EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Town Maintenance Overview Working Party

Notes of the meeting held on Thursday 5th February 2026 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 Graham Deasy	GD	Exmouth Town Council (ex officio)
Chetna Jones	CJ	Exmouth Town Council
Sam Dorman (note taker)	SD	Exmouth Town Council

Apologies

Councillor Dianne Conduit	DC	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Steve Gazzard	SG	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor David Poor	DP	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 8th January 2026 and any matters arising therein**

The notes of the previous meeting held on 8th January 2026 were proposed for approval by MC, seconded by OD, and agreed by all.

Matters arising:

Item 2

IK emailed Councillor Jeff Trail to arrange a site visit regarding drainage issues. Although Councillor Jeff Trail replied, no visit took place. He did advise that individual businesses are responsible for maintaining their own drainage channels and grilles. The footpath drains on both sides of Imperial Road, and the Parade are the responsibility of Devon County Council. Members noted that most businesses are likely unaware of their maintenance obligations. IK will report the footpath drainage issues to Devon County Council via their online system.

Member expressed concerns that many drains across Exmouth are blocked and it seems that the drains are only cleared when flooding is imminent. Members agreed for the issue to be raised at the Full Council meeting on Monday where County Councillors may be present.

DC previously photographed overflowing commercial bins around Tower Street, Queen Street and nearby areas. New photos show the situation has worsened, not improved. CJ contacted Environmental Health who confirmed an officer has been assigned to investigate and will conduct a site visit. Businesses can be issued formal letters requiring proper waste storage, locked bins and to clean and tidy waste areas. If businesses fail to comply, bins can be removed entirely. No update has been received yet, but action is expected in due course. CJ will update Environmental Health after a fox was seen feeding on waste in the area, highlighting the growing hygiene and public health risk.

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

Several pieces of street furniture in the Magnolia Centre have recently been tagged with bright yellow marker after a long period without incidents. The wooden doors in Manor Gardens, previously heavily graffitied, were also marked again. The issue has been reported to StreetScene, and the Town Maintenance team has removed graffiti from all items within their responsibility.

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

A site meeting with Idverde is scheduled for 4 March 2026. Members noted that contractors have begun work on Dinan Way near Gorse Lane, including digging footpaths and installing street-lighting cables. The project also includes creating a grass-crete parking area for maintenance vehicles working on the new traffic lights. Concerns were raised about potential disturbance to the recently replaced gas main.

Members welcomed the improvements at Pound Lane/Hulham Road, reporting noticeably better traffic flow and safety.

Two grass cuts remain in the current financial year, though only one is likely to be utilised due to wet ground conditions. There is hope that mid-March will be dry enough to allow a cut.

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

IK thanked the Town Maintenance team for the significant improvement at the Claremont Grove traffic-light junction, where heavy weed growth had been raised previously. The area was weed-ripped and cleaned, resulting in a visibly improved junction.

CJ reported progress on the weed-ripping and road-sweeping programme, with work completed around Byron Way, Shakespeare Way, Jubilee Drive and nearby streets. The team is now working around Old Bystock Road, with some narrow roads requiring manual removal where machinery cannot access. Members noted that progress has accelerated since earlier rounds cleared the heaviest detritus, and several members commented on the visible improvement across the town. CJ added that the sweeper

should complete one more round before summer growth begins, after which the focus will shift to planting and seasonal maintenance.

The team has also tidied several planted beds, including Chapel Hill roundabout. The tall palm-type plant on the roundabout, although does not obstruct visibility on the roundabout, visibility is limited for views across the far side. Unfortunately the plant cannot be cut back and would need be fully completely and likely to create a very large hole.

CJ outlined plans for summer planting, emphasising colour and increased use of perennials. Bulbs planted in the Magnolia Centre beds are now emerging and improving the appearance of the area.

Exmouth in Bloom will not enter the 2026 South West in Bloom competition due to ill health of key members. The category for Exmouth has changed due to the increase in population of the town. This will place the town against much bigger, council-run entrants. EIB will continue their usual planting and maintenance but cannot take on the additional administrative workload required for this year's competition.

CJ also raised the issue of the Concorde model previously displayed in the Magnolia Centre. Although believed by some to have been gifted to the town, it is not listed as a Town Council or EDDC asset. The plaque indicates it was unveiled by the Royal Air Force Association. The model is currently held by the RAF, and Squadron Leader Richard Bagwell is advocating for its public display, with a suggested location near the WWII memorial on the seafront. Members expressed safety concerns due to the model's construction. CJ noted that the Town Council must decide whether to take ownership, and any installation would require planning permission, EDDC approval, and a working group. This will be discussed at the Premises and Assets Working Party later today.

All maintenance vehicles are undergoing annual MOTs and servicing. The Transit and Berlingo are complete, and the Ranger is due in May. The fleet is believed to be in year four of a five-year lease, so the working party will need to decide whether to retain or replace them at the end of the term. Members reiterated long-term aspirations for electric vehicles, though current charging infrastructure and towing limitations make this unfeasible.

Finally, the team's yard is experiencing over a foot of standing water. Containers are raised and protected, but flooding remains severe. A drainage contractor will investigate once water levels drop enough to allow camera access.

6. Any other business

No other business.

7. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 5th March 2026 at 10:00am via Zoom.