



Minutes of Crediton Town Council's Assets & Amenities Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, 10th November 2020, at 7.00 pm, via Zoom

Present: Cllrs Miss J Harris, Mr F Letch, Mr J Ross, Mr M Szabo, Mrs H Zorlu, Mrs L Martin and Mr J Cairney

In Attendance: Mrs Emma Anderson, Assistant Clerk
Dr Penni Tearle, Chair of Boniface Allotment Association
Mrs Denise Ross, Sustainable Crediton

55 To receive and accept apologies

None received.

56 Declarations of Interest

Cllrs Letch and Cairney declared that as members of more than one authority, that any views or opinions expressed at the meeting would be provisional and would not prejudice any views expressed at a meeting of another authority

57 To note the Virtual Meeting Policy

It was **resolved** to note the Virtual Meeting Policy. (Proposed by Cllr Letch)

58 Public Question Time

Mrs Ross asked the following questions:

- With several planting sites in the Town transferring to local management, would the Town Council consider avoiding bedding plants and instead planting perennials and pollinators?
- As the use of pesticides will affect the Town Council's environmental footprint, could alternatives be considered?

Cllr Harris confirmed both queries would be investigated.

59 Order of Business

There were no changes.

60 Chairman's and Clerk's Announcements

There were no announcements.

61 Committee Meeting Minutes - To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Assets & Amenities Committee meeting held on 15th September 2020. Cllr Zorlu had been recorded as present as well as giving apologies. It was **resolved** to approve the minutes of the Assets & Amenities Committee meeting held on 15th September 2020 as a correct record, following the removal of Cllr Zorlu from the list of present members. (Proposed by Cllr Letch).

62 Allotments**a) To consider the following issues and agree a course of action:**

- **Vacant plots, Non-cultivation Notices and Notices To Quit.**

There are currently no vacant plots. Following the last inspection, 10 non-cultivation notices have been sent and the long-standing notice to quit is still outstanding.

Members discussed one particular plot that is not cultivated and needs addressing carefully. The Town Clerk has sought legal advice with regard to serving notice. The Committee will be updated at the next meeting.

- **Rent discounts for the Barnfield Community Plot**

Following the last meeting, the coordinator of the community plot requested further information regarding the decision made to charge rent on the plot this year. Cllr Harris confirmed the plot would be treated as all other plots this year, but this would be reviewed next year.

b) To consider matters raised by the Boniface Allotments Association and allotment tenants and agree any actions.

Dr Tearle confirmed four complaints had been received recently regarding four plots. These have all been issued non-cultivation notices.

Dr Tearle left the meeting at 7.10 pm

63 To receive an update on the following:

- **Defibrillator scheme renewal**

The current defibrillator scheme is due to expire June 2021. This will be renewed for another 4 years at an approximate cost of £1,800 + VAT, however this price may increase slightly as the 2021 prices have not been released. Cllr Ross requested a piece is included in the next Newsletter showing all defibrillator locations in the Town.

- **Possible protective sealant on the St Boniface Statue**

An anti-graffiti sealant is available online however members agreed it would be better to find a Portland stone expert to discuss this with. The Assistant Clerk agreed to search further afield to locate a specialist.

- **Fingerpost at Jockey Hill**

A local resident has volunteered to repair the fingerpost. Steve Tucker from DCC will be transporting it to the resident's workshop in the coming weeks.

64 To receive a report on the St Boniface Statue following the structural survey carried out and agree any actions.

A copy of the report had been issued prior to the meeting. It was agreed that the Assistant Clerk would obtain quotations for the slabs to be repointed, as well as getting advice on whether a certain material may be better suited to allow for expansion and movement.

65 To receive a report on the condition of the cob wall at Peoples Park and associated remedial works and agree a course of action.

A copy of the report and quotation had been issued with the agenda. It was **resolved** to accept the quotation from Stephen Francis to carry out the remedial works at a cost of £120 plus £10-20 for materials, with the money being allocated from the Peoples Park maintenance budget. (Proposed by Cllr Harris)

66 To receive a quotation for a ladder inspection to be carried out on T3 (Sycamore Tree) at Peoples Park and agree a course of action.

A copy of the quotation had been issued with the agenda. It was **resolved** to accept the quotation from A M Lane at a cost of £249 + VAT, with the money being allocated from the QTRA budget. (Proposed by Cllr Harris)

67 To receive quotations for the Priority Code 2 works following the recent QTRA and agree a course of action.

A copy of the report and quotations had been issued with the agenda. It was **resolved** to instruct Hooper Services (Contractor Four) to carry out the works at Peoples Park and Stony Park, at cost of £1,780 + VAT, with the money being allocated from the tree works budget. (Proposed by Cllr Szabo)

68 To discuss the ongoing maintenance of the bed at Blagdon Corner and agree a course of action.

Cllr Szabo confirmed a local resident has volunteered to maintain this area. He will be meeting with Mr Bert Jewell to agree what can be done. Cllr Ross requested a price be obtained for a new Cherry Tree to be planted in the bed, as the tree planted by Mr Jewell previously has unfortunately been removed at some point.

69 To discuss supplying and planting the summer bedding in the town, following Mid Devon District Council's withdrawal of the service, including the associated costs and to consider a course of action, for approval at Full Council.

Further information had been issued prior to the meeting. Members queried whether Mid Devon District Council (MDDC) has also withdrawn this service in Tiverton and Cullompton. It was agreed for this information to be obtained before agreeing to take on the service.

The following was **resolved** subject to MDDC's response:

- To instruct Mr Bert Jewell to plant the bed at East Street/Charlotte Street at a cost of £127, with the money being allocated from the Floral Crediton plants budget.
- To instruct Mr Bert Jewell to plant Union Road wall at a cost of £78.50 + VAT, with the money being allocated from the Floral Crediton plants budget.
- To make a recommendation to Full Council that a budget be set for 2021-22 to cover the cost of purchasing the plants for the summer bedding as well as the cost of planting, maintaining and removing, based on the costs included within the report.
- In addition, it is recommended that the watering budget for 2021-22 allows for the watering of the additional beds, costing approximately £1,680.

(Proposed by Cllr Harris)

Cllr Ross confirmed he would send a report from the RHS to the Assistant Clerk which contains information regarding the use of pollinators.

70 To discuss installing a bench next to the bus stop by Hillbrow Residential Care Home and agree a course of action. This item has been requested by Cllr Szabo.

It was agreed that the Assistant Clerk would obtain quotations for a bench to be installed. It was suggested that the bench be at least 2 metres long and made from galvanised steel.

71 To discuss purchasing two self-watering stone troughs from Amberol to locate at the War Memorial and agree a course of action. This item has been requested by Cllr Szabo. It was **resolved** to purchase 2 x stone troughs from Amberol at a cost of £213.75 + VAT per planter plus £43 delivery, with the money being allocated from the Floral Crediton planter budget. (Proposed by Cllr Szabo)

72 Clerk's Report

The Assistant Clerk advised members that MDDC were due to carry out the groundworks for the grit bins this week, however Cllr Letch confirmed this has already been undertaken. The Assistant Clerk will place the order for the grit bins and arrange the installation and filling with Devon County Council, the current lead time for delivery is 2-3 days.

73 Close.

The meeting closed at 7.44 pm

Signed
Chairman

Dated.....