



Minutes of the Community & Environment Committee meeting held on Tuesday, September 26, 2023 at 19:00 in Old Lanscore School, Greenway, Credition, EX17 3LP.

Present:	Cllrs Guy Cochran, Liz Brookes-Hocking, Giles Fawssett, Joyce Harris, Natalia Letch, Paul Perriman
Apologies:	Cllr Georgina Stone
Absent:	Cllr John Downes
In Attendance:	Penni Tearle (part meeting) Cllr Rachel Backhouse (part meeting) 2 members of the public (part meeting)
Minute Taker:	Emma Anderson

MINUTES

28 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Cllr Backhouse requested that a working party be set up to tackle the problems regarding weeds and street cleaning in Credition.

It was **agreed** to discuss this under item 8 of the agenda relating to street scene and cleansing.

29 APOLOGIES

It was **resolved** to receive and accept apologies from Cllr G Stone (Proposed by Cllr Cochran)

30 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

- To receive declarations of personal interest and disclosable pecuniary interests (DPI's) in respect of items on this agenda

Cllrs G Cochran and N Letch declared that as members of more than one authority that any views or opinions expressed at this meeting would be provisional and would not prejudice any views expressed at a meeting of another authority.

- To consider any dispensation requests

There were no dispensation requests.

31 ORDER OF BUSINESS

There were no changes to the order of business.

32 CHAIR'S AND CLERK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr Brookes-Hocking advised the committee that two trees were due to be removed in Newcombes Meadow, one of which collapsed earlier in the week. The second tree is still due to be removed 01 November.

33 COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES

It was **resolved** to approve and sign the minutes from the meeting held on 25 July 2023.
(Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

34 ALLOTMENTS

- **To consider the following issues and agree a course of action – Vacant plots, Non-Cultivation Notices and Notices to Quit**

The Deputy Clerk announced that 2 non-cultivation notices and 2 notices to quit had been issued since the last meeting.

- **To consider and agree any rent discounts for the forthcoming year (2023-24)**

It was **resolved** to approve 100% discounts to Dr Tearle's plot for her work and support relating to the allotments and to Mr Beal's plot for his litter picking work.
(Proposed by Cllr Harris)

- **To note updates to the Allotment Rules**

Points 8 and 14 have been updated with reference to number posts and pest control. The allotment rules were **noted**.

Cllr Brookes-Hocking brought attention to the issue of flatworms on allotment sites and gardens. Penni Tearle confirmed there are posters up advising allotment holders what to do if they find one. It was agreed to circulate these posters on social media and noticeboards as well as in the next newsletter.

- **To consider matters raised by the Boniface Allotments Association and allotment tenants and agree any actions**

None raised.

Penni Tearle left the meeting at 19.13

35 STREET SCENE AND CLEANSING

- **To discuss general street scene and concerns raised regarding infrastructure damage due to invasive weeds**

Cllr Cochran explained that both Devon County Council (DCC) and Mid Devon District Council (MDDC) do not have a statutory responsibility to clear the weeds. If the weeds are growing from within an individual's garden, it was agreed this is the responsibility of the homeowner. Cllr Cochran suggested buddleia that is affecting kerb edges, could be reported to DCC.

It was **agreed** to continue to explore the idea of the Road Warden Scheme, as discussed at the previous Full Council meeting, with Cllr N Letch suggesting that the member of the public present may like to volunteer for this role.

The idea of setting up a working group/party for street cleaning was discussed.

It was **resolved** to invite those interested in setting up a working group/party to an initial meeting to discuss what would be involved and the structure of the group. (Proposed by Cllr Cochran). The Deputy Clerk agreed to email the committee to arrange a convenient time.

- **To receive an update on the excessive vegetation growing at Spinning Path Gardens**

It was **resolved** for Cllr N Letch to chase the housing association. (Proposed by Cllr Cochran)

36 LITTER BINS

Members of the public left the meeting at 19.38.

The Deputy Clerk, Cllr Cochran and MDDC's Street Scene lead attended a site visit on 4 August 2023 and this highlighted the reasons why MDDC could not install a bin further up the lane where it was originally requested. The site visit also confirmed that a bin at the bottom of the lane would not be possible due to lack of consent from residents (one of whom expressed these concerns during the site visit).

The two bins at Tarka View have been installed and it was **resolved** to continue to review this walking route and its general condition/cleanliness. (Proposed by Cllr Cochran)

37 QTRA

It was **resolved** to approve the Quantified Tree Risk Assessment (QTRA) and the recommendations therein. (Proposed by Cllr Cochran). The Deputy Clerk advised quotations would be obtained and provided at the next meeting.

38 PROPERTY INSPECTION RECOMMENDATIONS

The Deputy Clerk provided the following updates:

- War Memorial bus shelter – survey carried out and due to be discussed under the next agenda item.
- Jamie Fleming memorial bench – contractor instructed, awaiting date for works to be carried out.
- Oak lectern, Boniface Statue - contractor instructed, awaiting date for works to be carried out.
- Roof tiles on the bandstand – ongoing whilst waiting for war memorial and bus shelter tiles to be assessed. Quotations will be provided at the next meeting.
- Unstable slabs at the Scout Memorial Garden – works complete, at a cost of £320 + VAT.
- Treat the wooden benches, bin, holly planter and noticeboard at the Scout Memorial Garden - contractor instructed, awaiting date for works to be carried out.
- Gate at Spinning Path Gardens – works complete, at a cost of £35 + VAT.
- Pressure washing – contractor instructed, awaiting date for works to be carried out.
- Handrail at Upper Deck – due to be reinspected as contractor advised all railings required attention. Quotations will be provided at the next meeting.

39 WAR MEMORIAL BUS SHELTER

- **To receive the structural inspection report on the war memorial bus shelter**

It was **resolved** to note the structural inspection report. (Proposed by Cllr Cochran)

- **To receive a report and consider the quotations therein to replace the concrete corner plinths on the war memorial bus shelter, following the structural inspection**

It was **resolved** to instruct Contractor A, plus an additional £100 for heras fencing (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

Member of the public entered the meeting at 19.51

40 STONYPARK

It was **resolved** for the land to be left vacant for the next year and the grass to be cut at a cost of £300 in the autumn with a more targeted cut in the spring. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

Cllr Cochran requested that the Deputy Clerk find out whether the price to cut the grass was to cut and drop, leaving the arisings on site. It was **resolved** to give delegated responsibility to the Deputy Clerk and Cllr Cochran with regards to an additional cost for the grass being collected. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

41 REDVERS RAMBLE LEAFLETS

It was **resolved** to print 1000 copies of the "Redvers Ramble & Other Walks" leaflet at a cost of £300. (Proposed by Cllr Harris)

42 20'S PLENTY MOTION

Cllr Cochran suggested writing to Devon Highways and ask them to assess the use of physical barriers (narrowing of the road for example) on Exhibition Road and Jockey Hill to help reduce traffic speed.

Standing orders were suspended

The member of the public present expressed concern that reducing driver speed actually leads to reduced concentration amongst drivers, making them less aware.

Cllr Fawsett explained that research shows reducing cars to 20mph leads to reduced deaths and make the roads safer.

Standing orders were reinstated

Cllr Fawssett reported on positive feedback and support received during the Green Fair on the Town Square.

It was **resolved** to clarify what Devon County Council has agreed with regards to town's setting up 20's Plenty schemes and the costs that would be involved. (Proposed by Cllr Fawssett) This item will be discussed at the next meeting, including consideration into carrying out a survey to obtain the views of residents.

43 HIGH STREET BRACKETS

Member of the public left the meeting at 20.15

It was **resolved** to instruct Contractor A, following approval from Full Council. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

44 PEOPLES PARK WILDLIFE AREA

Cllr Fawssett advised members of a meeting had with the Deputy Clerk and Crediton resident Peter Please, who is highly experienced in gardening and specifically passionate about wildlife and gardening in a sustainable and resourceful way. Peter has kindly volunteered to take on the maintenance of the wildlife area. Tidy up days will be arranged on an ad hoc basis in cooperation with Peter. The Deputy Clerk will also provide regular updates on the progress in the town council newsletter and social media pages as well as creating informative signage for the area.

45 RHS IT'S YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD COMPETITION

The IYN judge, Paul Collier, visited Crediton on 31 July and assessed 6 entries. The awards ceremony is due to take place on Tuesday, 3 October in Truro and Paul will collect the certificates on the town's behalf.

46 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note that the date of the next meeting will be 28 November 2023
The date of the next meeting was **noted**. The meeting was closed at 20.23.

Signed

Dated.....