

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Waterfront Working Party

Notes of the meeting held at 10am on Tuesday 10th January 2023 via Zoom.

Present

Councillor Pauline Stott	ST	Exmouth Town Council (Chair)
Councillor Eileen Beech	EB	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Tim Dumper	TD	Exmouth Town Council
Chetna Jones	CJ	Exmouth Town Council
Sam Dorman	SD	Exmouth Town Council
Peter Blythe	PB	EDDC Streetscene Beach Safety Officer
Carl Burnett	CB	Red Rock Leisure Ltd Exmouth Water sports Ltd

Apologies

Councillor David Poor	DP	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Joy Whipps	JW	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Steve Gazzard	SG	Exmouth Town Council

1. Welcome and apologies

CJ welcomed members to the meeting and apologies were noted.

2. Election of Chair

TD proposed, seconded by EB, that PS be re-elected as Chair of the Waterfront Working Party. No other nominations were received, and all members agreed that PS be re-elected as Chair.

3. To approve the notes of the last meeting dated 15th February 2022 and the inspection form dated 5th April and the 13th September 2022

The notes of the previous meeting and the inspection form were proposed for approval by PS, seconded by EB, and agreed by all.

4. Matters arising

Inspection form from 5th April 2022

- Railings by the lifeboat station – works completed.

Inspection form from 13th September 2022

PB gave updates on the following -

- Broken railings – waiting for spare parts. One pallet has arrived but only received railing parts and not the joiners to fix together. Still chasing this up.
- Beach steps with railing on one side – not intending to put a railing on other side. This has been like this for years.
- Cracks and breaks on top of sea wall – minor and cosmetic not causing any serious hazards. Not intending to do anything with this now.
- Missing finger post on seafront – not at depot.
- Showers – Might have to replace the whole shower in which case will be in next year's budget.
- Blenny Bay signs – these will be changed. Waiting for the review of the PSPO to be completed as likelihood dog signs will have to be changed so will all be done at the same time.
- Flagpole – PB will email CJ with details of the flagpole to order.
- Car park post – No update. This has been passed onto the car parks team and will be actioned in due course.
- Loose railing on beach by Abode – This is continually repaired and then continually gets damaged as it's in the tidal range. Long term this may get taken out.
- Broken bollard piece next to bench – removed but hasn't been checked if it has been re-instated.
- Loose handrail by Lifeboat station – works completed.
- Graffiti by Forte – Not offensive so not a priority due to a lot of graffiti in the town. Rude words and symbols are prioritised. Will be dealt with when next painted.
- Wooden post by Forte – PB unsure this has been fixed but if it hasn't it will be completed.
- Graffiti on traffic island – ETC action. CJ confirmed graffiti on all traffic islands has been cleaned.
- Dog signs – when they are next due to be done (in dog ban season), they will be done in white possibly yellow but will be visible.
- Graffiti by RNLI – not offensive so low priority.
- Ramp – PB to arrange to meet Mollie to look at ramp with engineer.

- Life ring rope – been checked and nothing wrong with it. All ropes in Exmouth to be replaced this year, around April 2023.
- Frame board on pavement by lifeguard hut – PB does not see a problem with this. Don't allow commercial signs on pavement but a small sign showing lifeguard times is not an issue.
- Kite surfers crossing sign – this is to do with Edge Water sports, but PB does not see a problem with this, and the signs are not in the way.
- Graffiti on the Abode – a lot of painting in the Abode, PB not aware of there being any offensive graffiti.
- Chain in the pavilion car park – chain has not come off the post. The problem is the post that has been replaced hasn't got a hole for the chain. PB has reported this to the car parks team.
- Stumps of the flagpole – works completed.
- Steel turret information board – PB said this is not something that can be cleaned, and a new board is needed. Unsure who is responsible for this. CJ updated members that she has been in touch with Tom Wood, and they are looking at working together to replace this information board. TD suggested we ask Exmouth Museum to see if they have any information to help. EB also suggested asking the Imperial War Museum.
- Stuart Line notice – doesn't look any more unstable than it has been. No action.
- Broken stanchion near clock tower – assume this has been fixed as does not know anything about this.
- Nasty dog poo – cleaned by Streetscene when first reported.

5. To receive an update on the Tidal Defence scheme in particular the Festoon Lights

This is still an ongoing issue. The lights are not going any further along the seafront. The lamppost was removed by DCC as deemed unsafe after a car hit the lamppost. The lighting department at DCC has put in a request for capital works but unsure when this request will be completed.

6. To receive an update on EDDC's Exmouth Beach Management Plan Steering Group

PS said there was little to update members about. Tom Buxton-Smith has put in for some more funding. PB updated members that they are not intending to do any works under the lifeboat ramp. CJ added that the scoping document was an interesting read on the history of the beach and how it has changed.

PB explained to members that the works done to the end of the groins are to do with shore marks repairs. This is to indicate a safe approach for boats. These are big metal poles up in the air. Every year, Trinity House, who has a statutory duty as a general lighthouse authority, inspects them, and they will report back to say what works need to be completed.

7. To receive an update on dog mess and use of dog warden during the summer season

PB provided an update on the dog warden. The dog warden didn't start until halfway through the season due to problems with recruitment. There is also a review of the PSPO taking place and subject to public consultation, changes in times for dogs to be allowed on the beach are being proposed. We won't know for certain what has been confirmed until a cabinet meeting has decided. TD added that this was discussed at the Town Council meeting and that the overall reaction was that members believed the PSPO is good as it stands and didn't want a change. PB added that the data was being reviewed and that he would ask someone from Environmental Health to attend the next Waterfront meeting to answer questions.

8. To receive an update on the Beach Wheelchair Project

PS updated members that the project is still waiting for two disabled spaces to be marked out. PB explained that he hasn't currently got a contractor to complete this, but he will chase this up with the car parks team.

PS thanked PB for clearing the sand around the Beach Wheelchair hut.

9. To receive an update from Streetscene on seafront, bins, toilets, and beach signs

Bins

There was no update for bins.

Toilets

PB understands that the plan is to open all toilets initially but the ones that would be re-purposed, disposed of, would eventually have to be closed, which on the seafront only affects Orcombe points toilets. There has been a planning application from Bumble and Sea to take over these toilets. PB advised that Tom Wood may know more information. A discussion was had by members, and it was voiced that not having these toilets open would be an environmental health issue. Orcombe Point toilets are much in demand, and any failure to provide will lead to major issues of people using the nearby bushes with the unhygienic conditions that will lead to. The discussion was based around the evidence from lockdown periods when the toilets weren't open.

CJ suggested, if councillors were concerned about the availability of public toilets on the seafront, that a motion be put forward for the Town Council to write to EDDC requesting that any new tenant continues to provide a public toilet. It was agreed by members that TD would email the exact wording for the motion, and this be agreed by members via email.

Following the email circulation TD proposed and agreed by members, the following motion: -

“That Exmouth Town Council write to East Devon District Council asking them to ensure that any marketing of the Orcombe Point toilets and any contractual agreements come to with organisations or firms operating the building include a condition that, at a minimum, they provide at least one toilet for public use and for a minimum period based on current opening hours and dates as currently operated by EDDC”.

EB seconded the above motion, and it was agreed by all via email.

Lockers

Lockers will be installed by RNLI at the side of the building. PS added that Andrew from RNLI has the lockers, but a frame needs to be made to hold the lockers.

10. To receive an update on concerns regarding sea wall near RNLI

PB said that engineers have looked at the sea wall near the RNLI and this is a cosmetic issue rather than structural. This is surveyed twice a year, and this will be picked up and will be looked at in more depth. The next survey is due in February 2023.

11. To receive an update on concerns about the rusting steel reappearing on the beach in front of side shore

PB said that most of the steel and all the big chunks have been removed. The stonework near Sideshore will be left unless Edge Water sports says this is a hazard for kite surfers. Any loose masonry will be picked up around March 2023.

12. Any other business

Cliffs

PS reported on a concern raised at the Town Council meeting held on 9th January regarding falling cliffs at Orcombe Point but as this was deemed outside the scope of the Town Council and the Waterfront working party no further action was agreed.

13. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting, a walkabout meeting on Tuesday 21st March 2023, was noted. It was agreed to meet at the Pavilion car park at 10am and walk towards the marina.

The meeting ended at approximately 11.21am