



Minutes of the Community & Environment Committee meeting of the Democratic Services held on Tuesday, March 26, 2024 at 19:00 in the Old Lanscore School, Greenway, EX17 3LP.

Present:	Cllrs Guy Cochran, Liz Brookes-Hocking, Giles Fawssett, Joyce Harris, Natalia Letch and Paul Perriman
Apologies:	Cllrs John Downes and Georgina Stone
In Attendance:	Penni Tearle, Chair of Boniface Allotment Association 2 members of the public
Minute Taker:	Emma Anderson

MINUTES

84 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Cllr Cochran opened the meeting and members introduced themselves.

85 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no members of the public present.

86 APOLOGIES

Decision: It was **resolved** to receive and accept apologies from Cllrs John Downes and Georgina Stone. (Proposed by Cllr Cochran)

87 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

- There were no declarations of interest.
- There were no requests for dispensations.

88 CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Noted.

89 ORDER OF BUSINESS

There were no amendments to the order of business.

90 CHAIR'S AND CLERK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

Two members of the public entered the meeting at 19.02

91 COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES

Decision: It was **resolved** to approve and sign the minutes from the meeting held on 23 January 2024. (Proposed by Cllr Harris)

92 ALLOTMENTS

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

The Deputy Clerk advised that 3 non-cultivation notices had been issued since the last meeting.

- **To receive a verbal report on the Boniface Allotments Association AGM**

Penni Tearle provided a verbal report on the recent Boniface Allotments Association AGM. The AGM was successful and received positive feedback, particularly the guest speaker. Allotment holders discussed donating surplus produce to the Library food larder and the delivery of compost and wood chippings to allotment sites was also discussed.

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

None raised.

93 CREDITON URBAN TASKFORCE [CUT!]

An update on the Crediton Urban Taskforce (CUT!) was provided by Cllr N Letch. The first action day was a big success with positive engagement on social media. Additionally, the possibility of arranging a community street cleaning event was discussed, and it was agreed this could coincide with the High Street Sweep scheduled for 4th May. The Deputy Clerk agreed to contact MDDC for support, following the cleaning event in Copplestone.

Decision: It was agreed to link a community street cleaning event with the High Street Sweep scheduled for 4th May.

Task: Contact MDDC for support for the community street cleaning event. @Deputy Clerk

94 WELL PARKS HILL

An update on the grass verges and trees planted at Well Parks Hill was given with the Deputy Clerk explaining that the junctions in this area are laid out in such a way as not to create visibility splays that require cutting. It was agreed to request that the grass is cut and cleared once at the end of winter. Regarding the trees, members agreed it would be beneficial to arrange a site visit to assess which trees haven't taken.

Decision: It was agreed to request that the grass is cut and cleared once at the end of winter.

Task: Arrange a site visit to assess the trees at Well Parks Hill.

95 WAR MEMORIAL

A request received from the Royal British Legion (RBL) to decorate the War Memorial prior to D-Day celebrations was noted by members of the committee.

96 UNION ROAD TOILET BLOCK

A report on the Union Road toilet block was presented, including quotations for repair work. The Deputy Clerk explained that two other plumbers have visited the toilet this week and their recommendation was not to replace the toilet, in their opinion the toilet would not have been the cause of the flood. The Deputy Clerk explained the tap needs replacing as it is continuously dripping and had been advised on-site today that this would cost a maximum of £200. It was agreed to replace the tap at a cost of no more than £200, re-open the toilet and carry out daily checks for the first couple of weeks. Members requested a push down tap to ensure water cannot be left running.

Climate emergency considerations: Change to push down tap to prevent water being wasted.

Decision: It was **resolved** to replace the tap with a non-concussive, push down tap, at a cost of no more than £200. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

Task: Instruct plumber to replace the tap. Re-open the toilet and carry out daily checks for the first couple of weeks. @Deputy Clerk

97 BRITAIN IN BLOOM 2024

The Deputy Clerk provided an update on the Britain in Bloom Pennant Award. Crediton has entered the Pennant Award and judging will take place between 1st and 26 July. The Deputy Clerk is currently seeking advice from the South West in Bloom coordinator regarding how to prepare for judging. The IYN competition was promoted on social media to encourage groups to enter. This year there are 8 entries, which include the Wildlife Area, War Memorial floral displays and Town Square displays, all planted by town council volunteers.

98 NO MOW MAY

The council considered joining the No Mow May campaign in 2024. It was discussed that the timing of the cuts would depend on weather conditions. The committee agreed, in principle, to participate in No Mow May, but the final decision would be weather-dependent.

Decision: The council agreed, in principle, to participate in No Mow May.

99 TOWN SQUARE BENCHES

A report on the arrangements for cleaning the Town Square benches was presented. The arrangements for cleaning the Town Square benches were noted and agreed upon.

Decision: It was **resolved** to approve the recommendation within the report. (Proposed by Cllr Cochran)

100 ACTION PLAN

The council discussed replacement wording for a statement in the Action Plan related to the council's response to the climate emergency. The proposed wording was agreed upon, and it was agreed to include the phrase 'and to undertake other projects as appropriate' at the end of the statement.

Decision: It was **resolved** to adopt the following wording: 'Responding to the Climate Emergency, declared by Crediton Town Council in 2019, continue to work with residents to make them aware of their environmental impact, reduce its own use of fossil fuels and to continually review policies to ensure that the council is actively committed to its declaration and to undertake other projects as appropriate.' (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

101 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as **Tuesday, 28 May 2024**. The meeting closed at 19.56.

102 PART II

Decision: It was **resolved** that under section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following items as it involves the likely disclosure of sensitive and confidential information. (Proposed by Cllr Cochran)

103 UNION ROAD TOILET BLOCK

The recommendations contained in the report were discussed and it was agreed to approve the report for full council approval.

Decision: It was **resolved** to approve the recommendations within the report, for full council approval. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

104 REPORTS PACK

Signed

Dated.....