

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Town Maintenance Overview Working Party

Notes of the meeting held on Thursday 18th April 2024 at 1.30pm via Zoom

Present

Councillor Ian Kirvan	IK	Exmouth Town Council (Chair)
Councillor Olly Davey	OD	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Steve Gazzard	SG	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Matt Hall	MH	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor David Poor	DP	Exmouth Town Council
Chetna Jones	CJ	Exmouth Town Council
Sam Dorman (note taker)	SD	Exmouth Town Council

Apologies

Councillor Joy Whipps	JW	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 21st March 2024 and any matters arising therein

The notes of the previous meeting held on 21st March 2024 were proposed for approval by OD, seconded by IK, and agreed by all.

Matters arising –

Item 5 - To discuss work required before commencement of new grass cutting contract

CJ confirmed the Town Maintenance team have completed the required work in the areas discussed. The hedges were cut back near the steps on Marpool hill. No dead bush was found. All the areas marked on the map were completed.

The team have said that the grass overtaking the footpath on Dinan Way would be better tackled after the grass has been cut as it is so long and a struggle to use the weed ripper on this area. They are also concerned with the condition of the footpath.

Members discussed using a form of acetic acid (extra strong vinegar) which was suggested by Paul Feeley to CJ. He named a weedkiller called Weed Gone which is 60% concentrated. It was agreed that CJ order this and it be used as a trial on the footpath.

3. To receive an update on the graffiti within Exmouth

The graffiti that IK reported to CJ via email has been removed and at the moment it is still clear.

SG wanted to clarify to members that contrary to what was said at the Town Council meeting on Monday regarding the toilets in Phear park and reports of graffiti, he can confirm there is no graffiti except for a couple of bits on the board which will be removed in due course. The toilets are not closed, they are open 8am – 3pm.

Graffiti in the London Inn car park was reported, and this has been removed.

IK will email CJ after the meeting with the areas he has noticed graffiti.

ACTION: IK to email CJ regarding graffiti.

4. To discuss the explanation received from EDDC regarding the grass cutting invoice and agree payment.

CJ circulated the email response from Pete Crofts to members prior to the meeting but re- read the email to remind members.

Since this email the Town Maintenance team have been told not to go to Camperdown depot to dispose of road weeds and detritus. A discussion was held around the emails received.

IK asked how the team would dispose of contaminated waste if we cannot use Camperdown depot. CJ has asked to have a meeting with Julia Woodbridge.

Members discussed the payment of invoice, and it was proposed by SG, seconded by DP and agreed to pay the invoice and for CJ to find out what the issues are through a meeting with Julia Woodbridge. IK abstained.

IK said he will compile a list of the areas that were not completed by EDDC.

5. To receive an update on pedestrian traffic island work and grass cutting work

Traffic Islands

CJ visited the traffic islands to inspect the work completed by the new contractors Idverde. She commented that they are all very well done, and IK agreed that they look so much better. Idverde have asked for a purchase order and CJ will, with members agreement, proceed with this.

Grass cutting

Idverde have commenced the grass cutting, however this was started too soon while it was wet. Some areas were left in a poor state with no care taken, sections missed, and grass left over the pavements. CJ reported this to Idverde who were apologetic and said they would send a supervisor out to inspect the work that had taken place and rectify the issues.

IK updated members that he had seen an Idverde van outside his home and spoke to the employee who was the supervisor. IK had a walkabout with the supervisor who said he was not happy with the work and agreed with IK that the work completed was

not acceptable and he will have the team back out on Friday and Monday to do the work again.

CJ asked members to keep an eye on the grass cutting and to report any issues to her.

6. To receive an update on general Town Maintenance work

The Town Maintenance team have been focussing on road weed clearing and had got to Maple Drive and side roads when they had to put a hold on the work as they have not been able to dispose of the waste.

They have been doing grounds maintenance and grass cutting down Pound Lane, but they had to be careful because of the slow worms. ETC are still waiting to hear back from an expert about how the team can maintain this area.

Other work the team have completed includes footpaths, graffiti removal and the work completed before the new contractors started.

They will be getting the bowser up and working, ready for watering and as soon as they have the go ahead with disposing of the waste, they will pick up the road weed clearing.

IK asked if the team could trial the Weed Gone for weeds on roadside weeds along Bystock Road.

SG asked if the team could fill the holes on the verges in Green Close and Moorfield Road with the waste they cannot dispose of. CJ will ask if this can be done.

CJ informed members she had spoken with Mike from Exmouth rugby club, and he was happy for the hanging basket poles to be placed at the rugby club, but asked that he be present when deciding the exact locations.

Six poles have been ordered, two or three poles will be installed at the rugby club and once they have been delivered CJ will arrange a meeting with Mike and the remainder in the Magnolia Centre.

Members discussed the landscaping on the gateway and the areas that will have grass. Members voiced their concerns that cars will park on the area to be grassed outside China Gardens and ETC will be expected to maintain the grassed areas. CJ will email Stuart Jarvis before the Extraordinary meeting on Monday 29th April 2024 to ask if they are doing anything different and for any additional information.

7. Any other business

IK reminded members to keep an eye out on Friday and Monday for Idverde vans and let CJ know of any issues.

8. To note the date of the next meeting

16th May 2024 – 1.30pm – OD sends his apologies for this meeting.

Meeting finished at 15:10