

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Town Maintenance Overview Working Party

Notes of the meeting held on Thursday 13th June 2024 at 10am via Zoom.

Present

Councillor Ian Kirvan	IK	Exmouth Town Council (Chair)
Councillor Olly Davey	OD	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 Maddy Chapman	MC	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Steve Gazzard	SG	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Joy Whipps	JW	Exmouth Town Council

1. Welcome and apologies

IK welcomed members to the meeting. Apologies were noted as above.

2. To approve the notes of the meeting held on 16th May 2024 and any matters arising therein

The notes of the previous meeting held on 16th May 2024 were proposed for approval by DP, seconded by IK, and agreed by all.

Matters arising –

IK flagged up in the last meeting a couple of areas that needed some work, and these are scheduled to take place once team members return from annual leave.

3. To receive an update on graffiti within Exmouth

IK said he had not emailed CJ after the last meeting with his graffiti updates due to the Town Maintenance teams workload. He has noticed some graffiti on a substation, bus shelter on Dinan Way and will email CJ with the details.

There were no other reports of graffiti.

ACTION: IK to email CJ with details of graffiti.

4. To receive an update on grass cutting

CJ updated members that the site meeting with Steven from Idverde was very positive. All the concerns were addressed, and Steven agreed that the work undertaken before his team had taken over was not of a good standard.

Idverde emailed CJ to say that they have finished the first round and any issues to report back to them.

There were a couple of concerns which have been reported and these have now been rectified. CJ asked members to let her know of any issues they come across.

IK added that he is impressed with Steven at Idverde and his communication with responding to emails, addressing any issues and his understanding of the standard of work ETC expected.

Idverde will return at the end of June/early July to complete the next cut. This will be dependent on the weather conditions.

Members discussed how areas are looking better and the number of cuts Idverde are contracted to complete for ETC. For information Ivybridge Town Council has increased its cuts to eight a year now. Members agreed to review how this year looks after the six cuts and discuss the frequency of cuts and the end of the season.

5. To receive an update on general Town Maintenance work

ETC received the delivery of the summer bedding plants which are a mix of perennial and annual plants. The team have worked to a tight deadline and all plants are now in the ground and watered.

The flower towers are all planted up as well as the hanging baskets on the poles in the Magnolia Centre and these are looking really good.

The troughs at the train station have been planted and looking nice.

As Tony is on his own this week he has been focusing on watering.

Internal grass cutting will commence when Neil returns from annual leave and the team will get round to the various locations that need work doing as well as completing work on the overgrown footpaths.

The team will be helping with some work in preparation for the Exmouth in Bloom judging day on 18th July 2024 and then they will be focussing on the Exmouth Festival.

CJ said that she hasn't purchased the shredder yet. She is currently reviewing options available and will let members know when the investigations are complete.

Member discussed the length of the contract with Idverde and the Town Council's decision to take grass cutting in-house at the end of the contract. The length on the lease of the compound in Phear park was also discussed as we are now into the third year of the 7-year lease and this space would be too small to house additional equipment and vans when more work is taken in-house. Members felt that the town council need to be mindful that an alternative space for the town maintenance team will be needed and consideration to this should be given when considering new premises.

6. Any other business

IK has noticed the footpath down from Lidl to the Prince of Wales Drive is overgrown with brambles once again and although he knows this is DCC's responsibility he asked if this could be added to the Town Maintenance teams schedule due to it being passed to ETC previously.

He will report the footpath on Bystock Road to DCC as this is a highways issue.

ACTION: IK to report footpath on Bystock Road to DCC.

7. To note the date of the next meeting.

11th July 2024 – 10am.

Meeting finished at 11.16am.