

# **EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL**

## **Town Maintenance Overview Working Party**

Notes of the meeting held at 10am on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2022 via Zoom.

### **Present**

Councillor Ian Kirvan (Chair)	IK	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Brian Bailey	BB	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Maddy Chapman	MC	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Olly Davey	OD	Exmouth Town Council
Chetna Jones	CJ	Exmouth Town Council
Anna Jones	AJ	Exmouth Town Council

### **Apologies**

Councillor Frank Cullis	FC	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Steve Gazzard	SG	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Tony Woodward	TW	Exmouth Town Council

### **1. Welcome and apologies**

IK welcomed members to the meeting and noted the apologies as above.

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

BB questioned the need to drive the van a long distance every week, due to the increasing cost of fuel and the extra pollution caused by unnecessary journeys. CJ confirmed that the longer journeys have been advised by the van company to recharge the battery and to clear the residue in the diesel engines. She explained that the longer journeys will be tied in with necessary Town Maintenance jobs, such as driving to Exeter to deliver bike donations every fortnight.

Following this discussion, MC proposed, seconded by OD, and it was agreed that members approved the notes of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

### **3. Matters arising**

#### Bus Shelters

CJ updated members on the progress in painting the bus shelters. Almost all have been undercoated and some have had a topcoat put on as well. They already look a lot better, and the team have received some positive comments already. The work will continue.

CJ explained that she had updated the Town Clerk on this Working Party's discussion regarding bus shelter maintenance and replacement, and the Town Clerk provided a report at the Exmouth Transport Partnership (ETP) meeting on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March. OD confirmed he attended the ETP meeting and explained there have been some holdups getting hold of bus shelters, but that a few will have sedum roofs. CJ confirmed that the ETP have the bus shelters under control.

IK commented that a bus shelter in Churchill road, belonging to Fernbank, has been re-painted. CJ confirmed that this was accidental, however as it had been started, she asked for it to be finished. She confirmed that all the bus shelters have been rubbed down but not all have been painted due to the rain.

### Graffiti

CJ explained that she has not yet received a response from David Whelan, and the Community Safety Group meeting has not yet taken place, so she has little to update members on.

IK commented that the Salterton Road bus shelters, street furniture and control boxes have remained graffiti clear for the past two weeks after it was removed. This is the first time that it has been removed and hasn't reappeared straight away. Members agreed this was a positive sign.

BB queried use of special anti-graffiti paint, and CJ confirmed we have spoken with the paint suppliers about anti-graffiti solution, and this is all in hand.

### Dinan Way

CJ updated members that the work on the Dinan Way special verge has been completed. Nine volunteers attended and the work was carried out well and in adherence with the risk assessment. She previously circulated photos to all members.

### Vans

CJ confirmed that the second van was received on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March. She had been told by the suppliers that all the work has been done to the vans, including lining it inside, but she will confirm this with the Town Maintenance Team.

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

CJ shared an update from Streetscene's Area Officer regarding EDDC work.

Foxholes Hill has been completed, which took a lot of work but looks much improved. Hulham Road, Rolle Street, High Street and around the Town Hall have all been cleared. The traffic islands along Salterton Road at Capel Lane, Tesco and Stevenstone have been cleaned.

Portland Avenue has not yet been done but will be tidied up later today. Brixington Lane will be cleared of weeds next week along with parts of Withycombe Village Road.

The grass cutting will start next week, dependent on the weather. The ride on mowing will be approximately on a 5-week cycle, again dependent on the weather.

The Area Officer confirmed they will be leaving Streetscene in April. Streetscene will keep CJ informed of who fills the vacant position.

Members agreed that it will be a shame to lose the Area Officer as we have just been starting to see the benefits of their work which has been a refreshing change to what came before. However, IK noted that it remains positive due to the SLA in place going forward with the Area Officer's replacement.

IK noted that the Goodmores development starting along Dinan Way will have an effect on some of the verges there as some will be completely inaccessible. This may cause a lot of mess, however there is little the Council can do about it. He confirmed he will assess the roads around the town in the coming week.

BB requested an update on the Phear Park depot developments. CJ explained she has still not heard anything and has asked Streetscene's Manager to try and get things moving again. IK suggested putting this on the agenda for the next meeting to see the progress of the lease then.

*OD and MC left the meeting. It was noted that the meeting was no longer quorate. Rather than suspending the meeting, it was agreed to continue, providing updates on an informal basis.*

IK noted some new compounds becoming available in Exmouth. He will pass the information to CJ to review.

#### **5. To receive an update on general Town Maintenance work**

CJ informed members that one of the Town Maintenance Team has handed in their notice and will be leaving in a few weeks' time. The HR Group have been informed and have agreed to advertise again. As the Town Council are coming up to the busiest time, CJ explained she wants to fill the post as quickly as possible.

CJ explained she visited Boyce's to drop off the hanging baskets and troughs. The visit was very positive as Boyce's are a great sustainable nursery. Although they are not a registered organic provider, they try and do as much naturally as they can. They use water tanks which collect water from a spring, polytunnels and recycle pots as much as possible, and most plants are propagated from last year's plants and brought up on site. They have a vineyard to produce their own grapes and soft fruits in the summer.

Boyce's asked the Town Council to consider whether the team could plant up the flower towers in the winter. Boyce's would provide the compost, plants and plans for each tower, for 40 towers, and the cost would be substantially reduced. CJ explained the Town Council will consider it depending on when the vacant position is filled.

CJ confirmed that the Town Maintenance Team have carried out weed clearing moving towards town, including Hartley Road and Raleigh Road. They have not yet

cleared the Colonies but will push for this next winter, potentially in partnership with DCC Highways and EDDC to get the road closed and the road sweeper down.

**6. Any other business**

None.

**7. To note the date of the next meeting**

Councillors noted the date of the next meeting at 10am on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

The meeting ended at approximately 11.05am.