



Minutes of Credition Town Council's Environment Committee Meeting, held on Tuesday, 12th March 2019, at 6.00 pm, at Credition Library, Belle Parade, Credition

Present: Cllrs Miss J Harris (Committee Chairman), Mr F Letch, Mr M Szabo, Mr J Ross, Mr A Wyer and Mrs K Piercy

In Attendance: Mrs Lisa Blake, Assistant Clerk
Ms Penni Tearle, Chair of Boniface Allotments Association
Mr Bert Jewell
Mrs Denise Ross, Sustainable Credition
Mrs Clare Dalley, Town Clerk

79 To receive and accept apologies

It was **resolved** to receive and accept apologies from Cllr Mrs A Hughes. (Proposed by Cllr Letch)

80 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Letch 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.

81 To receive a presentation from Sustainable Credition on the B-Line Project:

A copy of which is attached to these minutes as Appendix One.

82 Public Question Time

There were no questions.

83 Order of Business

There were no changes to the order of business.

84 Chairman's and Clerk's Announcements

There were no announcements.

85 Committee Meeting Minutes - To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 15th January 2019. It was **resolved** to approve the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 15th January 2019, as a correct record and they were duly signed by Cllr Harris. (Proposed by Cllr Ross)

86 Matters Arising-

Page 14, minute number 67 - Cllr Szabo confirmed that he had inspected the area and the buddleia has been fully removed.

87 Allotments

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

➤ Vacant plots, Non-cultivation Notices and Notices To Quit

The Assistant Clerk confirmed the following:

- There are currently no vacant plots.
- The allotment inspections will commence week beginning 18th March.

b) To consider matters raised by the Boniface Allotments Association and allotment tenants and agree any actions. There were no matters raised

c) To discuss and consider an addition to the allotment tenancy agreements stating if a tenant receives a Notice to Quit or similar, this restricts an application for a plot in the future.

It was **resolved** to include the following wording

‘A plot holder who has had a Notice to Quit, or three non-cultivation notices, will not be offered another plot for at least 2 years from the date of leaving their plot. Anyone wanting to challenge this ruling will have to take their case to the Town Council’s Environment Committee explaining how their circumstances have changed to allow them to maintain their plot in the future.’

within all new tenancy agreements and for the rule to be applied with immediate effect to all plots. (Proposed by Cllr Wyer)

d) To receive an update on the boundary fence at Barnfield Allotments and agree any further actions. The Assistant Clerk advised that damage had been sustained to the boundary fence at Barnfield Allotments following adverse weather conditions, when a large ivy bush had blown over and blocked the public footway. The Town Clerk acted within her delegated emergency powers to make the area safe and clear the footway.

88 To receive an update on the bench at Landscore. The Assistant Clerk advised that the bench is still at CS engineering. South West Galvanisers are unable to collect it and CS Engineering are unable to deliver it. She confirmed she is looking for a volunteer to collect the bench and will provide an update at the next meeting. Cllr Ross volunteered to do this and confirmed he will liaise with the Assistant Clerk.

Ms Tearle left the meeting at 6.18pm

89 To receive an update on adopting the noticeboard located on 122 High Street. The Assistant Clerk confirmed that after speaking to the Town Clerk the noticeboard will require a lock. This is to ensure that the board is managed and does not become overloaded or used as permanent advertising board for businesses or groups. The Town Council office will manage the contents of the board, prioritising events by date. A sign within the notice board will be displayed to inform the public how and where they are able to send posters for display. Quotations are currently being sought for refurbishment of the existing noticeboard and for a new one to replace the existing, as this may prove cheaper.

- 90 To receive an update on transforming the roundabout by Tesco.** The Assistant Clerk confirmed that Mr Jewell started work on the roundabout after the correct safety precautions were put in place. Mole Avon have been contacted regarding the sponsorship of the roundabout and providing plants for it. However, nothing more has been heard and the planting needs to happen before the end of March. Mr Jewell anticipates the cost of the plants will be approximately £500. Mr Jewell also suggested Devonshire Homes as an alternative sponsor. It was **resolved** that if sponsorship was not attained before 18th March 2019 that £500 would be allocated to allow the project to be completed. (Proposed by Cllr Ross)
- 91 To approve the supply of the 8 additional hanging baskets for Crediton's floral displays for 2019 and agree the locations for these.** It was **resolved** to approve the purchase of the additional 8 hanging baskets at a cost of £160 from Taunton Deane. (Proposed by Cllr Szabo) The additional baskets are to be hung on the four dual posts at the bottom of St Saviours Way.
- 92 To consider quotations for the watering of Crediton's floral displays for 2019 and agree any actions.** Copies of the quotations received had been issued with the agenda. It was **resolved** to accept the quotation from Mr Jordan Hewitt for the watering of the floral displays for 2019 at a total cost of £2,262. (Proposed by Cllr Ross)
- 93 To receive an update on the Floral Crediton Competition, which is run by the Town Council, and to confirm the date for judging.** The Assistant Clerk confirmed that the date for judging will be 4th July 2019. The new Mayor will be advised of this date.
- 94 To consider the quotation for the Scout Memorial Garden maintenance and agree any actions.** Copies of the quotation had been issued with the agenda. It was **resolved** to accept the quote from Mr Mike Turnbull for the maintenance of the Scout Memorial Garden at a cost of £1,200. (Proposed by Cllr Harris) Councillors noted the amount of voluntary work that Mr Turnbull will be carrying out at the garden. Cllr Szabo advised that he had spoken to Mr Turnbull that day and they had discussed the grasses. Mr Turnbull will be speaking to Mrs Jenni Pitts to seek advice on the care and maintenance of the grasses.
- 95 To receive an update regarding the red telephone box on St Lawrence green and agree a course of action.** The Assistant Clerk confirmed that she had spoken to BT regarding the phonebox. They require photographs to be emailed to them to show its condition. This will then be looked at by a field agent and a decision will be made as to whether to add it to the list for painting. This takes place between April and October, but no date will be given. BT also advised that they can provide the paint should the community wish to undertake this work. It was **resolved** to ask BT to repaint the telephone box at St Lawrence Green. (Proposed by Cllr Szabo)
- 96 To discuss and consider a request from a member of the public regarding reducing the frequency of the grass cutting at Peoples Park to encourage wild flower growth and the bee population.** Copies of the email had been issued with the agenda. Councillors considered and discussed the request in detail. Cllr Szabo pointed out that there is already a wild flower area in Peoples Park which still has plenty of space to accommodate more wild flower planting. It was resolved to decline the request at this point in time. (Proposed by Cllr Wyer) It was suggested that this maybe re-considered when the current grass-cutting contract is due for re-tendering.

- 97 **Clerk's Report** - The Clerk had nothing further to report.
- 98 **To consider a request for a bench to be located in Peoples Park.** Further information had been issued with the agenda. It was **resolved** to grant the request providing that the Town Council Seating Policy was fully adhered to. (Proposed by Cllr Letch)
- 99 **Close**
The meeting closed at 6.49 pm

Signed Dated.....
Chairman

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Sustainable Crediton Town Council Presentation

Sustainable Crediton is planning a project to protect pollinators such as bees by creating and enhancing habitat in and around the town of Crediton. We would like to work with the local councils including the Town Council to make this happen.

Pollinators of all kinds are facing unprecedented difficulties and decline from reduction of habitat. Sustainable Crediton proposes taking part in a national scheme called B-Lines to build country-wide grid of wildlife friendly corridors to assist and protect our pollinators. On the buglife website there is interactive map where you can place markers to say you have taken part in conservation measures, this goes down to quite a low scale (*post meeting note - individuals gardens*) so we could put lots of markers on it. Sadly so far in Devon there are only few in South Devon. Crediton could lead the way.

Crediton is located in a rural area where farming forms an intrinsic part of producing the crops we need. Crediton itself is a heavily built up town and in the next few years a considerable area of land will be taken up with urban extension from new housing, further degrading the habitats available in our area. Together with the loss of habitat from modern growing practices, we believe this scheme will assist our pollinators and hopefully start to reverse their decline.

The “Local Authorities already have a duty to conserve biodiversity under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. The national planning policy framework states that plans should include a strategy for enhancing the natural, built and historic environment and support for nature improvement areas”. (Hansard May 2018) We believe this project fits in with this policy and will help the Town Council to fulfil its aims.

The Town Council collaborating with and assisting Sustainable Crediton in getting this project off the ground would enable local people to be encouraged to actively take action to help, reducing the workload of the Council in times of limited resources and enabling them to fulfil their obligations. MDDC and the Town Council have already made a valuable contribution with schemes such as the introduction of the wildlife area in People’s Park and the wild flower urban meadow in Newcombe’s Meadow.

The project could include but not be limited to:

- Identifying and planting areas that aid pollinators with plants that would protect and support them. Areas could include public places, local authority land not in use, local gardens of homeowners, businesses and farms. An extension of this could be to work with organisations such as British Rail and the Highways Agency to improve wild life provision on their land in our area, providing a much-needed augmentation to link sections of the Bee line together. (07/03/19 received e-mail from DCC replying to our enquiry that they too are planning pollinator conservation schemes involving local communities,

including work on verges, supplying information and a conference 6th July at Chagford)

- A community orchard.
- Habitat restoration
- Education – suitable sites, plants that provide the food, right habitat and which mitigate against future changes due to climate change, bee and pollinator types and individual pollinator needs.
- Encouraging School activities
- Bee Hotels and Bee banks – making and installing
- Installing a Green Roof on properties, sheds etc

We already have a number of people with pollinator expertise to guide the project and we believe the public are fond of our bees and with the right help could make a valuable contribution towards saving our pollinators.

We would love to collaborate with the Town Council to enable Sustainable Crediton to make Crediton a significant part of the B-lines of Britain.

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