

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL Town Maintenance Overview Working Party

Notes of the meeting held at 10am on Thursday 14th April 2022 via Zoom.

Present

Councillor Ian Kirvan	IK	Exmouth Town Council (Chair)
Councillor Frank Cullis	FC	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Olly Davey	OD	Exmouth Town Council
Chetna Jones	CJ	Exmouth Town Council
Anna Jones	AJ	Exmouth Town Council

Apologies

Councillor Brian Bailey	BB	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Maddy Chapman	MC	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Steve Gazzard	SG	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Tony Woodward	TW	Exmouth Town Council

1. Welcome and apologies

IK welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted as above.

2. To approve the notes of the meeting held on 17th March 2022

The notes of the previous meeting were proposed for approval by OD, seconded by IK, and agreed by all.

3. Matters arising

Bus Shelters

IK expressed his thanks to the Town Maintenance Team and their recent work painting bus shelters. Councillors agreed that the bus shelters are looking really good.

IK commented that a bus shelter has been removed from the bottom of Pound Lane. He queried why this has happened as it was not in a state of collapse. FC requested the Town Council inquire as to whether there are any plans to replace this bus shelter, as it is well used.

CJ updated Councillors that the Town Clerk is liaising with Devon County Council regarding whether ownership of the Exeter Road bus stop at the edge of Exmouth has been passed to the Town Council. CJ further updated members that the insurers have confirmed the damaged bus shelter on Exeter Road is structurally damaged and are looking at replacing the whole bus shelter. She will make Councillors aware of any further updates.

Vans

CJ confirmed that the second vehicle has been delivered. She had received confirmation that the third vehicle would be delivered without a tow bar and had to refuse delivery as the team cannot carry out their work without a tow bar. She found the email confirming the request and confirmation that a tow bar would be installed. CJ contacted the agency who confirmed it was a mistake on their part, and that they would pay to have the tow bar fitted at their own expense. Because of this, the third van will not be delivered next week, but will be received the week after.

4. To receive an update from EDDC and to note the invoice for grass cutting and winter work for one seasonal worker @ £15,112.00 plus VAT

CJ reported that there has been no further update from EDDC following what was reported at the previous meeting. Streetscene's Area Officer has now left and Streetscene are now recruiting, however they haven't found a replacement yet. Streetscene's Manager will keep the Town Council updated.

CJ explained that the invoice for grass cutting had incorrectly charged ETC for work ETC's Town Maintenance Team had carried out. Streetscene have apologised and issued a credit note with another invoice with the correct amount. IK commented that the work previously flagged to Streetscene, such as the weeding in Brixington Lane and the traffic islands, has been completed.

CJ reported that she had discussed the new SLA with the Streetscene Manager, who stated they would be happy to consider adding any other areas to the contract at an additional cost. IK noted that ETC will need to flag up the verges further on from Dinan Way by the housing development, which are currently just mud, but will need to be considered when it comes to paying the invoice, as ETC pay Streetscene to cut this.

Councillors discussed and noted the cost of the seasonal worker, and noted that the Town Council will be able to reclaim the VAT.

5. To receive an update on the Phear Park compound area

CJ explained to Councillors that she has contacted Mark Williams for progress on the Heads of Terms agreement, and he confirmed it is with ETC's solicitors. CJ contacted ETC's solicitors for an update, who have confirmed EDDC's legal team have been in contact regarding sending the draft lease across. CJ confirmed that it is now within the hands of ETC and EDDC's legal teams. She has not yet seen the draft lease, but will circulate it to all Councillors when it has been received.

IK commented that, as there is a six-month waiting period after a Council agreement, he has not sent CJ information of alternative locations, as agreed at the last meeting. Councillors expressed frustration at EDDC's slow progress, but hope to receive an update sooner rather than later.

6. To receive an update on the graffiti issue raised with the Community Safety Partnership group

CJ commented that MC, as the Town Council's representative at the Community Safety Group, will provide an update on the most recent CSG meeting at the next Town Maintenance Overview Working Party meeting. CJ confirmed that David Whelan forwarded her message on to Simon Evans, however there were some difficulties in opening the photo links. CJ will send SE some more recent graffiti photos and update Councillors with the progress.

IK confirmed that, since the last meeting, no graffiti has reappeared, except for the one on the substation at Bradham Lane. He suggested to revisit the issue at the next meeting when MC is present to provide an update.

Councillors discussed the definition of the term 'graffiti' and whether a distinction needs to be made between artistic graffiti and graffiti as antisocial vandalism. It was noted that putting more money into youth services may reduce graffiti tagging in young people.

ACTION: To revisit the issue of graffiti at the next meeting, when MC is present to provide an update on the Community Safety Group meeting.

7. To receive an update on alternative sources of natural water

CJ updated Councillors that Kings have asked ETC not to fill up using their spring water as the pumps are continually failing. They are having issues with their own irrigation system and watering their own plants, and ETC are putting too much strain on their source. Streetscene are allowing ETC to fill the bowser using the main tap at Camperdown, and pay for the water used, as a temporary measure. CJ is currently investigating alternative sources of natural water. She has contacted local developers about collecting water that runs down from the common to water flower towers. She welcomed any suggestions Councillors may have.

Councillors suggested potential sources of water in natural springs on the heaths, collecting rainwater from the roof of the Town Hall in water butts, and the potential to run a pump into the water basin at the Goodmores Farm development. It was suggested that CJ contact Eagle Investments regarding the Goodmores Farm development.

8. To receive details of a proposal to plant 7 trees on Anson Road in honour of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

CJ provided Councillors with the proposal from residents of Anson Road to plant seven trees for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in the large grass area here. CJ explained she has contacted EDDC, the landowners, and they are happy for the trees to be planted here. Fruit trees will lead to fallen fruit and may create a mess, so blossom trees have been suggested. CJ has investigated the Woodland Trust free

trees, where the Woodland Trust are giving out free, easy to manage urban trees designed for residential areas with little communal space. Alternatively, blossom trees could be purchased. As planting season has ended, the trees would be planted in the autumn.

Councillors noted that the green space on Anson Road is not very big, so queried whether there is enough space for seven trees. CJ confirmed that the plan is for seven trees for the Jubilee, one tree to represent each decade of the Queen's reign, as part of the Green Canopy campaign. She noted that they will be small trees, which is why blossom trees may be best.

FC proposed, seconded by IK, and agreed by all Councillors that the Town Council will purchase seven blossom or urban orchard trees to plant in the green space at Anson Road.

ACTION: CJ to purchase seven trees to be planted in the green space at Anson Road.

9. To receive an update on general Town Maintenance work

CJ confirmed that the Town Maintenance Team have finished work on bus shelters and have finished weeding the area around Hartley Road and Raleigh Road. They have cut the overgrowth on Dinan Way opposite the Dinan Way bank, as well as cutting grass at Lambeth Walk. They have completed more work on the flowerbeds to replace some of the dead flowers.

CJ updated Councillors on the recruitment process to replace the Supplementary Town Maintenance Operative who has now left. There has been some interest in the post, but the application deadline has been extended to the 25th April to generate more interest before the interviews.

Councillors commented that the flower beds are looking good. There was some discussion around the adverts on the roundabouts, and CJ suggested putting in place an advert policy to shape what the Town Council will allow to be advertised on the roundabouts.

10. Any other business

Clearing at Dinan Way

FC queried whether the clearing at Dinan Way is part of the special verge, and CJ confirmed that the trading estate side opposite Lidl is the special verge. FC asked about the long-term plan for looking after the special verge. CJ confirmed there is a three-year management plan, where the grass is cut once a year and certain parts of the hedge are cut over the three years. This cycle is to be repeated every three years.

CJ mentioned new staff at EDDC, specifically Paul Feely, who are approaching things in a new and different manner to before.

11. To note the date of the next meeting

Councillors noted the date of the next meeting at 10am on Thursday 12th May 2022.

The meeting ended at approximately 11.20am.