

# **EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL**

## **Town Maintenance Overview Working Party**

Notes of the meeting held at 10am on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2022 via Zoom.

### **Present**

Councillor Ian Kirvan	IK	Exmouth Town Council (Chair)
Councillor Brian Bailey	BB	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Maddy Chapman	MC	Exmouth Town Council (joined later)
Councillor Frank Cullis	FC	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Olly Davey	OD	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Steve Gazzard	SG	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Tony Woodward	TW	Exmouth Town Council
Chetna Jones	CJ	Exmouth Town Council
Anna Jones	AJ	Exmouth Town Council

### **Apologies**

None

#### **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 14<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

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

#### **3. Matters arising**

##### Vans

CJ confirmed that the third vehicle has been delivered, with the tow bar fitted. CJ will be putting the VW Caddy up for auction soon, however the insurance value is not a lot so it may not sell for a lot of money. She stated that ETC will wait until all number plates have been received and the new vans are towing the trailers properly before disposing of the other old vehicle.

Councillors suggested taking photos of all three new vans together, along with the full Town Maintenance Team, for social media to publicise the new vans, and suggested getting press cover of the picture to raise awareness of what the Town Council has taken on and is now doing in the town.

##### Bus Shelters

IK raised the issue of the bus shelter that disappeared from Pound Lane. CJ confirmed that she has received no further update from DCC regarding the missing shelter. IK raised the issue of ownership of the green bus shelter by Courtlands

Cross that has graffiti on it, and CJ confirmed that it comes under Lympstone and Woodbury Parish Council.

#### **4. To receive an update on the graffiti issue raised with the Community Safety Partnership Group**

CJ confirmed she has sent Dave Whelan more before and after photos of the graffiti that the Town Maintenance Team have cleaned, to pass on to the Community College Liaison Officer. She hasn't yet received a response.

IK informed Councillors that the places usually targeted with graffiti have not been targeted for a while. However, there is a tag outside the railway station on the electronic display of bus times that has been there for several weeks. Additionally, taggers have started using black tape to mark out initials on the grey box on Salterton Road and on the substation at Bradham Lane. SG added that someone keeps taping over the red and green man signs on the pedestrian crossings in Exmouth. He will report this to Inspector Antonia Weeks in the Police Councillor Advocate Forum next week.

FC emphasised the need for a better definition of 'graffiti', as raised at the previous meeting, and the confusion around the zero tolerance of graffiti message.

OD reported that he had photographed graffiti on the mosaic bench along the estuary and queried who to report this to. CJ confirmed that graffiti should be reported to the council owning the land or asset. ETC are responsible for graffiti on road signs and bus stops, however as the bench was an EDDC initiative, it should be reported to Streetscene. CJ added that when reporting issues of graffiti to BT and Western Power, they are querying what the Council are doing in response to graffiti. CJ confirmed that ETC is working with the local Community Safety Partnership to try to educate young people through schools about the costs and negative effects of graffiti. The working party had asked MC to push for this matter to be taken more seriously in the Community Safety Partnership meetings.

*MC joined the meeting.*

MC confirmed she will raise the issue of vandalism to the traffic and crossing signs to the police as it is a highway safety issue. Unfortunately MC has not raised the matter of graffiti in general and will do so at the meeting.

**ACTION: SG to report the issue of vandalism to the pedestrian crossings to Inspector Antonia Weeks at the Police Councillor Advocate Forum and feedback the response to CJ.**

**ACTION: MC to raise the issue of graffiti and vandalism to traffic and crossing signs at the Community Safety Partnership meeting and to the police.**

## **5. To receive an update on EDDC grass cutting**

CJ provided Councillors with an update from Streetscene's Area Manager. The team has completed the first full round of the grass cutting contract and have no reported issues. The Area Manager asked ETC to contact him with anything to follow up on. He also confirmed they are still recruiting for the vacancy.

IK requested that Streetscene trim around trees, road signs and barriers, as stated in the contract. He noted that they have started to carry out this work this week, but that the section of Dinan Way from Jubilee Drive to Hulham Road needs to be tidied up, as the ride on mowers have left areas around temporary signs uncut. MC requested CJ report the deteriorating road signs on Diane Close and Markham Close that are waiting to be replaced. CJ confirmed she will report these issues back to Streetscene's Area Manager.

OD queried whether ETC are leaving any patches of grass to grow for No Mow May. IK stated that the areas of grass cut by Streetscene on ETC's behalf are on roads and junctions so will have to be cut. CJ confirmed the Town Maintenance Team will be leaving larger patches of ETC maintained land for No Mow May, in a controlled manner.

CJ stated she has received a circulation from EDDC's Green Spaces Officer regarding their proposal to create a wild patch area at Salterton Road. CJ will circulate to all members.

**ACTION: CJ to request Streetscene's Area Manager follow up on replacing the road signs on Diane Close and Markham Close and strimming the grass around the trees, road signs and barriers.**

**ACTION: CJ to circulate EDDC's Green Spaces Officer Salterton Road wild patch proposal to all Councillors.**

## **6. To note Devon County Council's grass cutting schedule**

Councillors noted DCC's grass cutting schedule, circulated prior to the meeting.

## **7. To discuss and agree the recommendation to reverse the council decision to proceed with a lease with Phear Park (6 month rule applies) following a request to consider an alternative location – confidential (commercially sensitive) comparison table attached**

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting comparing the sites on a like for like basis, and covered yard space, parking space, electricity and water availability, welfare provisions, security, access, notice period and cost. All Councillors were given the opportunity to speak and raise matters. Councillors had a lengthy debate regarding both sites.

*BB left the meeting.*

No motion was put forward to reverse the decision to proceed with a lease with Phear Park. It was agreed that CJ will contact the owner of the alternative location to explain that ETC will not be proceeding with this location.

**ACTION: CJ to contact the owner of the alternative location to explain that ETC will not be proceeding with this location.**

**8. To review and agree the draft lease (attached with associated documents) for Phear Park Compound Area**

Councillors noted the draft lease for the Phear Park Compound Area, circulated prior to the meeting. CJ confirmed the lease is based on the terms of agreement ETC previously signed off. She confirmed that the signatories will be SG as Chairman of the Council and another member of the Town Maintenance Overview Working Party.

IK proposed, seconded by TW, and agreed by all, to proceed with the draft lease for Phear Park Compound Area. CJ will respond to the solicitors and ask them to proceed and ask for an estimate of how long it will take to complete.

**ACTION: CJ to ask the solicitors to proceed with the draft lease and ask for an estimate of time taken to complete.**

**9. To receive an update on general Town Maintenance work**

CJ confirmed that one member of the Town Maintenance Team has left and a second member will be leaving next week, however he will return to help with the festival. Watering has ramped up and there have been additional grounds maintenance tasks to carry out as well as tasks relating to the festival and the Jubilee. They have weeded some of the town centre areas and will continue with this.

CJ confirmed that the Town Council has made a conditional offer to one applicant, who will start on 7<sup>th</sup> June providing a couple more checks are successful. CJ informed Councillors that the Town Council are considering a second applicant, so the position may be filled quickly.

**10. Any other business**

Cement Mixer on Dinan Way

FC raised the issue of the cement mixer on a grass verge on Dinan Way leaving a lot of mess and potentially being emptied into the drains. CJ informed Councillors that this is discussed at Flooding and Land Drainage meetings because this action causes grit to harden in the drains and block them. As the gully suckers only come every three years, this is an issue. She advised FC to take photos and send them to DCC.

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

Councillors noted the date of the next meeting, 9<sup>th</sup> June 2022 at 10am.

The meeting ended at approximately 11.43am.