EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Town Maintenance Overview Working Party

Notes of the meeting held on Thursday 17th April 2025 at 10am via Zoom.

Present

Councillor Ian Kirvan	IK	Exmouth Town Council (Chair)
Councillor Maddy Chapman	MC	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor David Poor	DP	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Steve Gazzard	SG	Exmouth Town Council
Chetna Jones	CJ	Exmouth Town Council
Sam Dorman (note taker)	SD	Exmouth Town Council

Apologies

Councillor Dianne Conduit	DC	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Olly Davey	OD	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 13th March 2025 and any matters arising therein**

The notes of the previous meeting held on 13th March 2025 were proposed for approval by SG, seconded by MC, and agreed by all.

Matters arising:

Item 2 – Damaged verges

IK raised the ongoing issue of the damaged verges and that the verges remain unchanged since the last inspection. CJ said that DCC might have attempted to level the verges out and grass seed had been put down. CJ suggested inspecting the verges in a months' time.

Item 4 – Grass cutting

CJ, IK and SG met with Idverde to look around areas they are contracted to cut. It was agreed with Idverde that some verges in the Withycombe area such as Green Close and Colleton Way and Dinan Way will be left for them to recover as the ruts are so deep. IK added the narrow strip of grass on the right-hand junction with St Johns Road / Dinan Way, had not been cut.

ACTION: CJ to arrange for overhanging growth to be cut by the TM team to enable Idverde to cut the small strip of grass on St john's Road/Dinan Way to be cut.

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

Members discussed graffiti and how there was the odd tag around but nothing major. IK mentioned that the recent graffiti reported to Lisa Bowman was quickly addressed by the Town Maintenance team.

Fernbank are responsible for maintaining their bus shelters and any graffiti issues should be reported to them. IK asked if we could obtain a list of Fernbank bus shelters.

ACTION: CJ/SD to email Fernbank to ask for an updated list of their bus shelters.

4. **To receive an update on grass cutting**

Members discussed the progress of grass cutting in Exmouth. Idverde has completed the last cut of the 2024-25 season. IK noted that the grass had started to grow again due to the dry weather and also pointed out a few missed areas during the last cut, including a strip on Salterton Road up from Bronte Court and a small triangular area at the end of Parkside Drive/Dinan Way. He also expressed his annoyance at the wild garlic left uncut.

CJ updated members that payments were being finalised to Idverde and that she has not yet received an invoice for Marine Way Bank work.

Grass cuts need to be completed early in the year, April, May and June (weather dependant) as this really makes a difference. Idverde will confirm the date of their first cut which is due in April 2025.

IK informed members that from the meeting with Idverde some minor amendments to the grass cutting contract have been made.

- Small section at the end of Marpool Hill MH2 – removed.
- Dinan Way, small areas of verge at the bottom of Gorse Lane GL1– removed. Whilst not being cut it was agreed that Idverde would cut a small strip of the bank on the far side of the road.

These areas will now be maintained by ETC Town Maintenance team.

Members discussed a footpath near Goodmores Development and why the grass had been ripped up. IK suspected that there will be further amendments to the grass cutting contract with the new crossings being put in place.

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

CJ provided an update on the Town Maintenance team's work, including weeding in various streets, grass cutting, grounds maintenance and watering.

The Ranger has been in the garage for repairs as the clutch failed. This is now fixed and has had a MOT and service done. Watering was more a challenge with the Ranger out of service.

Members discussed the Town Maintenance team's vehicles and how the Ranger has had a lot of issues. CJ felt that the Ranger takes a hit with pulling the water bowser and the stopping and starting and said that when the vehicles are due for renewal it would be better to have two vehicles that are able to pull the water bowser to share the load.

The Town Maintenance team's new starter joined on 1st April. He has completed his Health and Safety training, First Aid training and Highway Safety Awareness course. CJ is looking to enrol him onto Chapter 8 training and reached out to DCC to ask if they would pay for the training.

The lawnmower was serviced a couple of months ago and is working fine.

CJ and the Town Maintenance team have reviewed the log keeping practices and identified areas for improvement, including the need for vehicle fire extinguishers, which have been ordered.

The road sweeper will be delivered on 1st May, with training provided that day. CJ explained the initial plan to have multiple staff members operate it while they learn how to use it effectively and have picked a preliminary area to trial.

CJ and the team have agreed to create zones to work on and not respond to individual requests outside of planned areas. CJ mentioned she is preparing press releases to announce the new equipment. Members briefly discussed coordinating with EDDC Street Scene team and the potential issues that may arise with waste disposal from the sweeper.

6. Any other business

No other business.

Date of Next Meeting:

The date of the next meeting is 15th May 2025 at 10am.