



Minutes of Crediton Town Council's Assets & Amenities Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 23 March 2021, at 19.00, via Zoom

Present: Cllrs Miss J Harris, Mr F Letch, Mr J Ross, Mr G Cochran, Mr J Cairney (part meeting), Mrs H Zorlu, Mrs L Martin (part meeting) and Mr M Szabo

In Attendance: Mrs Emma Anderson, Assistant Clerk (part meeting)
Mrs Emily Armitage, Administrative Assistant
Cllr Mr S Huxtable
Dr Penni Tearle, Chair of Boniface Allotment Association
Mrs Denise Ross, Sustainable Crediton
1 member of the public

96 To receive and accept apologies.

None received.

97 Declarations of Interest

Cllrs Letch and Cairney declared that as a member 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.

Cllrs Letch and Zorlu declared a personal interest in agenda item 10 as a mutual relative works for one of the contractors quoting.

98 Public Question Time

Mrs Denise Ross asked two questions, copies of which are attached to these minutes.

99 Order of Business

There were no changes.

100 Chairman's and Clerk's Announcements

There were no announcements.

101 Committee Meeting Minutes - To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Assets & Amenities Committee meeting held on 5th January 2021. It was **resolved** to approve the minutes of the Assets & Amenities Committee meeting held on 5th January 2021 as a correct record. (Proposed by Cllr Letch).

102 Allotments

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

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

The Administrative Assistant reported that a total of 20 Non-cultivation Notices will be issued following recent inspections and 1 Notice To Quit. There are currently no vacant plots.

b) To consider a request from the Barnfield Community Plot for 3 fruit trees to be planted, in addition to 4 existing trees on the plot.

It was **resolved** to grant permission for the Barnfield Community Plot to plant two dwarf fruit trees, in addition to the four existing trees on the plot. (Proposed by Cllr Szabo)

c) To consider matters raised by the Boniface Allotments Association and allotment tenants and agree any actions, including the number of trees on allotment plots.

The Assistant Clerk left the meeting at 19 09 due to technical issues.

The Assistant Clerk returned to the meeting at 19 10.

It was **resolved** to approve the siting of a 6 x 4 ft greenhouse on plot B9 at Barnfield. (Proposed by Cllr Harris)

It was brought to the Committee's attention that three plots have five trees planted on them, therefore exceeding the limit stipulated in the rules. As these are historic issues, some where single plots have merged to become larger plots, no further action was agreed at this time. It was agreed to remind allotment holders of the rules relating to the number and size of trees.

Dr Tearle left the meeting at 19 20.

103 To receive an update on the following:

- **Installation of bench by Hillbrow Care Home**

Awaiting confirmation from Devon County Council regarding which portion of land is not maintained by Devon Highways.

- **Stone troughs to be located by the War Memorial**

The existing troughs have been moved to outside the toilet block and Mr Bert Jewell is in possession of the new troughs, ready for planting in the Spring.

- **Fingerpost at Jockey Hill**

The refurbishment is in progress with all materials purchased.

- **Repainting of the slabs surrounding the St Boniface Statue**

It was **resolved** to monitor the condition of the joints and continue to review the need for repair. (Proposed by Cllr Letch)

104 To consider the 2021 Floral Crediton Competition and agree the following, subject to government guidelines:

- **Categories**

It was **resolved** for the Floral Crediton Competition to include the following:

- Small formal garden (with or without veg)
- Large formal garden (with or without veg)
- Small managed natural garden (with emphasis on wildlife)
- Large managed natural garden (with emphasis on wildlife)
- Family garden (to include play/recreation area)
- Patio or hanging baskets and other outdoor planted containers

The Mayor will judge the favourite from the above categories.

(Proposed by Cllr Harris)

- **Date for judging**

It was agreed for the Assistant Clerk to liaise with Mr Bert Jewell, as judge of the competition, and circulate the confirmed date to committee members.

- **Publicity & Advertising**

A copy of the proposed poster and entry form was circulated to all members prior to the meeting. It was **resolved** to approve the poster and entry form. (Proposed by Cllr Harris)

- 105 To consider quotations for the watering of Crediton's floral displays for 2021 and agree a course of action.** A copy of the report had been issued prior to the meeting.
Cllr Szabo raised concern that although the Town Council waters the trees on the Town Square, these are the responsibility of Mid Devon District Council (MDDC). It was **resolved** to send an invoice to MDDC to cover 50% of the cost of watering the trees on the Town Square this year. (Proposed by Cllr Szabo, Cllr Cairney abstained)
It was further **resolved** to accept the quotation received from Mr J Hewitt for the watering of Crediton's floral displays for 2021 at a total cost of £5,689.50. (Proposed by Cllr Szabo)
- 106 To discuss the recent vandalism to Newcombes Meadow Toilet Block and agree any actions.**
Cllr Szabo requested that the Town Council contact the local youth worker to advise them of the Town Council's aims with Newcombes Meadow Toilet Block. Other members confirmed that the local youth workers are already working hard to patrol the town and monitor behaviour and that contacting the youth workers would not necessarily help to target the individuals involved in the current anti-social behaviour.
The Assistant Clerk advised the committee of the excess cost if the town council was to claim through its insurance, as well as the cost received to repair the damage to the locking system. It was **resolved** not to claim through the insurance and instead use Town Council funds to repair the damage. (Proposed by Cllr Szabo). Cllr Harris reiterated the need to keep the toilets closed until sufficient CCTV coverage is in place.
- 107 To discuss the idea of putting together a Newcombes Meadow Community Group to carry out voluntary maintenance within the park.** This item was requested by Cllr Martin.
Cllr Martin left the meeting at 7.40 due to technical issues.
Cllr Martin returned to the meeting at 7.41.
It was agreed that since Turning Tides have taken on various maintenance work around the Town, including Newcombes Meadow, this area was already being sufficiently maintained.
- 108 To receive an update on the summer bedding in St Lawrence Green and Newcombes Meadow.**
The Assistant Clerk confirmed that successful tidy-up days had been held at St Lawrence Green and plants ordered ready for planting in the Spring.
Cllr Ross referred to the statement made by Mrs Ross during Public Question Time with regards to the reporting of Sustainable Crediton activity. Mrs Ross requested that the formal reporting structure be followed with Cllr Ross reporting on Sustainable Crediton activities as the nominated Town Council representative.
- 109 To receive an update on the 2021 Britain in Bloom IYN and Pennant Award Competitions.**
Cllr Cairney left the meeting at 19 51 due to technical issues.
Cllr Szabo confirmed that the competitions are due to go ahead as planned, however a contingency has been put in place should government guidance prevent this. 24 groups have been entered into the IYN competition in Crediton, including both primary schools, and these groups are working hard behind the scenes. The judges will be visiting Crediton between 1 and 21 July. The Britain in Bloom Seminar, postponed from last year, will now be held on 3 June and Cllr Szabo will be attending with Mr Bert Jewell and 2 others.
- 110 Clerk's Report**
The Assistant Clerk provided members with an update on the idea to turn the Spinning Path Gardens play area into a community orchard.

Cllr Cochran had met with two individuals involved in the initial idea and they had discussed issues relating to disabled access. The Assistant Clerk confirmed this would be included as a formal agenda item when necessary to discuss project plans moving forward.
Cllr Cairney returned to the meeting at 19 54.

111 Close.

The meeting closed at 19 58.

Signed
Chairman

Dated.....

Dee Ross, Chair Sustainable Crediton

Thank you, councillors.

I am attending the meeting with reference to items 12 and 13.

Item 12 We understood that it had been agreed who was going to adopt which portion of plots in the town as per the minutes of January this year. Both Sustainable Crediton and MDDC have been working on that plan incurring costs and time.

Item 13 We would like to know what the situation is here as we already have a Town Councillor who represents us and reports to the Town council, Councillor John Ross. This also raises the point in that various councillors reported back to the Full Council about Sustainable Crediton activities without talking to us and without being nominated as Town Council representative.

We would like to establish a reporting structure to the council that ensures information is fed to SC and channeled to the TC via the correct procedure to avoid misinformation and so that SC has the opportunity to look after its interests in a proper and safe manner.

We had been putting in place a reporting system as we intend working with resident groups on various plots along the lines of a contact person for each group to save lots of people making enquiries etc. and that everyone gets the right information. St Lawrence Green being the first, we asked a resident and member of both groups to be the contact point, who is not a local councillor.

I will make this statement available to the clerk to accompany the minutes please.

We will be happy to answer any further questions when the items arise. Thank you.