EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Town Maintenance Overview Working Party

Notes of the meeting held on Thursday 1st October 2026 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 David Poor	DP	Exmouth Town Council
Chetna Jones	CJ	Exmouth Town Council
Sam Dorman (note taker) left at 10.50	SD	Exmouth Town Council

Apologies

Councillor Graham Deasy (ex officio)	GD	Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Steve Gazzard	SD	Exmouth Town Council

1. **Welcome and apologies**

IK welcomed members to the meeting.

2. **To approve the notes of the meeting held on 6th August 2026 and any matters arising.**

The notes of the previous meeting held on 6th August 2026 were proposed for approval by OD, seconded by MC, and agreed by all.

Matters arising –

Item 2

IK updated members on the Magnolia Centre bench project, which has now been approved by Full Council. CJ confirmed as the original bench was built into the wall and is a non-standard size, replacing it with a purchased bench would be costly. CJ proposed constructing a bespoke bench using recycled composite material like that used by Rotary at the former clock site, with Tony offering to assist with the installation. Members supported the idea as a practical and cost-effective solution. CJ will contact Rotary for details of the materials used and report back. It was also noted that some supporting framework may need replacing as part of the project.

Item 4

CJ provided an update on the Marine Way Bank grass-cutting project, which had been discussed at the previous meeting. Following consideration of the quotations, the work had now been completed by Idverde.

3. **To consider replacement of lease vans**

Members reviewed the future of the Council's leased vehicles, which are due for replacement in 2027. CJ outlined the lease costs, end dates and purchase prices for the Ford Transit tipper, Citroën Berlingo and Ford Ranger.

There was strong support for purchasing the Berlingo, as it has low mileage, has been reliable and represents good value compared with the cost of a new lease. Members also agreed that the Transit tipper has been a dependable work vehicle and requested further information on its mileage, condition and service history before deciding whether to purchase it.

The Ranger remains a concern due to recurring issues when towing the water bowser. Members agreed that further investigation is needed into alternative vehicles and specialist advice should be sought before a replacement is chosen.

Members agreed to recommend purchasing the Berlingo, explore purchasing the Transit subject to due diligence, and undertake further research into options for replacing the Ranger. This can be reported to the Town Council but a full report will be provided for budget consideration.

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

Members received an update on graffiti across the town. While graffiti levels have remained relatively low, some markings made with permanent marker or paint have been difficult to remove. New graffiti was reported on an electrical cabinet near Exeter Road School, a utility box in Magnolia Walk and traffic signs near Withycombe Church. Members also noted that a dinosaur sculpture on The Strand had been vandalised and snapped from its base.

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

CJ updated members on grass-cutting, including the recently completed work at Marine Way Bank, which was considered to be of a good standard. It was noted that Idverde's use of a robotic mower had produced a neater finish than previous methods.

CJ reported that grass cutting had also been completed at several locations across the town. However, concerns were raised that a number of verges on Bystock Road had been missed, despite nearby areas being cut. Members asked that these locations be highlighted to Idverde and that greater attention be given to edging work during future cuts.

Members also discussed the poor condition of the verge near the new pedestrian crossing at the junction of Dinan Way and Gorse Lane. The area has not been satisfactorily reinstated following utility works and remains patchy, uneven and

overgrown with self-seeded plants. CJ agreed to report the issue to Devon County Council and relevant highways officers, supported by photographs.

Members also noted a report from Idverde of a difficult interaction with a resident during grass-cutting, although no formal complaint had been received.

Members agreed that the grass-cutting invoices, including the Marine Way Bank works, could be processed once the outstanding verge issues had been raised with Idverde.

6. To receive an update on general Town Maintenance work

CJ gave an update on town maintenance work since the previous meeting. Overgrown brambles near Tesco in Churchill Road and vegetation behind the bus shelter opposite McDonald's on Salterton Road had been cleared. Concerns were raised about the condition of several bus shelters, particularly on Salterton Road and near Holy Trinity Church, and CJ advised that enquiries had been made regarding the replacement programme.

Grounds maintenance, road weeding, footpath clearance, hedge cutting and tree-related works have continued across the town. Members discussed the impact of the dry summer on local trees, including reports of dead branches and trees requiring attention.

Road weeding is continuing through residential areas towards the town centre, alongside ongoing watering and preparations for seasonal flower tower changes. Concern was also expressed about the appearance of the Chapel Hill roundabout, and CJ advised that more extensive cutting back and maintenance works are planned to improve the area.

7. Any other business

IK raised the ongoing issue of weed growth on traffic islands, noting that some areas previously cleared are again looking untidy. It was acknowledged that while the town maintenance team are addressing the issue where possible, progress is slow, and members agreed that a longer-term approach should be considered at a future meeting.

CJ added that East Devon District Council had recently requested a demonstration of the Town Council's road-weeding equipment and had been impressed by its effectiveness. It was noted that EDDC may need to consider investing in similar equipment for maintaining areas under its responsibility.

8. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 19th November 2026 at 10:00am via Zoom.