EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Town Maintenance Overview Working Party

Notes of the meeting held on Thursday 7th May 2026 at 10am via Zoom.

Present

Councillor Ian Kirvan	IK	Exmouth Town Council (Chair)
Councillor Maddy Chapman	MC	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Graham Deasy (ex officio)	GD	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Steve Gazzard	SG	Exmouth Town Council
Chetna Jones	CJ	Exmouth Town Council
Sam Dorman	SD	Exmouth Town Council

Apologies

Councillor Olly Davey	OD	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 5th February 2026 and any matters arising therein from the informal notes of 9th April 2026**

The notes of the previous meeting held on 5th February 2026 were proposed for approval by MC, seconded by IK, and agreed by all.

Under matters arising from 9 April 2026, members discussed the condition of the Maer toilets. Several previously reported issues, including a faulty urinal sensor and outdated signage, remain unresolved. CJ reported that Lisa Bowman has already reported these problems but was still waiting for a response. It was also noted that no Service Level Agreement is currently in place, and the council is seeking clearer information on expected cleaning and maintenance standards.

An enquiry was received from the Street Scene Depot regarding ongoing water charges at the former Chapel Hill fountain site. Although the fountain has been out of use for several years, a standing charge continues to be applied. Lisa Bowman has confirmed with Streetscene that the water is not used as it was closed over.

Concerns were raised about overhanging vegetation affecting visibility at the Dinan Way / St John's Road junction. This has been reported to Devon County Council, with photographs provided, and a response is awaited.

Weeding at Littleham Cross and the nearby traffic island remains scheduled. CJ will provide an update following a meeting with Tony next week.

Members also discussed the potential transfer of public toilet assets from East Devon District Council to Exmouth Town Council. Further information has been requested to allow a full assessment of costs, responsibilities and long-term implications. Members stressed the importance of receiving this detail in good time to support informed decision-making.

IK noted that some of the graffiti he had reported still had not been cleaned. CJ explained that while some areas had been addressed, the team were unable to remove graffiti in other locations due to the type of paint used. Additional checks will be carried out to ensure all reported sites are fully reviewed.

ACTION: CJ to provide an update to members on the matters discussed.

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

No new graffiti reported.

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

Members received an update on the recent grass-cutting. Cuts were completed at the end of March and again last week, with the usual locations including Salterton Road, Marpool Hill and Green Close are now looking well maintained.

Members noted that the most recent cut was a clear improvement on the March visit, which had been affected by poor weather. A few minor issues were raised, such as untrimmed edges along Dinan Way and at the end of Pines Road, which will be passed on to Idverde as reminders for the next round.

The section between Brixington (Bunn Road to Gorse Lane) has also improved following earlier concerns about reinstatement work. Debris has been cleared and the area reseeded, though growth will depend on rainfall.

CJ will confirm the latest cut before authorising payment and will request that kerbside edges and the small, missed areas are addressed next time. The next cut is expected in early June.

A resident enquiry about why certain verges were being cut was noted. ETC explained that urban verges are maintained for safety and visibility, while other areas are managed for wildlife in line with the council's environmental policy.

Overall, members agreed that grass-cutting standards have improved compared with previous years and that Idverde now has a clearer understanding of expectations.

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

MC reported that a small patch of grass near 71 Ivydale has been missed. This area was previously maintained by Brian Cole before he became unwell, and although it

had been added to the Town Maintenance teams schedule, it appears to have been overlooked again. CJ said she will investigate this further.

CJ provided an update on general town maintenance. Weed-clearing work had been delayed due to a hydraulic fluid leak on the road sweeper, caused by a failed seal. The machine has since been repaired and is back in use.

The team has been working in the Byron Way and Shakespeare Way area and will soon move into Jubilee Drive and Rowlstone Close. Alongside this, they have been clearing well-used footpaths, watering, cutting grass, and tidying flower beds. Work was carried out around the Town Hall, including clearing storage areas, setting up the mayor's parlour and other general DIY jobs whilst the road sweeper was out of action. The team has also supported preparations for the Art Festival and the Princess Royal's visit to the Deaf Academy.

Looking ahead to summer planting, CJ explained that the Town Hall flower beds will be tidied but largely left as they are, so the team can see which perennial plants emerge. Four spare hanging baskets will be used at the entrance, though sourcing strong poles has been difficult. Suggestions were made to contact Point Iron Works or the Men's Shed for help.

Concerns were raised about the appearance of the Town Hall steps, which have become slippery and "murky, and it was agreed that any additional work in the Town Hall, such as pressure washing, should be directed through the Assets and Premises Working Party.

IK noted that due to heavy debris from trees this year, it may be helpful for the team to sweep before weeding in certain areas to prevent blockages.

6. Any other business

GD shared an update about the upcoming 200th anniversary event at the Deaf Academy. He explained that the Princess Royal would be visiting the following morning, arriving by helicopter, spending the late morning at the Academy before travelling on to Exeter University. He noted that the event was very much being run by the Academy, and his role would simply be to stand in the meet-and-greet line, while Jess (Arts Manager) would be running a workshop.

7. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 4th June 2026 at 10:00am via Zoom.