

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL Town Maintenance Overview Working Party

Notes of the meeting held at 10am on Thursday 7th July 2022 via Zoom.

Present

Councillor Ian Kirvan	IK	Exmouth Town Council (Chair)
Councillor Maddy Chapman	MC	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Steve Gazzard	SG	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Tony Woodward	TW	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Frank Cullis	FC	Exmouth Town Council
Chetna Jones	CJ	Exmouth Town Council

Apologies

Councillor Brian Bailey	BB	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Olly Davey	OD	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 9th June 2022

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

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

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

MC confirmed there was no update on the Community Safety Partnership's response to the graffiti issue. However community safety officers were out patrolling, and no issues had been reported. MC confirmed that duct tape is no longer being used.

IK confirmed he had emailed CJ a list of tags that have appeared in the town centre and that he was pleased to see they had all been cleared. He thanked CJ for arranging the work and to the Town Maintenance team for completing it quickly.

CJ confirmed that ETC had been successful in obtaining grant funding for a design and build a mosaic bench with the youth project. This project, whilst it might not target those carrying out the graffiti directly, will help towards taking some preventative action.

5. To receive an update on EDDC grass cutting

CJ provided an update from Streetscene that they have completed the full third round of grass cutting, and the fourth round has commenced. Tom Wood advised

that he raise the concerns regarding strimming on Dinan Way. CJ asked that it be noted that TW was particularly good at providing updates and it was an improvement to previous years.

MC confirmed that new road signs that she had asked for before the initial Covid-19 lockdown were being installed asked that thanks be passed on to TW for arranging this work to be completed.

With regards to the grass cutting contract with EDDC, IK felt the strimming was better but still not enough. He felt that the work required to ensure it was being carried out in the area ETC has requested. IK believed strimming had not been done for at least 6 -7 weeks. It was agreed that CJ be asked to confirm when strimming was last carried out along the length of Dinan Way.

SG confirmed there are no issues in the Withycombe area and strimming was being carried out in this ward satisfactorily.

TW confirmed that areas in Halsdon ward such Imperial Way, and around the station all looking incredibly good. He had stopped and personally thanked a Streetscene employee that was out strimming.

ACTION: CJ to request that EDDC confirm where and when strimming is completed as part of the update.

6. To receive an update on the Phear Park Compound lease

The work in preparing the lease documentation for the Phear Park compound area is complete and the Town Clerk will be in touch to arrange signing.

Meanwhile work has commenced to make the compound area more suitable, and CJ has been collaborating with a former surveyor for EDDC, now a freelance consultant, to obtain quotes.

Originally consideration had been given to buying an off-the-shelf steel framed gate and installing in-house, but it was felt that considering the state of the wall it was better to get the work completed professionally as the work would be guaranteed and it would also be less of a drain on ETC's resources.

To date only two quotes had been received to replace the gate, but these were of a similar amount, and we should allow for approximately £2,500 plus VAT for the work. This included removing and taking away the old gate.

FC asked what sort of lock was being proposed and CJ said this was unclear from the quotes. It was agreed that a secure internal lock was required for the new gate and the work quoted should reflect this.

A new quote had been obtained from Western Power for installing mains power at a cost of £828.25 plus VAT but as this was to provide electricity to a mains box only and there will be additional costs to add to provide wiring, sockets and lights.

The alternative was to use existing EDDC services. and this would be a much cheaper method of obtaining electricity and water. As a guideline a budget of £500 is anticipated.

IK asked about the likelihood of being given permission to use EDDC's services. CJ confirmed that this was agreed as part of the heads of terms discussions. The lease has the following included:

*The Landlord grants the Tenant the following rights (the **Rights**):*

3.1.1 the right to use any Service Media that belong to the Landlord and serve the Property

3.1.2 the right, with the prior written consent of the Landlord as to the route of such connections, (such consent not be unreasonably withheld or delayed) to connect into any Service Media on the Landlord's Neighbouring Property subject to making good any damage caused by the use and installation of such connections as soon as reasonably practicable.

CJ will obtain consent from EDDC and progress the matter to connect to existing supplies.

Storage options were also discussed and it was important to ensure that some space was made for the team to dry off and make a cup tea but that this was not necessarily using a dedicated welfare unit. Storage containers started from £2,500 for used and £4,500 for new, excluding haulage costs.

SG p, MC s to proceed with renovation work and incurring costs associated with replacing the gate, providing services and storage unit and this was agreed unanimously.

ACTION: CJ to proceed with renovation work.

7. To receive an update on general Town Maintenance work

CJ provided an update on general town maintenance work and confirmed that the summer planting work was all completed, and watering the towers, troughs, hanging baskets and beds was a full-time job. The flowers were well established and very colourful. The last few weeks had been spent on preparing for Southwest In-Bloom competition and judging had taken place on 6th July. CJ confirmed that the feedback was that the judges had loved the colour scheme and were most impressed

especially with the good vibes from everyone working together for a common goal. They said it was rare to find that.

SG asked for the following to be noted:

"I am extremely impressed and proud with the flower planting and what a fantastic display of colours. I would like to put on record my huge thanks to the Maintenance Team in particular Tony and you Chetna for all the extremely long and hard work you have put into this project.

I am in town every day and residents and tourists stop me and say what a fantastic display they are. Together with Exmouth in Bloom we can all be proud of what we have achieved.

Thank you all so very much."

Members echoed their thanks.

IK added that it was good to see how the team pulled together despite the setbacks earlier this year with staff leaving and working at 50% capacity. IK also passed on personal thanks from a member of his family.

Some road weed clearing and weed spraying has been carried out as well graffiti clearing, grass cutting and footpath clearance.

Work for the Town Maintenance team was scheduled until October and included road weed clearing, grounds maintenance, watering, grass cutting and weed spraying. Staff were providing updates on work completed each day and they were on target and mirrored the schedule.

IK asked for additional work to be completed but will email CJ directly. In the meantime he asked if team were able to weed spray Bystock Road.

Work was in-hand to clear out one of the storage containers in Pound Lane and the downstairs area in the Town Hall.

CJ provided an update on recruitment and confirmed that a conditional offer had been made for the fourth member of the team and that reference and health checks were being conducted.

8. Any other business

None.

9. To note the date of the next meeting

Councillors noted the dates of future meetings,

The meeting ended at 11.03am.