

# **EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL**

## **Town Maintenance Overview Working Party**

Notes of the meeting held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at 10am 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 Joy Whipps	JW	Exmouth Town Council (joined 10:14)
Chetna Jones	CJ	Exmouth Town Council
Sam Dorman	SD	Exmouth Town Council (notetaker)

### **Apologies**

Councillor David Poor	DP	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 8<sup>th</sup> June 2023 and any matters arising therein**

The notes of the previous meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2023 were proposed for approval by MC, seconded by SG, and agreed by all.

IK queried if CJ had received his email regarding TSB and graffiti as the graffiti had still not been cleaned. CJ confirmed the graffiti is scheduled to be cleaned this week. She explained that she had received correspondence from the manager at TSB to say that they would be unable to arrange for the brackets to be replaced this year, but they would look into this for next year.

CJ updated members that she is assessing how much work needs to be done for Exmouth Festival to see if Gorse Lane footpath can be cut before the festival. If not, it will be completed in August.

### **3. To receive an update on the graffiti within Exmouth**

IK confirmed that the graffiti tags on the substation opposite the Wings bar were cleared.

MC reported that Brixington play area had been closed to replace the matting that had been destroyed with paint from spray cans.

No other graffiti was reported.

#### **4. To receive an update on grass cutting**

Following on from last month's discussion regarding the lack of grass cutting, CJ updated members that she has sent a firm email to Streetscene to say that we expect to have a professional service for what we pay, and that we were not receiving a good enough service.

Simon Kennedy, is interim Operations manager, as Tom Wood has now left, until such time that EDDC recruit a replacement. CJ met with Simon Kennedy and Pete Croft, team leader responsible for the grass cutting team. They discussed the lack of grass cutting, lack of communication and ETC's concerns that the grass cut has not been cut very well. Pete Croft said they now have two new pieces of equipment which can tackle long grass and they will be working on this full time to get on top of this.

Members discussed the situation with the grass cutting and all agreed they were not happy with the work that has not been completed and agreed that grass cutting by EDDC needs to be reviewed in September.

CJ said she will complete another survey to see what work they have done towards the end of this month.

Members discussed ETC Town Maintenance team taking on the work, but IK explained that we do not have the equipment however it is something we could discuss and consider going forward.

IK raised a visibility issue on the verge at the right-hand side of St Johns Road joining with Dinan Way and this had not been cut. IK will check again and email CJ to clarify if this has been cut or not.

**ACTION: IK to email CJ to clarify if the verge at the end of St John's Road has been cut.**

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

CJ updated members with the work the Town Maintenance team have completed.

- The flower towers have been planted by the team and they are looking great.
- Tony completed some work in preparation for the unveiling of the mosaic bench.
- PoundLane cutting and strimming has been completed. Lambeth Walk has been trimmed along the bottom of the railing and grass on the other side and a lot of the footpaths have been trimmed.

A request from Stuart Coles to strim the back of Woodville Road has been received which we do sometimes cut if we are in the area however CJ is receiving a lot of requests from DCC asking if the team can cut back areas in Exmouth. As much as we try to help CJ is being mindful about these requests coming in.

SG gave his thanks to the Town Maintenance team for all their hard work and working as a team. He added that we are very fortunate to have such a dedicated team. Members echoed SG words and also gave thanks to the team.

IK reported areas that are becoming overgrown and asked if the team could cut when they can. The areas are:

- Footpath from Lidl to Prince of Wales Drive becoming very overgrown and growing over the footpath.
- The grass around the flower tower opposite Tesco on Salterton Road needs strimming.
- The rosebed in the Magnolia Centre needs weeding and dead head work. CJ said she had emailed Streetscene for some woodchip so the team can clear it out and put some new woodchip down.
- Junction of Woodlands Drive and Hulham Road have two bushes growing out of the kerb that need cutting and also on the traffic island at the junction of Roundhouse Lane and Hulham Road.

#### **6. To receive an update on the Japanese Knotweed growing on Halsdon Road**

As discussed at the last meeting, CJ has reported the Japanese Knotweed that is growing over the green railing onto the road, to DCC and sent photographs showing this. DCC confirmed that it does need attention, but they can't do the treatment they would normally do as it's so tall now, but other treatment would start on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2023. Advice from the contractor is not to do any work in this area and to keep well away from this while treatment is being carried out.

#### **7. To receive details of the community payback scheme and agree projects that maybe suitable for them to complete**

CJ had a discussion with Phil Morgan, Neighbourhood Highways engineer about the community payback scheme and that the underpass could be a potential project for the scheme. CJ is still awaiting information about how the scheme works and asked members if they had any projects in mind to let her know. This item will be reviewed at a later date once CJ has received further information.

#### **8. To consider and agree to repeat the tri party partnership working in the colony area to combat weed and detritus build up and arrange for the local community to get involved**

Members discussed the tri party partnership working after OD sent an email asking if this was something we could do with the residents of Rosebery Road to clear the service lanes. CJ explained that this was carried out a few years ago where the road was closed, and the community got together to tackle weeds which was a huge success. She spoke with Phil Morgan who said a road closure could be put in place, but we need to get the community involved and would need to give three months' notice for a road closure. If this is a success this could be publicised with the hope that other communities might want to get involved. CJ said this could be something to think about for Spring next year.

## **9. Any other business**

MC asked about professional development and attending suitable training. CJ said that whilst she was in favour of this, it was something that needed to be discussed in the HR Group for all the Town Maintenance team. CJ will ask for it to go on the agenda for the next HR meeting.

IK mentioned that there is a heated discussion on a Facebook group about a verge on the corner of Anson Road and queried if we are responsible for this verge. CJ said we used to cut Anson Road but when looking at the mapping it showed that EDDC own the land. She had a discussion with Tom Wood about this and the responsibility was given back to EDDC to maintain.

**ACTION(s): CJ to ask LB to add career training to the agenda for the next HR Group meeting.**

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

10<sup>th</sup> August 2023

Meeting finished at 11:54