



Minutes of Crediton Town Council's Community & Environment Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 21 June 2022, at 19.00 at Old Landscore School, Greenway, Crediton.

Present: Cllrs J Harris, G Cochran, D Ross, S Chenore, N Letch and E Brookes-Hocking

Apologies: Cllr M Szabo

In Attendance: Rachel Avery, Town Clerk
Penni Tearle, Chairman of the Boniface Allotment Association

1 To elect a Committee Chairman for the year 2022-2023

It was **resolved** to elect Cllr Brookes-Hocking as Committee Chairman for the year 2022-23. (Proposed by Cllr Harris).

2 To elect a Committee Vice Chairman for the year 2022-2023

It was **resolved** to elect Cllr Harris as Committee Vice Chairman for the year 2022-23. (Proposed by Cllr Cochran).

3 Public Question Time - To receive questions from members of the public relevant to the work of the Council (A maximum of 30 minutes is allowed for this item, verbal questions should not exceed 3 minutes)

None.

4 To receive and accept apologies

It was **resolved** to receive and accept apologies from Cllr Szabo. (Proposed by Cllr Harris).

5 Declarations of Interest

None.

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

This was **noted**.

7 Order of Business

There were no changes to the order of business.

8 Chairman's and Clerk's Announcements

The Town Clerk reported that there has been an increased number of complaints from a member of the public regarding inappropriate advertising signage on or near the highway. It was **noted** that this would be agenda item for the next meeting.

9 Committee Meeting Minutes - To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the following meetings:

- **Amenities & The Built Environment Committee meeting held on 22 March 2022**

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

- **Property & Assets Committee meeting held on 19 April 2022**
It was resolved to approve the minutes. (Proposed by Cllr Harris).

10 Allotments:

- **To consider the following issues and agree a course of action – vacant plots, Non-Cultivation Notices and Notices to Quit no issues.**

It was noted that there is 1 Notice to Quit and 5 Non-Cultivation Notices.

It was noted that there are 15 people on the waiting list, with 8 not ready to take on a plot at the current time.

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

- **Allotment holders being given the right to appeal decisions made following allotment inspections**

Dr Tearle reported that the committee were concerned that there was no way for tenants to appeal decisions made.

The Town Clerk advised on the current process of managing Non-Cultivation Notices and Notices to Quit, which is balanced on the tenancy agreement requirements alongside personal circumstances.

It was **resolved** that the system should remain as it is, but when a second Non-Cultivation Notice is due to be issued, the tenant would be formally invited to attend a site visit. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking).

Penni Tearle left the meeting at 19.26

11 To discuss tree works required at Peoples Park and agree any actions

It was **resolved** to accept the quotation received from Hoopers. (Proposed by Cllr Harris).

12 To discuss the maintenance of the Lucombe Oak planted in Peoples Park and agree any actions

It was **resolved** to request that Hooper Services remove the chicken wire from the surround and to undertake light pruning of the lower branches. (Proposed by Cllr Cochran).

13 To make a recommendation to Full Council to allocate £750 from the General Fund for the construction of an outbuilding at the rear of the Bungalow and agree any actions

It was **resolved** to recommend to Full Council that £750 be allocated from the General Fund for the construction of an outbuilding at the rear of the Bungalow. (Proposed by Cllr Harris).

14 To receive an update on Newcombes Meadow toilet block

The toilet is now open, however there are concerns that it is not opening and closing as required using the cloud lock. This would be reviewed by the Projects Officer.

The council's usual contact has not responded regarding a full survey therefore quotations will be obtained from alternative companies for full plans and section drawings of the toilet block. However, the Town Clerk has received a folder on the 1999 renovations by Mid Devon District Council which may be useful. The Town Clerk has requested that MDDC undertake a survey on the reservoir and that a meeting take place with their Director of Place to discuss S106 funds. Councillors in attendance suggested that a splash park and water fountain would be welcome additions to Newcombes Meadow.

15 To receive an update on Stonypark

It was noted that a chaser email had been sent to the tenant as the access gate remains off its hinges. It was resolved that the Town Clerk would investigate the covenants on the land for consideration at the next meeting. (Proposed by Cllr Harris).

16 To receive an update on the Floral Crediton Competition 2022 and agree any actions

It was noted that only 3 entries had been received so far, and the competition had been advertised in the council office windows, entry forms in usual locations and on the website and social media.

It was **resolved** that it was not viable to run the competition and would be cancelled, but Cllr Brookes-Hocking would still visit the entrants. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking).

17 To receive an update on the 2022 Britain in Bloom Its Your Neighbourhood and Pennant Award

Judges Tony Moore and David Purkiss will visit Crediton on Tuesday 19 July 2022 in the morning to assess the town for the BIB Pennant Award programme. In the afternoon, they will visit 5 additional IYN entries to assess them.

18 To receive an update on tree planting and open spaces

It was noted that the wild cherry tree, due to be planted in memory of John Ross, would be purchased in October.

There was no further update on trees being planted on MDCC owned land.

Consideration was given to the planting of a Jubilee tree. It was resolved to investigate the purchase of a Liquidambar tree at Peoples Park. (Proposed by Cllr Harris).

Consideration was given to a database of spaces for tree planting, which Cllr Ross had already started collating.

Cllr Ross reported that Sustainable Crediton are looking at are area at Redlands for tree planting.

19 To note the date of the next meeting – 26 July 2022

The date of the next meeting was **noted**. The meeting was closed at 20.19.

Signed
Chairman

Dated.....