Tony Woodward	TW	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Frank Cullis	FC	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Joy Whipps	JWh	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Steve Gazzard (ex-officio)	SG	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Brian Bailey (ex-officio)	BB	Exmouth Town Council
Chetna Jones	CJ	Deputy Town Clerk, Exmouth Town Council
Jennifer Wellington	JWe	Exmouth Town Council Note Taker

### **1. Welcome and Apologies**

IK welcomed members to the meeting and confirmed there were no apologies.

### **2. To approve the notes of the last meeting**

The notes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2021 were approved.

### **3. To receive confirmation that the summer plants for the ground's maintenance areas have been ordered**

CJ updated members that the summer bedding plants have been ordered, as per the plant plan, with some additions to the plants as discussed at the last meeting. The plants selected will be planted alongside the existing perennial plants. The intention was that this simple approach will enable the perennial plants time to establish before any further changes are made.

The plants are expected to be delivered in early June 2021. Although the actual cost was not yet known they were being provided at wholesale prices direct from a nursery.

The scaffolding tower that Exmouth Town Council (ETC) currently has will be sufficient for installing the hanging baskets in the Magnolia Centre.

To receive an update on the status of the two contracts with EDDC Street Scene

Members discussed the recent response from Nick Christo (NC), EDDC StreetScene, with regards to the current grass cutting contract and additional costs. The proposed increase in cost arises from moving grassed over areas from the ground maintenance contract to the grass cutting contract.

It was agreed that CJ will investigate alternative possibilities and clarify matters to ensure highway verge grass cutting can continue from April onwards.

CJ made members aware that if ETC are to take on the extra grass cutting of these areas, that there will be less time to weed clear roads in the summer months.

**Action: CJ to contact NC for clarification on what side of Marine Way is within the existing EDDC highway verge grass cutting contract (flail of bank or flat grass area on both sides).**

In addition to the additional grass cutting requirements, members also discussed the rest of the response by NC with regards to partnership working, Phear Park yard space and green waste disposal. It was agreed to push forward with acquiring an exclusive depot space and many of the issues will be resolved.

#### **4. To receive an update on the summer plant watering arrangement**

CJ updated members that she had spoken to Kings Garden Centre regarding the increase in watering needs now that ETC will be watering the flower beds and hanging baskets, as well as the flower towers. Although in support of continuing to help, Kings explained that this would cause undue pressure on the pump, making it difficult to water their own plants. Alternative solutions will be considered with Kings.

CJ confirmed that EDDC's bowser was the same size as the one currently used by ETC and rather than buying a bigger bowser it might be worth considering another of a similar size.

Members agreed that the aim is to reduce watering of plants long term, for example planting more drought resistant plants in the flower beds. CJ explained measures were already being taken but that more can be done in the future with through careful planting choices.

#### **5. To agree a recommendation to the Town Council on the van requirements for the Supplementary Town Maintenance Team**

*This agenda item was moved forward due to BB needing to leave the meeting early.*

BB updated members on his research for new vehicles.

He explained that in his opinion leasing and buying new will be expensive options and that buying second-hand vehicles would be more appropriate.

Other members added that it would be worth considering buying new and leasing to keep downtime to a minimum.

CJ provided background information on the vans and updated members on the maintenance costs for the last three years (not including insurance or fuel):

- 2018 – 2019 = £3931.58

- 2019 – 2020 = £2419.27
- 2020 – to date = £1280.53 (will need to add costs for recovering and repairing VW Caddy on 02/03/21 and a complete drive shaft and gearbox replacement for the low loader van).

The Town Maintenance Team are prevented from carrying out duties in the event of a vehicle breakdown, so this also needs to be considered.

It was worth noting that leasing offered more flexibility to change to electric vehicles within a few years.

**Action: CJ to continue researching costings and pros and cons of leasing compared to buying and speak with BB for his advice.**

#### **6. To receive an update on potential depot space**

Unfortunately, Devon County Council confirmed that it would not be possible to use the former landfill site on Dinan Way as a potential depot space due to the need for constant access for monitoring purposes.

Contact has been made with various landowners, but nothing has been identified yet. Further suggestions were made by members and CJ was asked to investigate these additional sites.

**Action: CJ to continue to contact possible leads for land and members to let her know of any possible sites.**

**Action: CJ to contact Tim Childs, EDDC Estates Team, to find out what arrangement can be agreed upon with regards to ETC's exclusive use of the Phear park yard space.**

#### **7. Any other business**

None.

#### **8. Date of next meeting**

Although some initial dates of future meetings were identified they may need to change to accommodate other work commitments.

The next meeting is scheduled for 10am on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

The meeting finished at 12.52pm.