EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Town Maintenance Overview Working Party

Notes of the meeting held on Thursday 21st March 2024 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 Joy Whipps	JW	Exmouth Town Council
Chetna Jones	CJ	Exmouth Town Council
Sam Dorman (note taker)	SD	Exmouth Town Council

Apologies

Councillor Steve Gazzard	SG	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Matt Hall	MH	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor David Poor	DP	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 15th February 2024 and any matters arising therein**

The notes of the previous meeting held on 15th February 2024 were proposed for approval by MC, seconded by JW, and agreed by all.

Matters arising -

Item 7 - Update on the Colony tri-party clear up project

The colony clean up went well. East Devon District Council came well equipped and provided a lot of support. Devon County Council came with their gully cleaning trucks and did some road patching.
A few residents came out to help and some to complain about having to move their cars.
All the roads and service lanes were cleared and overall, the outcome was a success. It was noted that it was a shame there was not more community involvement.
OD gave credit to CJ for pulling all three councils together and working in partnership and thanked everyone who helped.

Item 8 - To discuss the landscaping proposals for the Gateway project

Stuart Jarvis, principal transport planning officer at Devon County Council, requested that a representative from Exmouth Town Council and Exmouth in Bloom meet with

him to discuss what form of landscaping would bed most suitable in the area by the train station. CJ, IK, and EIB members met with Stuart and the landscaping consultants who will be doing the design work for the landscaping proposals. SJ explained that DCC does not have the budget for future maintenance for this area and suggested that ETC and EIB may be able to help.
CJ explained that neither ETC or EIB had the resources to maintain additional areas and that it was a shame that a lot of what was there already such as the flower towers and troughs would need to be removed as they added a splash of colour to a large grey concrete area. Some minimal maintenance proposals were discussed, and the consultants took on board the feedback that CJ, IK, and Exmouth in Bloom provided. They confirmed that they will come back with an update. CJ stressed that neither she or IK had the authority to agree to take on anything without the agreement of the Town Council and that the final designs will need to be presented to the town council before any decision is made.

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

IK emailed CJ with a list of locations where he has noticed graffiti and explained the locations to members and that he has also noticed graffiti on some resident's fences and a wall.

4. **To receive an update on EDDC winter work**

CJ has queried the invoice received (circulated to members prior to meeting) as this is much higher than expected and has asked EDDC for a detailed breakdown of the cost for the grass cutting and winter work that has been completed during 2023/2024 It was agreed by members that some areas have not been cut and work didn't start until as late as June/July 2023. CJ confirmed she has asked the finance officer to hold payment until she has received this information and will share with members.

An initial response has been received to say they will look through the work and come back to her.

5. **To discuss work required before commencement of new grass cutting contract**

IK asked if the Town Maintenance team could cut back the following areas before the new grass cutting contract commences; AR1 to AR6 Ashleigh Road, MH2 Marpool Hill opposite Phear Park where a dead bush will need removing and another bush needs shaping and tidying up. Also, along Dinan Way, the footpath by Bunn Road, northern side up to the corner of Bystock Road has become overgrown. CJ confirmed that she will get this sorted in the next couple of weeks.

Contracts have been signed in principle and a definitive version has been circulated for both parties to sign and date.

Idverde will also commence the Pedestrian Traffic Island weed clearing work, as agreed at the last meeting, but has asked for a preliminary site meeting to confirm.

ACTION: IK to let CJ know his availability so she can arrange a date to meet with Idverde.

6. **To receive details of a concern by a resident to display the Pride flags and agree how we should proceed**

An email was received from a member of the public who voiced his concern about the Pride flag being flown and that he felt it was against the principles as stated in the bible. CJ read the email received to members along with the reply that was sent to them, highlighting ETC follows government guidance. CJ explained that the member of public had come back and asked which committee had discussed the matter which was why she arranged for the Town Maintenance Overview working party to review the matter.

The Town Maintenance Overview Working party which is responsible for the flagpoles and therefore flags, agreed that government guidance was being adhered to and were happy to continue flying the Pride flags.

After discussing the matter members unanimously agreed that ETC should continue flying the Pride flags when asked by the organisation.

7. **To receive an update on general Town Maintenance work**

The team completed work at the colony clean up at the end of February. Since then, they have been weed cleaning Maer Road and they are currently doing some work at Maple Drive and completed some essential grounds maintenance work.

The flower towers and flower beds are not looking the best, and it is thought this is because of the extremely wet weather. CJ asked members to consider whether we should continue with winter plants in the future as they are not surviving, and money is being wasted. CJ added the same applies to summer plants and suggested keeping it simple with a limited number of flower bedding to add colour and add a few perennials which will also look good in the winter. Alternatives were suggested and CJ made a note of them.
OD added that he had spoken to Marion Drew who had visited RHS Wisley, and she had said that there was not one bedding plant in site. He suggested that we try planting some bulbs in the flower beds.

Neil is now on annual leave for two weeks.

All vans have been in for a service and Neils van is being fixed after the recent incident in the Magnolia Centre.

The Town Maintenance team gave feedback to CJ to say how easy it was having a road sweeper when completing work in the colonies. IK also observed how much easier it was with a road sweeper assisting the team.

MC asked CJ if ETC are going to provide any training courses for the Town Maintenance team. CJ said that she has spoken with Lisa Bowman and asked her to raise this at the next HR meeting.

8. **Any other business**

OD attended an allotment association meeting and members asked for an update on the Pound Lane bank as the brambles are taking over.
CJ explained that we have made a rod for our own back because now the slow worms are all settled. CJ has consulted with Exmouth Wildlife group for advice, and they are going to consult with an ecologist to see what can be done to tidy the bank up without harming the wildlife.

IK reported that the green lamppost at the entrance to LED Leisure Centre is not working. He has tried to report this to Devon County Council, but they said the lamppost is the responsibility of East Devon District Council. He asked if OD could follow up on this.

9. To note the date of the next meeting

18th April 2024 – 10am

Meeting finished at 11:46