

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Town Maintenance Overview Working Party

Notes of the meeting held at 10am on Thursday 19th January 2023 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
Councillor Tony Woodward	TW	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Maddy Chapman	MC	Exmouth Town Council
Chetna Jones	CJ	Exmouth Town Council
Sam Dorman	SD	Exmouth Town Council (notetaker)

Apologies

Councillor Steve Gazzard	SG	Exmouth Town Council
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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 8th December 2022

The notes of the previous meeting held on 8th December 2022 were proposed for approval by OD, seconded by TW, and agreed by all.

3. To receive an update on EDDC Grass cutting and Winter work and review the schedule of grass cutting and strimming

Grass cutting

CJ updated members about the grass cutting and strimming that has been completed by EDDC. Going forward Pete Crofts will email each month to let us know the work that has been completed for that month.

Members discussed the schedule and what areas come under the contract. There were questions around areas that had not been cut as this had already been done by either a resident, DCC or another contractor. IK queried the schedule where it says outside flats. CJ confirmed that it's meant to read outside Fats, which is the grass area by the Strand pub (Fats was the name previously). It was discussed if the schedule could be more flexible with regards to dates being rigid.

EDDC and DCC grass cutting work could be done in-house was briefly discussed and CJ said this was a discussion were going to have going forward, however the question about staffing will need to investigated and would they be needed all year round.

CJ confirmed that all equipment the town maintenance team use is in good working order.

Winter Work

An update on the weeding of traffic islands was received from TWood via email. It explained that this has become a bigger problem. Operatives cannot work safely without being chapter 8 trained and each island must be risk assessed. This work goes way beyond the resource that they can offer currently. He said that EDDC can assist with removing the detritus around the islands with the mechanical sweeper. Members discussed this and were concerned that the work would not be completed fully on the traffic islands and queried would our Team Maintenance team be able to schedule in this work instead.

4. To review the annual grass cutting and winter work SLA for 2023/24 and recommend to the Town Council to proceed with the SLA and any proposed amendments agreed with Streetscene

The SLA was reviewed by members, and it was proposed that the following amendments and questions be asked.

To add that the season may commence earlier and finish later depending on the climatic conditions.

To add that in the monthly email of work carried out to include evidence of work completed.

To add If there are roads no longer cut by EDDC then ETC would like the option to provide alternative locations to ensure work continues to the same level. For example, Mountpleasant Road was not cut at all this year. Alternatives roads include Pines Road junction (both sides), Bystock Road verges, Jubilee Drive junction with Bankside, Gloucester Road (junction with Bystock Road).

Amend the wording to the list of locations "Flats" to opposite the Strand Pub.

Questions for TWood

If this is an annual contract why is March not included?

The email suggests the work of the seasonal worker must be in the town ward and that it has to be done by a barrow guy. However, ETC notes that this is not mentioned and presumes the off-season work can also include other areas. Could this be clarified?

A Recommendation that the Town Council renews the SLA agreement for 2023/24 with the suggested changes as discussed today was proposed by MC, seconded by FC, and agreed by all.

5. To receive an update on general Town Maintenance work

CJ gave an update that over the last month the Town Maintenance team have mainly been road weed cleaning. They have been concentrating on Brixington area, Dinan Way and Bystock and will be there for another couple of weeks before moving onto Fraser Road then back onto Dinan Way and surrounding areas. Streetscene worked with the Town Maintenance team to take the Christmas tree down in the Strand.

CJ will be looking at ordering summer plants. Exmouth in Bloom are entering the Nationals this year and the theme will be bright colours. CJ explained that she is not sure if they will do something specific for the Coronation, there has been no update from the palace as to if there will be a theme.

ETC ideas for the Coronation –

- Eco friendly bunting around the town
- Planting of Coronation trees with schools

CJ added that having the Coronation and Elections at the same time will prove a challenge.

Flower Towers

All flower towers are looking fine.

Footpaths

CJ updated members that she had put in a grant bid to Rights of Way to put gravel down on footpath 9 which is the footpath that runs from Halsdon Road to Exeter Road and the bid was successful. Gravel will be put on sections of the footpath where it is muddy and completed over the next few weeks.

6. Any other business

IK reported that there is bright red graffiti “EDL” on a bus shelter on Salterton Road, McDonald’s end near Capel Lane. There is also some graffiti on the grey traffic-controlled box near Bradham Lane and Salterton Road. This is the same graffiti as in Phear park and is not offensive.

OD reported that there is some offensive graffiti on the side of the EDDC toilets located at the train station.

A damaged bus shelter at Rodney Close has been reported and is looked at getting repaired.

CJ added that Fernbank have been in Sidmouth and have replaced some bus shelters.

7. To note the date of the next meeting

16th February 2023

OD said that he may not be at the next meeting but will email his apologies if unable to attend.

The meeting ended at 11.58am.