



**Crediton Open Space  
Committee Meeting,  
Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2016, at 4:00 pm**



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**Present:** Anne Hughes, Frank Letch, Liz Brookes-Hocking, Laura Conyngham and Kendra Ezekiel

**In attendance:** Clare Dalley, Town Clerk

**Absent:** Jade Walters

**32 To receive and accept apologies**  
There were no apologies received.

**33 Declarations of Interest**  
Cllr Frank Letch 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.

**34 Peoples Park Wildlife Area Committee Minutes - To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Crediton Open Space Committee Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2016. It was resolved to approve and sign the minutes of the Crediton Open Space Committee Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2016 as a correct record.**

**35 Matters Arising**  
There were no matters arising.

**36 To review the Peoples Park Wildlife Area project and agree any further actions required, including the following:**

**· update on the recent planting day**

Liz, Kendra and Laura met for the planting day, unfortunately, there were no other volunteers. Frank apologised, advising he had tried to make contact with the lady who offered the teasels, but to no avail. Kendra confirmed the lady brought them to the wildlife area herself. Kendra confirmed she had liaised with Mike Turnbull at the Scout Memorial Garden to split up some of the grasses and Mike was happy to do this again in the future. It was acknowledged that more volunteers were needed to help with the maintenance of the wildlife area.

Liz also asked for the removal of the laurel hedge to be pursued. Clare advised that she had been unable to find the previous cob specialist she had spoken to and would find a new one.

Clare suggested asking the schools to carry out a nature audit at the wildlife area, as it has been over a year since they created the bug and bee hotels. Everyone thought this was a good idea. Frank suggested that a form could be created for children to fill in detailing what they have seen in the area. Clare confirmed this could be done.

Kendra advised that her client was willing to donate large logs cut into discs to the wildlife area. Kendra suggested these could be placed around the bird feeder. It was resolved for Clare to contact Julian Hooper and ask him to liaise with Kendra to arrange moving the logs to their desired location at the wildlife area.

• discuss autumn planting

It was resolved to have a general tidy up of the wildlife area and plant some bulbs on Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> October 2016. It was further resolved for Clare to source English wild bluebell, daffodil and cyclamen bulbs.

• production of an information leaflet about the area

Mike advised Kendra that a lot of people have questioned him about the wildlife area. He has also received comments on the leaves in the area and the bark that has fallen on the path. Kendra suggested producing a leaflet which could be distributed to local houses and given out at the Mayor's surgery and other points in the town telling people about the project. Clare confirmed that this could be done in house. She recommended creating a leaflet that is 2 sides of A4 paper folded into a leaflet. She recommended this could be changed as the area evolves.

37 To receive an update on the land located at the bottom of Red Hill Cross and agree any actions. Clare explained this area of land had also been discussed by the Council's Policy & Forward Planning Committee, due to it being a significant area of land at one of the entrances to the town. The Policy & Forward Planning Committee had agreed that the area requires protecting and preserving and in order to do this has resolved for Crediton Town Council to register the land with the Land Registry. This resolution still requires Town Council ratification, which should be obtained at the Town Council meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2016.

38 To receive a report on the leet which runs adjacent to the road owned by Tesco and consider any further actions required.

Laura has had a look at the area with a retired entomologist, who is very keen to carry out a study of the area with the local beavers, cubs and scouts. It is hoped this can happen on Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> July. Laura will confirm the date as soon as possible. Laura requested adult volunteers to help on the day. Frank suggested asking Town Councillors.

It was agreed that maps of the area were required and it was resolved for Clare to source these as well as Land Registry searches, in order to confirm the ownership of the land.

Clare advised members that she had been unable to make contact with a former associate regarding biodiversity studies, however, she had downloaded some useful information from Devon County Council's website called 'Devon Community Toolkit for the Natural Environment' together with a list of Ecological Consultants/Contractors and Geological Consultants working in the Devon area. This information may be useful should the Committee wish to carry out its own study or alternatively instruct a contractor to carry out a biodiversity audit. Liz advised this would be useful for the Neighbourhood Plan.



39 To discuss the tarmac area in front of Newcombes Meadow toilets and agree any actions. Clare advised that Mr Andrew Busby, Estates Manager at Mid Devon District Council thinks this sounds like a great idea and one that the District Council would support. With regard to table tennis he pointed out that associated risks such as a ball going into the road would need to be assessed. It was **resolved** to put an article in the next Town Newsletter asking residents how they would like to use the area. The issue of the Newcombes toilet building being ugly and blocking the view of the park was discussed and it was agreed this will need to be considered in the future. It was **resolved** to gather further information on the area, in particular the reservoir.

40 To discuss the overgrown area of land located at the junction of Alexandra Road and Southfields Road and agree a course of action.  
Clare explained that this item had been raised by PCSO Beccy Tanner due to certain youths congregating and generally getting up to no good in the area. If the area was cleared and tidied up this may eliminate the issue. Frank advised that Mid Devon District Council have recently cleaned up the area and removed all the bottles and cans. There were discussions about whether the youths were being anti-social or just hanging out and in need of a bin to put rubbish in. It was agreed for members to carry out a site visit, take photos of the area and for it to be discussed at the next meeting.

41 To discuss this Committee's aims and objectives for the next six years in order for them to be considered in the development of Crediton Town Council's Strategic Plan. It was **resolved** that this Committee needed to carry out an audit of open spaces and be pro-active in getting the community involved in looking after and enhancing its open spaces.

It was **resolved** for the Committee to create a book detailing the wildlife areas within the town.

42 Close  
The meeting closed at 5.15 pm. It was **resolved** for the next meeting to be on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2016.

Signed ...  .....  
Chairman

Dated... 14/9/16 .....