

## **EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL**

### **Town Maintenance Overview Working Party**

Notes of the meeting held at 10am on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2022 via Zoom.

#### **Present**

Councillor Ian Kirvan	IK	Exmouth Town Council (Chair)
Councillor Brian Bailey	BB	Exmouth Town Council
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**

Councillor Maddy Chapman	MC	Exmouth Town Council
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#### **1. To elect a Chair**

TW proposed, seconded by BB, that IK be re-elected as Chair of the Town Maintenance Overview Working Party. No other nominations were received, and all members agreed that IK be re-elected as Chair.

#### **2. Welcome and apologies**

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

#### **3. To approve the notes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

The notes of the previous meeting were proposed for approval by TW, seconded by OD, and agreed by all. It was noted that the notes should read 'Inspector Antonia Weeks,' and will be changed accordingly.

#### **4. Matters arising**

##### Recruitment

OD queried the progress with recruitment. CJ confirmed that the new Town Maintenance Operative started working this week. There is still a second vacancy which will be kept open. A second person was not taken on. The advert on Indeed will be kept open with no end date, and applications will be considered after the summer holidays. CJ further confirmed that a new member of office staff and a Climate and Ecological Emergency Officer will also be required.

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

IK explained that MC will report back on this at the next meeting. CJ confirmed she has not seen the minutes of the meeting so could not provide an update on the Community Safety Partnership's response to the graffiti issue.

Members discussed other issues of graffiti including:

- CJ explained she has received reports from one of the key project coordinators for the mural and garden work at Lambeth Walk regarding graffiti. The coordinator reported this to the police.
- CJ further reported the graffiti at the festival on the security tent which has also been reported to the police.
- IK reported more graffiti that has appeared around the town over the half term, including a bus shelter near the Deaf Academy on Salterton Road which is completely covered. He will email CJ a list of tags that have appeared in the town centre over the last couple of weeks.
- SG reported graffiti on the Phear Park shelter. He will report this to EDDC Streetscene. CJ added that the SWW pump in Phear Park has also been heavily graffitied.
- OD raised the vandalism to the toilets in Seaton, which used actual paint as well as spray paint.
- Members discussed the possibility of a diversionary tactic, whereby a graffiti wall is set up inviting young people to graffiti here and avoid elsewhere. CJ explained that this often encourages people to then graffiti in other places in the town, as seen with the Abode of Love graffiti wall, which hasn't stopped graffiti in other places. She stated that the Town Council doesn't have an appropriate place to provide this facility but encouraged the District Councillors to put this forward to EDDC.

**ACTION: IK to email CJ a list of graffiti tags that have recently appeared.**

**ACTION: SG to report the Phear Park shelter graffiti to EDDC Streetscene.**

**ACTION: District Councillors to raise the possibility of setting up a graffiti wall in Exmouth to EDDC.**

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

CJ provided an update from Streetscene that they have completed the full second round of grass cutting, and the third round will commence imminently. They have done a second round of strimming of all sites. Grass is growing very quickly due to

the recent periods of rain and sun, so Streetscene have temporarily hired another ride-on mower to assist with keeping on top of all sites.

IK commented that the team have tidied up the top of Bradham Lane but that at the Hulham Road end of Dinan Way, near the building work, areas around temporary road signs still need strimming. CJ confirmed she reported this to Streetscene's Manager on 12<sup>th</sup> May, who agreed to feed this back to the team. IK will email CJ at the end of next week if this hasn't been completed.

**ACTION: IK to email CJ with areas of grass that still need completing.**

#### **7. To receive an update on the Phear Park Compound lease**

CJ provided an update on the draft lease for the Phear Park Compound, which the Town Council's solicitor has returned to EDDC's solicitor. ETC's solicitor has not yet received a response.

Councillors noted queries regarding the work the Town Council will carry out at the compound, including the gate replacement, electricity, water and a welfare unit. CJ confirmed she is gathering quotes for the gate replacement but will not spend any money until the lease has been signed. With regards to water, the team will continue to fill up water at Camperdown and pay for what they use. The team will continue to use the shared facilities at Phear Park, and the Town Council will provide a warm dry space to keep their clothes.

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

CJ provided an update on general town maintenance work. The second Town Maintenance Operative has now left but returned to help with the festival which ran very smoothly. In the weeks leading up to the festival, work focused on marking out festival pitches and putting up festival posters and banners. The team managed to fit in some maintenance work including some grass cutting and preparing the beds ready for the summer planting this week. The plants arrived this week and Exmouth in Bloom have been helping to plant in the Magnolia Centre, including a purple and white Jubilee crown in one bed.

CJ confirmed the new Town Maintenance Operative is attending a strimmer and grass cutting course and will also attend signing, lighting and gardening training, all provided free by Devon County Council. Once all the planting has taken place, watering will increase and be carried out every day.

CJ explained that the team will be changing the way they operate and will now agree the areas in which they will work and report back to CJ what they have achieved at the end of every day. This will ensure the schedule is kept up-to-date and that the work of the Council is accountable to the public.

SG enquired about the reinstallation of the Concorde. CJ confirmed this is the responsibility of the RAFA Club and encouraged Councillors to signpost members of the public to the RAFA Club with any enquiries.

IK queried whether it is still alright to draw water from Camperdown. CJ confirmed the team keep track of how often they fill the bowser and provide these details to EDDC on a monthly basis. She is still trying to find an alternative sustainable source of water but has not had a response.

IK raised the issue of increasing weeds in the town, but will discuss this with CJ separately.

#### **9. Any other business**

None.

#### **10. To note the date of the next meeting**

Councillors noted the date of the next meeting, 7<sup>th</sup> July 2022 at 10am. OD noted his apologies in advance.

The meeting ended at approximately 11.05am.