



**Minutes of Crediton Town Council's Community & Environment Committee Meeting
held on Tuesday 27 September 2022, at 19.00 at Old Landscore School, Greenway, Crediton.**

Present: Cllrs E Brookes-Hocking, J Harris, G Cochran, D Ross, N Letch, M Szabo

Apologies: Cllr S Chenore

In Attendance: Cllr J Cairney
Emma Anderson, Assistant Clerk
Penni Tearle, Chairman of the Boniface Allotment Association

84 Public Question Time

There were no questions.

85 To receive and accept apologies

It was **resolved** to receive and accept apologies from Cllr Chenore. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

86 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Cairney declared that as a member 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.

Cllr Szabo joined the meeting at 19.01

87 To note that decisions will be made with the climate emergency at the forefront of decision and policy making

This was **noted**.

88 Order of Business

There were no changes.

89 Chairman's and Clerk's Announcements

Cllr Brookes-Hocking was pleased to see such an amazing turnout on the Town Square for the Sustainable Crediton Big Green Fair.

90 Committee Meeting Minutes - To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Community & Environment Committee meeting held on 26 July 2022

It was **resolved** to approve and sign the minutes. (Proposed by Cllr Harris)

91 Allotments:

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

It was **noted** that there are currently 2 Non-Cultivation Notices, 1 Notice to Quit and 0 vacant plots.

- **To consider and agree annual rent increases for the forthcoming year (2022-23)**
It was **resolved** to increase the annual rent by 5%. (Proposed by Cllr Harris)
- **To consider and agree any rent discounts for the forthcoming year (2022-23)**
It was **resolved** to approve 100% discounts to Dr Tearle's plot for her work and support relating to the allotments and to Mr Beale's plot for his litter picking work. (Proposed by Cllr Harris)
- **To consider matters raised by the Boniface Allotments Association and allotment tenants and agree any actions, including the following:**
Dr Tearle advised the Committee that the Boniface Allotments Association (BAA) would be holding its AGM on 24 October and this will be followed by a talk regarding soil health and limiting the use of chemicals on plots. All are welcome to come along to the talk, it is being held at Old Landscore School at 7 pm.
The Assistant Clerk informed the Committee that, following a recommendation from Dr Tearle, points 11 and 12 of the BAA rules had been amended to discourage the use of chemicals. The amendment to the rules was **noted**.

Penni Tearle left the meeting at 19.07

- 92 To receive the report on purchasing a replacement bench to be located outside CREDITON LIBRARY and to approve the recommendations therein**
It was **resolved** to purchase a galvanised bench at a cost of £348. (Proposed by Cllr Harris)
- 93 To consider a request for a new dog waste bin to be installed at the junction of Downeshead Lane & Wellparks Hill and agree any actions**
The Assistant Clerk provided an update. Mid Devon District Council (MDDC) has actioned a 3-month trial to survey the area. The trial period is due to finish on 7 October and the outcome of the survey will be provided week commencing 10 October.

It was **resolved** for members of the committee to visit the area before the October meeting to assess the need for a new bin. The findings would then be considered alongside the outcome of MDDC's survey. (Proposed by Cllr Harris). Cllr Cochran advised members that the Parish Paths Sub-Committee are pursuing the creation of a new footpath from the footbridge on Downeshead Lane to the entrance to Tarka View. Members agreed this should be considered when making a decision, as it may affect the most suitable location for the bin.
- 94 To receive an update on the agreement in place between CREDITON TOWN COUNCIL and DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL relating to the regulation of unauthorised signs and agree any actions**
Devon County Council has confirmed there have been no changes to the agreements and policies. The Assistant Clerk and Cllr Brookes-Hocking are still due to meet to discuss proposed changes to the agreement. The proposed changes will be presented to the Committee in October for consideration.
- 95 To consider the report relating to Stonypark and to approve the recommendations therein**
Cllr Brookes-Hocking explained that during the work on the neighbourhood plan it was brought to their attention that Devon County Council would object to any permanent use of the land if it were to inhibit the acquisition to achieve a single-site school.

It was **resolved** for the land to be left vacant for the next year, allowing the Youth Club to benefit from the open space. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking. Cllr Szabo voted against; Cllr Letch abstained.) It was agreed to ask the Lead Youth Worker to provide a written proposal outlining how the Youth Club would like to use Stonypark.

96 To receive the report on purchasing and planting a Liquidambar tree for Peoples Park and agree any actions

It was **resolved** to proceed with Contractor A at a cost of £475 + VAT (Proposed by Cllr Harris)

Important points were **noted**:

- Tree will require substantial watering until established
- Tree to be planted in the open space between the Wellingtonia and the Wildlife Area
- Preferable for the variety of Liquidambar to be a conical shape

97 To receive an update on the maintenance of the Peoples Park Wildlife Area

The Assistant Clerk advised that the individual leading the volunteer group is due to step down in October. A mailing list has been set up in order that the town council can keep in touch with the volunteer group and vice versa. An email has been sent out asking if any of the other volunteers would be interested in taking on this role.

98 To discuss the recent increase in graffiti in the town and agree any actions (Item requested by Cllr Szabo)

Cllr Szabo explained that since the judging on 19 July where the town was particularly tidy, there has been a significant increase in graffiti in the town with two large areas of graffiti on the High Street and East Street. A detailed list would be sent to the Assistant Clerk. The Assistant Clerk agreed to take photos of the large graffiti tags and share with the police.

99 To receive an update on the 2022 Britain in Bloom In Your Neighbourhood and Pennant Award

Cllr Szabo advised that the rectangular flower beds near the St Boniface Statue have kindly been taken on by Sustainable Crediton. The Assistant Clerk confirmed that a full report on current floral displays and requirements for 2023 (following Bert stepping down) would be presented at the next meeting.

100 To receive an update on open spaces

- **Graffitied trees at Peoples Park**

One tree had been lightly sanded but this didn't remove the graffiti entirely. Members agreed that the other two trees should be sanded to allow natural weathering to take effect.

101 To note the date of the next meeting – 25 October 2022

The date of the next meeting was **noted**. The meeting was closed at 20.11

Signed

Chairman

Dated.....