

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Town Maintenance Overview Working Party

Notes of the meeting held on Thursday 16th May 2024 at 1.30pm 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 David Poor	DP	Exmouth Town Council
Chetna Jones	CJ	Exmouth Town Council
Sam Dorman (note taker)	SD	Exmouth Town Council
Steven Ball	SB	Idverde

Apologies

Councillor Olly Davey	OD	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Joy Whipps	JW	Exmouth Town Council

1. To elect a chairperson

DP proposed, seconded by SG that IK be re-elected as Chair of the Town Maintenance Overview Working Party. No other nominations were received, and all members agreed that IK be re-elected as Chair.

2. Welcome and apologies

IK welcomed Steven Ball from Idverde and members to the meeting. Apologies were noted as above.

3. To approve the notes of the meeting held on 18th April 2024 and any matters arising therein

The notes of the previous meeting held on 18th April 2024 were proposed for approval by SG, seconded by DP, and agreed by all.

Matters arising –

Item 2 – Work required before commencement of new grass cutting contract

Members discussed the state of the footpath on Dinan Way opposite Jubilee Drive and what could be done to clear this. CJ said that the town maintenance team had now hit a busy time but would pick this up mid-June.

CJ provided an update to members that the weed killer Weed Gone had been purchased. This was trialled on a small area and the weeds did go brown however it is expensive for a small quantity, and it would be very costly to use on larger areas. It was decided that we cannot pursue with using this and need to find an alternative solution.

4. To receive an update on graffiti within Exmouth

National Grid have refused to clean the substations because they say it creates a blank canvas to be graffitied again so have agreed that ETC can clean the fibreglass on the substations. The town maintenance team have now cleaned this.

IK stated that the graffiti he reported has now been removed. He has noticed a couple of tags, and he will email CJ the details.

ACTIONS: IK to email CJ with locations of graffiti tags.

5. To receive an update on grass cutting

IK welcomed Steven Ball – Contract Supervisor from Idverde to the meeting. Members raised their concerns and disappointment with the grass cutting that had taken place under the new contract and how they had received complaints from residents.

Steven Ball explained that his grounds maintenance team have now been given the ETC contract from the Highways department at Idverde who had completed the first cut. He provided members with information on how his team will work. He stated that if the work is programmed in when it is wet the work will be re-scheduled as it cannot be cut when it is wet, and the grass is long.

CJ will email Steven to arrange a date for a site visit for one day next week. Councillors were invited to attend the site visit in their wards if they wished.

ACTION: CJ to email Steven Ball to arrange a date for a site visit one day next week.

6. To confirm the location of the new hanging basket poles

CJ updated members that the grass area at the rugby club where we were going to put the hanging basket poles is actually EDDC land, so we will not pursue this as it will take too long to obtain permission.

Instead, the town maintenance team installed them in the raised beds near the seating area at the Magnolia Centre. The poles will hold twelve hanging baskets and will give some colour to this area when the plants arrive in a couple of weeks.

7. To receive an update on general Town Maintenance work

The Town Maintenance team have been doing some grass cutting, footpath clearance and ground maintenance. The hanging basket poles were installed in the Magnolia Centre.

Going forward they will be focussing on clearing out the flower beds and flower towers ready for planting over the next 2-3 weeks. It is crucial the team get on with this as we don't want to leave the flowers in the yard for any longer than necessary.

Some of the Town Maintenance team have annual leave booked in June so will be short staffed at times.

The weeding will slow down now, and the watering will begin.

Members discussed the Japanese knotweed on Marine way and CJ informed members that we don't touch this at all, but she will ask DCC for an update.

CJ confirmed that the town maintenance team are now able to dispose of waste at Camperdown depot, but the team need to check in before to allow Streetscene to inspect the waste we are disposing.

ACTION: CJ to chase DCC for an update regarding the Japanese Knotweed.

8. To confirm EIB proposal for entry into SW in Bloom competition

CJ met with Exmouth in Bloom to discuss working together for the judging day and the areas to focus on.

Exmouth in Bloom will be entering South West in Bloom, town category. They are not entering any nationals this year as it is too much for them.

Zoey Cooper, Climate and Ecological Emergency Resilience Officer has arranged for a water butt to be installed at the Pavilion which EIB will use for watering the plants.

9. Any other business

The town maintenance team are having trouble disposing of waste such as branches and rosebush cuttings as these don't break down easily for composting. CJ suggested that a hardcore shredder would be useful for this waste and then it can be composted. CJ will purchase one to be kept at the compound in Phear park.

IK reported that the bus shelter at the end of Hulham Road junction with Exeter Road needs weeding and sweeping. CJ said this will be scheduled in.

IK gave an update for information that the EDDC contractor who was parking on the grass is now parking on the road as he should. The grassed area along Dinan Way where Wales and West have placed storage containers on now have no grass. IK is hoping it will be tidied up when they leave.

CJ said that DCC have the power to claim the damage that is caused and added that it may be worth reporting this.

10. To note the date of the next meeting.

13th June 2024 – 10am.

Meeting finished at 3.14pm.