

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Town Maintenance Overview Working Party

Notes of the meeting held at 10am on Thursday 20th April 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
Chetna Jones	CJ	Exmouth Town Council
Sam Dorman	SD	Exmouth Town Council (notetaker)

Apologies

Councillor Steve Gazzard	SG	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Maddy Chapman	MC	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 16th February 2023

The notes of the previous meeting held on 16th February 2023 were proposed for approval by FC, seconded by OD, and agreed by all.

3. To receive an update on the graffiti within Exmouth

CJ updated members that she had received a couple of reports of graffiti and the team have been out to deal with them.

Phear Park shelter is covered in graffiti again, however the project will be starting soon so hopefully this will help prevent graffiti. OD asked if there were any plans to barricade the shelter off whilst the project is underway or put some signage up to say that this is going to be painted. CJ said she was unsure how they were going to do this but that she will speak with Pete Crofts who is the area leader for Phear Park to see what the proposal is.

OD reported some graffiti tags on noticeboards along the estuary but is not sure of the exact location. CJ replied that we do not tend to cover along the estuary. IK added there are some minor tags on bus shelters, but he hadn't reported these yet.

ACTION: CJ to contact Pete Crofts to ask what the proposal is for barricading the shelter whilst project is going on.

4. To receive an update on EDDC winter work as part of the grass cutting contract

CJ updated members that the EDDC grass cutting work has not commenced yet due to bad weather. With drier weather due the EDDC team are hoping to start the grass cutting next week.

IK reported that the growth in grass over the last few days due to the wet weather is very long along Dinan Way and areas of Brixington have been reported to DCC as this is causing visibility issues.

No Mow May was discussed and CJ explained that the team know the environmental policy and the three different tiers of grass cutting which this is in place, and we are doing this more and more not just for May.

CJ agreed two bullets' points with Zoey Cooper in how ETC can support No Mow May-

- Mowing areas of grass that would otherwise reduce visibility for drivers, cyclist and/ or pedestrians and other highway users.
- Not mowing designated areas of grass to allow for wildlife to thrive.

Concerns were raised about asking EDDC not to cut certain areas for the month of May. It needs to be clear to them that this is not a permanent change to the contract and to resume cutting areas after May.

Members were happy to support No Mow May but said that we need to be mindful of visibility issues on highways when considering areas not to cut. Locations discussed for EDDC to leave or reduce the area to cut in May are outside the Strand pub, outside the Cranford Club, the triangle area on Greenpark Road and the junction of Littlemead and Roundhouse Lane.

IK reported that there are some traffic signs and cones that have been left on the grass area opposite Goodmores on Dinan Way which has killed the grass underneath. He asked if we could look at getting the signs removed before the grass is cut.

ACTION: CJ to look at getting the signs removed.

5. To receive an update on general Town Maintenance work

The maintenance team have completed some grass cutting when the weather has allowed them to, but it has been generally weed clearing along roads and footpaths.

IK queried if Streetscene had purchased the bit of kit used for weeding. CJ replied that she had no update, but she would ask Tom Wood for feedback about the equipment. CJ added that if this kit really does work it may be something we could consider purchasing in the future.

Members discussed the 4-armed pole that ETC are hoping to install in the Magnolia centre to hang flower baskets. CJ will get some quotes for the pole she shared with members. Members were in favour of this substantial piece of equipment that will be safe and more suitable to hang heavy baskets.

Exmouth in Bloom approached CJ about some of the lampposts being repainted, but CJ stated that this is the responsibility of Devon County Council. Devon County Council confirmed they no longer repaint them. They now only carry out structural surveys and if they are deemed unsafe, they take them down.

CJ gave an update on the areas the maintenance team will be looking to work on and added they will be starting summer planting towards the end of May.

IK expressed how the flowers at the top of Bradham Lane look lovely and colourful and many people enjoy seeing them. He gave thanks to the Town Maintenance team for all their hard work.

6. Any other business

FC and OD added their thanks to the Town Maintenance team and said they do recognise and appreciate their hard work.

IK gave thanks to CJ and everyone as a group for their positive contributions and praised the achievements in this three-year period.

7. To note the date of the next meeting

1st June 2023

The meeting ended at 11:21

