EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Town Maintenance Overview Working Party

Notes of the meeting held on Thursday 14th August 2025 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 Steve Gazzard	SG	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor David Poor	DP	Exmouth Town Council
Chetna Jones	CJ	Exmouth Town Council
Sam Dorman	SD	Exmouth Town Council

Apologies

Councillor Dianne Conduit	DC	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 17th July 2025 and any matters arising therein**

The notes of the previous meeting held on 17th July 2025 were proposed for approval by SG, seconded by MC, and agreed by all.

Matters arising:

- **Bunn Road Verge** – No response to the formal letter issued. Resident has placed a handmade blue heart on the verge at the end of her driveway, not linked to Exmouth in Bloom. Verge is within a visibility splay but not currently a safety concern. Members agreed to monitor and, if necessary, refer to DCC.
- **Town Centre Pavements** – No update from DC on photographs or contact with businesses. MC reiterated that licensed businesses are responsible for cleaning pavements outside their premises and will refer to Cllr Joe Whibley (Chair of Licensing at EDDC) if necessary.
- **Pound Lane bank** – CJ has contacted James Chubb (EDDC Countryside Team) but he is on annual leave until mid-August. Follow-up to be made once he returns.

3. **To receive an update on bus shelters**

CJ confirmed the Fernbank contract has been signed. ETC has provided its shelter list to Fernbank and is awaiting confirmation of which shelters are covered.
Some older EDDC-owned shelters, including those on Bradham Lane and Moorfield

Road, remain in poor condition. It was noted that some shelters were historically funded via DCC councillor locality funds and these may be maintained by ETC.

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

Graffiti levels are currently low. Minor tag reported on Perspex of Pines Road shelter. DP reported that the Lidl bus shelter seat has been painted blue; paint thickness may make removal difficult. CJ to inspect and determine if cleaning is feasible.

ACTION: CJ to arrange inspection of Lidl bus shelter and removal of tag on Pines Road bus shelter.

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

Members noted that the grass remains extremely dry and brown, with little growth, due to a prolonged lack of rainfall. Idverde had indicated plans to proceed with a cut; however, it was agreed that this would cause more harm than good and represent poor value for money. It was therefore agreed to request a postponement of the next cut until September, unless weather conditions improve. Members also discussed the potential benefit of leaving the grass slightly longer in early summer to improve drought resilience. CJ confirmed that three cuts have been completed so far this year.

ACTION: CJ to request Idverde postpone next cut until September.

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

CJ updated members that recent work has focused primarily on watering duties due to the ongoing dry weather. Staff leave has reduced operational capacity. Some road sweeping and weed removal has been undertaken, resulting in visible improvement; however, regrowth has been rapid. Some footpath strimming work is still outstanding.

Members discussed issues with weeds in gutters approx. 2ft high in Douglas Avenue (near the Deaf Academy). CJ explained that while the area is on the maintenance list, the team has only managed weed clear approximately once per year due to resource constraints. IK suggested using the alternate weed spray purchased recently. However, it was noted that spraying on road weeds would be expensive as the product costs approximately £70 per 10 litre containers.

The condition of roses in the town beds was discussed, with IK noting that the plants were struggling due to dry weather.

CJ mentioned plans to approach local businesses for sponsorship to maintain the Magnolia centre beds and when informing Devon County Council she was asked to confirm ETC's involvement. After reviewing records, CJ replied to DCC Highways

that the town council had been maintaining the beds in-house for five years and prior to that paid East Devon District Council to maintain them. In 2010 DCC handed over ground's maintenance responsibility to ETC and at the time confirmed that ETC were able to use sponsorship income to help with the cost of maintaining these areas. CJ clarified that ETC was not seeking financial assistance but would welcome the County Council's involvement if they wished to take over the maintenance.

7. Any other business

IK raised concerns about weeds around the traffic islands and discussed possible solutions. CJ noted that the issue could be addressed using the sweeper by adjusting the brush settings and added that she would review the winter maintenance schedule for traffic islands.

Members discussed issues with overgrown weeds and brambles on footpaths. IK suggested purchasing a long reach hedge trimer for the team to use. CJ advised that the team were able to do the work but by taking on more responsibilities they were being taken away from other work such as road weed clearing with the sweeper. CJ suggested that such matters should continue to be reported to DCC. Members agreed and IK confirmed he will report the problem areas to DCC.

ACTION: IK to report problem areas to DCC.

8. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 11th September 2025 at 10:00am via Zoom.