



Minutes of Credition Town Council's Floral Credition Committee Meeting, held on Tuesday 23rd January 2018, at 5.30 pm, at the Council Chamber, Market Street, Credition

Present: Cllrs Mr M Szabo, Miss J Harris and Mrs K Piercy

In Attendance: Mrs Emma Anderson, Assistant Clerk
Mr Bert Jewell

1. To elect the Committee Chairman for 2017-2018

It was **resolved** to elect Cllr Szabo as the Committee Chairman for 2017-2018. (Proposed by Cllr Harris)

2. To elect the Committee Deputy Chairman for 2017-2018

It was **resolved** to elect Cllr Harris as the Committee Deputy Chairman for 2017-2018. (Proposed by Cllr Szabo)

3. To receive and accept apologies

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

4. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5. Public Question Time

There were no questions.

6. Order of Business

There were no changes to the order of business.

7. Chairman's and Clerk's Announcements

Cllr Szabo:

- The Britain in Bloom (BiB) judge from Exeter had confirmed that the Garden & Parks departments within District Councils provide a non-statutory service and therefore they do not have to deliver this service.
- The BiB Award Presentation will be held on 4th October 2018, in Yeovil. Cllr Szabo requested that the presentation ceremony held in the Council Chamber be held shortly after this date.
- The BiB judges have confirmed that when entering the Pennant Competition, submitting a 4-page portfolio would be advantageous.

8. Floral Credition Committee Minutes – To approve and sign the minutes of the Floral Credition Committee Meeting held on 11th April 2017, as a correct record. Copies had been circulated with the agenda. It was **resolved** to approve, and sign, the minutes of the Floral Credition Committee Meeting, held on 11th April 2017, as a correct record. (Proposed by Cllr Harris)

9. Matters Arising

Page 5, minute number 24 - Cllr Szabo confirmed the bulbs have not been removed from the Tesco roundabouts, however if they are removed he would like to try and see if they can be donated to the Town Council to be used in other areas of the Town.

10. **To discuss and agree the floral displays/planting in the town for 2018, including the following:**
- **Floral displays on the Town Square.** Following an email received earlier in the week, the Assistant Clerk provided an update on the current situation to all committee members. Mid Devon District Council (MDDC) had advised the Town Clerk that from 2019 onwards things would be changing in relation to the floral services MDDC can offer and that they would have to start charging full cost recovery. Last year, the contract for the planting and watering within the Town (including the hanging baskets that line the High Street) came to a total of £3,768.62 + VAT, however the quote received this year totals £14,044.48 + VAT. At the end of 2017, MDDC reassured the Town Clerk that the contract for 2018 would be honoured but with a slight uplift and therefore, due to the significant increase, the price quoted for by MDDC has not been budgeted for. The Town Clerk and Assistant Clerk have contacted numerous contractors to obtain quotations for the floral planting and watering contained within the contract previously held with MDDC. It is hoped that a lower cost alternative can be found.

Mr Jewell confirmed he has acquired two 25 litre drums from G's Valets in Crediton, therefore he is able to water the flower towers on the Square.

Mr Jewell also confirmed this year the flower towers would be planted to show ribbons of colour from the top of the planters. The cost of the plants and compost would be £250-300 inc. VAT. It was **resolved** to allocate £300 from the Floral Crediton budget to cover the costs of the Summer planting on the Town Square. (Proposed by Cllr Harris)

Mr Jewell also discussed the four trees on the Town Square that have not yet been planted up. He suggested the idea of using artificial grass rather than rubber matting. All members of the Committee were happy for Mr Jewell to pursue this idea.

The Assistant Clerk queried whether any leftover plants could be used to plant up the window boxes on the Council Office building as there is uncertainty as to whether MDDC will be doing this. Mr Jewell confirmed he would do this with any remaining plants.

- **Floral displays around the town including hanging baskets, troughs and planters, currently supplied by Mid Devon District Council.** As explained in minute number 10, the floral displays previously supplied by MDDC will now need to be sourced elsewhere. The Assistant Clerk confirmed an extra Committee meeting would need to be held in February to consider the quotations received.

Cllr Piercy suggested contacting local window cleaners for the watering of the plants.

11. **To discuss and agree the floral displays/planting in the town for 2019, following new information from Mid Devon District Council, and agree any actions.** It was agreed to defer this item until the arrangements for 2018 have been established.
12. **To discuss increasing the number of floral displays in the town, including quotations received for additional flower towers, and agree any actions.** Copies of the quotations had been issued with the agenda. Members discussed the current priorities for the Committee. Due to the information received from MDDC, it was agreed that the first priority is to ensure the existing floral displays are maintained this year.

It was **resolved** to defer this item for the time being, as the existing floral arrangements are so uncertain (Proposed by Cllr Harris)

It was further **resolved** for the Town Council to contact the Chamber of Commerce to discuss how the traders could help in supporting to maintain the existing floral displays within the Town. (Proposed by Cllr Harris)

It was agreed for the Crediton Courier to be invited to the next Floral Crediton Committee meeting in order that a report could be included in the paper, explaining the situation relating to this year's floral displays in order that the public are made aware.

13. To consider the Floral Crediton Competition, which is run by the Town Council, and to agree:

- **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 Szabo)

- **Date for judging**

It was **resolved** for the judging to be carried out by Mr Jewell on Thursday, 12th July 2018, subject to the Mayor being available, with entries being received no later than Friday, 29th June. The Mayor will attend to judge the Mayor's Favourite. (Proposed by Cllr Szabo)

- **Publicity & Advertising**

It was **resolved** to approve the poster and entry form prepared by the Assistant Clerk, a copy of which is attached as Appendix One. (Proposed by Cllr Szabo)

It was further **resolved** to advertise the competition in the Crediton Courier, Crediton Town Council notice boards, the Town Council website, on the Council's social media pages, ask businesses to display posters and inform the Boniface Allotments Association. (Proposed by Cllr Szabo)

14. To discuss entering Crediton into the It's Your Neighbourhood Awards and the 2018 Britain In Bloom competition and agree a course of action. It was **resolved** to enter Crediton into the It's Your Neighbourhood Awards. (Proposed by Cllr Harris)

It was further **resolved** for Crediton to enter the Britain in Bloom Pennant Competition for 2018, paying an entry fee of £20. (Proposed by Cllr Harris)

Cllr Szabo confirmed that he would produce the 4-page portfolio for the Pennant Competition, with administrative support from the Assistant Clerk.

Mr Jewell suggested altering the route this year and suggested incorporating the Kirton Inn. He has also spoken to teachers at Hayward's Primary School, who had confirmed they would produce a group of children that would sing in the Church when the judges visit. He also suggested the judges travelling up the Link Road, visiting Morrisons to see the recycling centre and then stopping at the Kirton Inn.

Cllr Szabo also suggested contacting the Town Crier, Kevin Payne, who is a teacher at Landscore to see if there is still a school garden at Landscore that the judges could be taken to.

Members discussed the impact of the information received from MDDC and how this may affect the appearance of the Town, especially as a new planter would not be purchased currently. Mr Jewell advised members that he has two three-tier planters that he does not use. He would like to plant these up and add them to the floral displays within the Town. The Assistant Clerk agreed to discuss this with Devon County Council's Highways Officer, to find out what permissions are required for these to be situated on a pavement. Members discussed possible locations including outside the Red House, near St Lawrence Green, and outside Hillbrow Care Home.

15. **To review the Committee's aims and objectives as detailed within the Council's Strategic Plan.** A copy of the Council's Strategic Plan had been issued with the agenda. The Assistant Clerk advised members that the Committee is up to date and on track to achieve the targets set within the Strategic Plan.
16. **Business brought forward.**
Mr Jewell queried when the judging will be held for the Britain in Boom Pennant Competition. Cllr Szabo advised this would be in July, but the exact date is yet to be confirmed.
17. **Close**
The meeting closed at 6.26 pm

Signed.....
(Chairman)

Date: 27-2-18