

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Town Maintenance Overview Working Party

Notes of the meeting held on Thursday 19th December 2023 at 10am via Zoom

Present

Councillor Ian Kirvan	IK	Exmouth Town Council (Chair)
Councillor Maddy Chapman	MC	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Olly Davey	OD	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Matt Hall	MH	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor David Poor	DP	Exmouth Town Council
Chetna Jones	CJ	Exmouth Town Council

Apologies

Councillor Steve Gazzard	SG	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Joy Whipps	JW	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 November 2023 and any matters arising therein

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

Item 6 – CJ to investigate the weeding on the traffic islands

CJ will follow this up once the grass cutting contract has been finalised.

Item 7 – CJ to research prices for poles with brackets and feedback to members

CJ updated members that a price for basic poles with two brackets are about £90.00 each plus VAT. There is some money left in the budget to purchase these however the working party need to decide where they would like them to be placed and then ETC would need to gain permission.

IK suggested having them placed outside Exmouth Rugby Club and OD suggested the station forecourt or the middle of the Magnolia Centre. CJ added that they could be placed around the seating area near the old post office.

ACTION: CJ to speak with the rugby club to ask if a couple of poles could be placed outside on the grassed area.

3. To receive an update on the graffiti within Exmouth

IK emailed CJ locations of graffiti as requested in last meeting and since then he has reported more graffiti on the bus shelter on Dinan Way and bus shelters near MacDonalds and the substation on Bradham Lane. All graffiti was cleared as of yesterday.

4. To review quotes for the grass cutting contract for 2024 and agree any recommendations

CJ received two quotes back from the five she emailed.

Members discussed the quotes, and all felt it would be more risk adverse to go with the bigger and more professional company. It was thought a bigger company would be more adaptable and flexible.

CJ suggested that a contract be drawn up by ETC solicitors and reviewed annually.

It was agreed that before the Town Council approves the recommendation the working party meet with the company to discuss the service they can offer and contractually what will be expected of them.

MC proposed, seconded by OD to recommendation that the Town Council accepts the quote for grass cutting work at an annual cost £15,498.24 and this was agreed by all.

CJ gave a brief explanation to members about the budget and rough figures to take work in-house in 3 – 5 years and suggested members think about how they may achieve this to discuss at the next budget briefing meeting.

5. To receive an update on the proposal for pocket parks as part of the Gateway Project

CJ met with Stuart Jarvis and WPS about the landscaping for the area around the train station. The proposal is to take away the railings where ETC hang the troughs. CJ said that pocket gardens were discussed and was told that ETC would have to maintain them. CJ made it clear that ETC have already taken on a lot of work for DCC and that she had no delegated authority to agree to any additional work being taken on.

CJ expressed to DCC how the troughs bring colour to the area, and they said they will have a think about how they can incorporate the troughs into the area.

Stuart Jarvis will be arranging meetings about the proposal and landscaping around early February.

6. To receive an update on EDDC Winter work

After the last meeting CJ emailed EDDC with the list of roads agreed by members for the seasonal worker to clear. CJ reported that she has been informed with the seasonal worker's progress and that work has commenced as shown by the photographic evidence.

7. To receive an update on general Town Maintenance work

The Town Maintenance team have completed some road weed clearing but has made slow progress as they have had to deal with some other issues. They will be making their way round to Brixington shortly.

CJ updated members with the issues the team have had to deal with as follows -

- The bus shelter outside Scott Cinema was hit by a lorry, the middle section was completely smashed and structurally the bus shelter was not safe. The team had to make the area safe. Fernbank said they would remove the glass but would need DCC to close the footpath and would need some help from our Town Maintenance team. DCC highways failed to turn up to help so our team had to assist with traffic/pedestrian management and all parties involved were left in a precarious position.
- The Christmas tree in the Strand was vandalised by young people attempting to climb the tree and pull the star down. The new lights and star have been broken. Our Town Maintenance team were asked to make the tree and lights safe as the electrical engineer was not able to attend for a number of days.
- An incident with a fibre cable had occurred and it was agreed that the Town Maintenance team should be reminded to be vigilant, inspect each site and evidence the inspection and findings prior to starting any work.

The Town Maintenance team also helped with the Winter Festival and the event was well received.

ACTION: CJ to contact DCC and state ETC's disappointment with Highways for not assisting with making safe their bus shelter and leaving our own team in a vulnerable position. ETC will be reluctant to assist in future.

8. Any other business

- MC reported she had received a complaint that at St Seven Way in Brixington at the back of number 21, someone with a chainsaw has cut down half a dozen trees that have TPO's on.
MC was advised to report to the tree officers at EDDC.
- CJ confirmed the new weed ripper had arrived.
- MH queried who is responsible for the hanging baskets in Manor Gardens as they are needing some attention. CJ confirmed it is Streetscene.
- IK reported that there is minimal road sweeping happening and he has reported Gorse Lane, as the drains are blocked. CJ had heard that there were resource

issues at Streetscene. IK asked all District councillors to voice concerns because the level of service Exmouth is receiving from Streetscene now is extremely poor.

- CJ updated members that work is in progress for the colony clean up and some dates have been agreed. Letters to residents will be sent out mid to end of January.

9. To note the date of the next meeting

18th January 2024 at 1pm

Meeting finished at 11:58