

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Town Maintenance Contracts TAFF

Notes of the meeting held at 11:00am on Thursday 16th July 2020 via Zoom.

Present

Ian Kirvan	IK	Exmouth Town Council (Chairman)
Tony Woodward	TW	Exmouth Town Council
Olly Davey	OD	Exmouth Town Council
Frank Cullis	FC	Exmouth Town Council
Steve Gazzard	SG	Exmouth Town Council (Ex-officio)
Brian Bailey	BB	Exmouth Town Council (Ex-officio)
Chetna Jones	CJ	Exmouth Town Council (Officer)
Mollie Carey	MC	Exmouth Town Council (Note Taker)

Apologies

Joy Whipps	JW	Exmouth Town Council
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1. Welcome and apologies

IK welcomed members to the meeting.

2. To agree the notes of the previous meeting dated 11th June 2020

FC proposed, seconded by TW, to approve the notes of the virtual meeting held on Thursday 11th June 2020.

3. Update from EDDC StreetScene

Although numerous attempts were made to obtain an update from Nick Christo, on the contract work carried out by StreetScene, unfortunately no response had been received.

Members proposed and agreed that CJ contact Nick Christo as follows:

The group is extremely disappointed to not receive an update for its meeting as requested in the email sent by CJ. The group feels that, as a paying customer, they should be kept informed on matters that deviate from the contract.

The group is aware that flower beds which would normally have summer bedding will not be planted with as many summer plants this year. However, it is surprised to see that they have either been left completely empty or unattended. It is understood there have been a few issues, but the group had hoped you would let them know what these were and the plans you had, including the work being done to overcome them.

As you know, the Town Council will re-visit this contract and go through a tender exercise, and customer satisfaction will play a big part in this process.

A debate took place on the merits of using StreetScene and whether to move the work in-house. After much discussion, the Chairman reminded the group that short, mid and long-term plans had already been recommended and agreed by the Town Council and it was best to continue in this manner.

4. To review the draft specification and draft plant plan for the Grounds Maintenance Contract

The group agreed that focus should be on developing a detailed specification for a new Grounds Maintenance contract and seeking tenders for 2021.

The draft Grounds Maintenance Contract Specification and Plant Plan, both of which has previously been circulated, was discussed.

CJ explained that, with Exmouth in Bloom's help (particularly Marion Drew), an initial Plant Plan had been created. The Plant Plan details the minimum requirements needed for each location, but specific plants and the number needed are not included. The intention is to work with the contractor to develop this each year depending on the theme.

The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed, that CJ re-circulate both documents and that councillors should review the documents individually and bring comments to the next meeting. He added it was important to get this right before making any recommendations to the Town Council to approve the contract specification and seek tenders.

5. To review the Grass Verge Cutting Contract

Review of map with layers for grass cutting by DCC, EDDC and ETC to identify overlap and possibility of incorporating into one grass verge cutting contract

Due to time limitations, it was agreed that CJ will circulate the maps showing the three different responsibilities to group members, in order that each councillor may visit and review locations within their ward.

This would also be a productive exercise to identify areas that could be used for wildflower displays. It was agreed that Wild Exmouth be approached to provide expertise.

The Chairman suggested this matter be brought forward to the next meeting to enable councillors to carry out their investigations.

FC mentioned an interesting discussion on the radio about highway verges moving towards promoting wildflowers. He had contacted someone from Exeter University who would be happy to attend a meeting and discuss this matter with the Town

Council at a future date. FC suggested that members read the article which was available via the link <https://www.plantlife.org.uk/uk/our-work/publications/road-verge-management-guide>

6. Any other business

BB discussed the possibility of the purchase of electric vehicles for the Supplementary Town Maintenance Team for future use, as well as the disadvantages of their use. The Chairman confirmed that this was a discussion to be had by the Town Council and it was not appropriate for this group at the present time.

An update on the purchasing of the new lawn mower was provided and CJ confirmed that three models had been identified as suitable and arrangements were being made to view these.

7. To agree the date of the next meeting

It was agreed that the date of the next virtual meeting would be on 13th August at 11am. CJ will circulate an invitation closer to the time.

The meeting finished at 13:45.