EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Town Maintenance Overview Working Party

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

Present

Councillor Ian Kirvan	IK	Exmouth Town Council (Chair)
Councillor Maddy Chapman	MC	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Dianne Conduit	DC	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Olly Davey	OD	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Steve Gazzard	SG	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor David Poor	DP	Exmouth Town Council
Chetna Jones	CJ	Exmouth Town Council

Apologies

Sam Dorman	SD	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 12th June 2025 and any matters arising therein**

The notes of the previous meeting held on 12th June 2025 were proposed for approval by OD, seconded by DC, and agreed by all.

Matters arising:

Item 6 – Any other business (Litter Bins)

Members discussed the removal of two litter bins on Dinan Way by Cheshire Road.

IK added that he had been copied into an email sent from a resident to East Devon District Council and District Councillors, but the resident had not received a response.

CJ explained that a freeze was in place on new and replacement litter and dog waste bins as they are currently under review by East Devon District Council and will check the status.

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

IK provided details of graffiti he had identified –

- Bus shelters at Jubilee Drive just up from Vansittart Drive, Gypsy Lane (opposite the Community College), and The Strand (memorial side).

- Substations on Victoria Road (near the Beach Pub) and Imperial Road (by the car garage).

The graffiti previously reported by DC remains unaddressed. Members expressed ongoing frustration at the slow or absent response to graffiti reports, especially in tourist-heavy areas.

OD mentioned that the East Devon District Council app can be used to report graffiti, fly-tipping, and other issues. It includes GPS tagging and status updates. While this app is helpful, members noted the limitations in follow-up—reports often lead to no action unless the graffiti is offensive or on public property.

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

CJ reported that since the last meeting where she reported missed areas to Idverde, their contractors have been back out to rectify the areas missed.

Idverde are currently working in the area, some areas appear missed, but members agreed to monitor the work and follow up if areas remain uncut by the end of the week.

IK reported areas missed or needing attention –

- BL4 and BL5 – near Littleham shops.
- MH2 and MH5 – Marpool Hill. MH5 in particular looks untouched and may have been skipped for multiple months.
- Small patch of grass by Bronte Court. No code available.

Members discussed an ongoing issue with a resident in Bunn Road who has verbally abused ETC staff and contractors when they attempt to cut a public verge outside her home, claiming this is to protect biodiversity. As a result, contractors have avoided fully cutting the area to prevent confrontation.

Members agreed that staff and contractors should not face abuse for fulfilling council duties and that a formal letter should be sent on behalf of the Town Council to the resident:

- Confirming the council's obligation to maintain the verge for public safety.
- Highlighting existing biodiversity initiatives elsewhere in the town.

MC proposed "**To recommend that the Deputy Town Clerk writes to the resident of Bunn Road, Exmouth on behalf of Exmouth Town Council".** The proposal was seconded by DC and agreed by all.

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

The Town Maintenance team have completed the following grounds work:

- Grass cutting and upkeep of the rose bed in the Magnolia Centre.

- Provided gazebos for community events
- Overgrowth cleared at Lambeth Walk ahead of In Bloom judging.
- Maintenance at Gorfin Hall (now under council remit).
- Some footpaths cleared following resident requests.
- Cleared Pound Lane pathway after a DCC complaint. The maintenance team used manual tools to scrape back overgrowth.

IK added that the footpaths at the top of Brixington Lane and Marley Road on its North side of Dinan Way still need cutting back.

CJ reported the issue at Pound Lane Bank regarding a slow worm problem. The bank is a Council-owned bank (outside allotment fence) and now hosts many protected slow worms which means the team are unable to cut this bank at all. CJ has reached Exmouth Wildlife Group for some guidance but with no luck and is now unsure what to do with this bank.

IK suggested reaching out to James Chubb at EDDC Countryside team.

The Road Sweeper had encountered a few issues which has been resolved, however there was a problem with the hydraulics which held up any work taking place. Hydraulics are now repaired and new weed ripper brushes installed.

The schedule for the sweeper will resume next week, continuing from where it left off. There will be a reduced operation due to staff leave in late July and August. Looking ahead to September and October the team will be fully staffed, and this will provide an opportunity to maximise the road sweeper use and catch up on the schedule.

CJ added that the GPS tracking system is still not working and support from the supplier is pending.

Ongoing daily watering duties are also limiting team availability.

Exmouth in Bloom Judging Day takes place Tuesday 22nd July 2025 and the team have been active in preparing the town — signage, painting, and general tidying.

The Town Maintenance team and Streetscene have trialled a vinegar-based weed killer with good results in dry weather. This could be a viable low-impact alternative for future weed control.

ACTION: CJ to contact James Chubb – EDDC Countryside team to seek some advice.

6. Any other business

IK raised concerns which he had received via an email from DC about the dirty state of town centre pavements. He apologised for not replying to the email.

The pavements are heavily soiled with grease, grime, and chewing gum — especially, outside the Strand Cinema, near takeaways, and across the entire town centre (Tesco, Imperial Rd, etc.).

MC added that the licensed businesses (especially takeaways) are legally responsible for keeping pavements outside clean and this includes removing grease and litter as part of their licensing conditions. Environmental Health and Licensing officers can and should enforce this.

ACTION: DC to take early-morning photos of problem areas (e.g. outside takeaways) for evidence and photos to be sent to the East Devon District Council to prompt action and enforcement.

DC reported weeds on roads and pavements in Phear Avenue, Greenhill Avenue and Turner Avenue. CJ said that she will arrange for the areas to be weed sprayed using the vinegar-based solution as the area is too congested for the road sweeper or manual weed ripper.

Date of Next Meeting:

The date of the next meeting is 14th August 2025 at 10am.