



**Minutes of Credition Town Council's Property & Allotments Committee Meeting, held on Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> January 2015, at 6pm, at the Council Chamber, Market Street, Credition**

Present: Cllrs Miss J Harris, Mr M Szabo and Mr D Webb  
Ms Penni Tearle, Chairman of Boniface Allotment Association

In Attendance: Miss E Lucas, Administrative Assistant

Absent: Cllr Mr R Adams

**35 To receive and accept apologies**

No apologies were received.

**36 Declarations of Interest**

None declared.

**37 Public Question Time**

There were no questions.

**38 Order of Business**

There were no changes to the order of business.

**39 Chairman's and Clerk's Announcements**

There were no announcements.

**40 Property & Allotments Committee Minutes – To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Property & Allotments Committee Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2014.**

Copies had been circulated with the agenda. It was **resolved** to approve, and sign, the minutes of the Property & Allotments Committee Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2014, as a correct record. (Proposed by Cllr Webb, seconded by Cllr Szabo)

**41 Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**42 Allotments [CTC Allotments](#)**

**a) To receive an update from the Clerk on current issues, including the following:**

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

The Administrative Assistant advised that plot E20 was vacant and that two Notices To Quit had been issued in December 2014, following the non-payment of the annual allotment rents that had been due in October 2014.

➤ **Allotment boundaries encroaching on access paths**

The Administrative Assistant advised that certain plot holders at the Barnfield site had been pushing their boundaries and were now encroaching on access paths. She recommended members carry out a site visit to gain an understanding of the situation in order that members can consider how they would like to proceed.

➤ **Plots being overshadowed by neighbouring trees and plants**

The Administrative Assistant advised that a plot holder had grown trees and plants to a height that was now adversely impacting on a neighbouring plot to such an extent that part of the plot was unusable. She recommended members carry out a site visit to gain an understanding of the situation in order that members can consider how they would like to proceed. Members agreed to individually carry out a site visit in order to assess both the boundary and overshadowing issues.

➤ **Maintenance of boundary hedges and footpaths**

The Administrative Assistant advised that the Clerk was still in the process of obtaining quotations for this work and would hopefully have more news at the next meeting.

Ms Tearle advised members of an issue relating to the maintenance of a group of trees running alongside the Exhibition Road site. Members agreed to assess the issue whilst carrying out a site visit in order to consider how to proceed. The Administrative Assistant agreed to investigate who owned the trees in question.

**b) To consider matters raised by the Boniface Allotments Association.**

None raised.

**c) To consider matters and issues raised by allotment tenants**

None raised.

Ms Tearle left the meeting a 6.17 pm

**43 To consider supporting a social awareness scheme whereby local people support an elderly person by providing gardening help in return for using a small part of the garden to grow vegetables.** This item had been requested by Cllr Ford and had been deferred from the previous meeting. It was resolved to defer this item to the next Property & Allotments Committee Meeting. (Proposed by Cllr Szabo, seconded by Cllr Webb)

**44 To discuss play area provision within Crediton Town and consider taking control of some or all of the play areas from Mid Devon District Council.**

Recent correspondence received from Mid Devon District Council had been issued with the agenda. The play areas in Crediton were considered and members answered the survey provided by MDDC, please see Appendix 1 attached. It was resolved for the Newcombes Meadow Community Group to be consulted on this issue before any other comment or action is taken as well as bringing the matter to the attention of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (Proposed by Cllr Webb, seconded by Cllr Szabo).

**45 To review the trees works undertaken in Peoples Park and agree any further works required including a replanting scheme.**

The Clerk advised members of the results of the resistograph test that had been carried out to the 3 sycamore trees in Peoples Park.

T0625 - the decay test showed that there was good wood resistance on all three sides of the trunk. Recommendation - Monitor every 12 months (no tree work required)

T0627 - the results showed that on the northern side of the trunk (leeward side) there is very little wood resistance indicating significant decay. Considering the tree is leaning and weighted to the south it is important there is sound wood on the northern side otherwise it is highly likely it will fail. Recommendation - fell and replant

T0630 - the results of the test and visual tree assessment suggest there is a large column of decay and inner stem hollowing in the main trunk. The residual wall thickness of sound wood appears to be just over a third of the main diameter of the trunk. Therefore, in order to prevent the tree falling at this point, a reduction of the canopy would reduce wind loading and minimise the risk of failure. Recommendation - Reduce canopy by approximately 5-6 metre sections (dominant upright stems) in the upper canopy by cutting back at appropriately sized growth points.

The cost to carry out the recommended tree works is £450 + VAT.

The Administrative Assistant advised that planning permission was required for the above works and that Hooper Services had applied for this. They had also spoken to Mid Devon District Council's tree officer regarding the required works. The tree officer was happy for the work to be carried out (subject to the necessary consents) as long as the stump is ground out

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and there is replanting. It is recommended that two trees are planted (Lime and Sycamore) in replacement of the one being felled and the one next to it that was previously felled.

The cost to plant two trees 8-10ft (Sycamore and Lime) with a stake and base cover is £240.00 + VAT.

The cost to grind out the stump of the felled tree is £180 + VAT.

It was resolved to instruct Hooper Services to carry out the recommended tree works as detailed in the results of the resistograph test, to plant one Lime and one Sycamore tree and to grind out the stump of the felled tree for a total cost of £870 plus VAT. (Proposed by Cllr Webb, seconded by Cllr Szabo).

- 46 To consider a further quotation for the spraying of weeds on Jockey Hill and agree a course of action. The Administrative Assistant advised members of a quotation received from Mr Bert Jewell for the spraying of weeds on Jockey Hill. The cost of which is £40. It was resolved to instruct Mr Jewell to carry out the works in the Spring at a time he deemed most appropriate. (Proposed by Cllr Szabo, seconded by Cllr Webb)
- 47 To consider the maintenance of weeds on the A377 through Crediton following Devon County Council's proposals to cease all weed control in the County. The Administrative Assistant advised members that the Clerk had asked Mr Jewell to provide a quotation for these works in light of Devon County Council's proposals.
- 48 To discuss the ongoing maintenance of the Peoples Park Scout Memorial Garden and consider the quotations received. The Administrative Assistant had circulated a quotation from the existing contractor for the maintenance of Peoples Park Scout Memorial Garden for 2015-2016, at a cost of £1,200. It was resolved to accept the quotation. (Proposed by Cllr Szabo, seconded by Cllr Webb)
- 49 To discuss the bus stop situated outside Helmores following a request that action be taken by the Council to reduce the level of glare created by the sun shining on the roof. The Administrative Assistant explained that sun was shining on to the roof of the bus shelter and then rebounding into Helmores offices, the glare was such that it was rendering one desk (situated close to the window) impossible to use. After investigation it had been established that the roof of the bus shelter is plastic/polycarbonate. It was resolved for the Council staff to investigate what could be done to reduce the glare.
- 50 To receive an update from the Clerk on the following works:
- a) **Upper Deck**  
All works at Upper Deck had been completed, the Clerk will inspect them next week pending receipt of the invoice.
  - b) **Handrail situated in front of the bus stop next to the Town's War Memorial**  
This has been completed and again the work will be inspected this week pending receipt of the invoice.
  - c) **Cleaning of the Town's War Memorial following the fire in November**  
The Clerk had spoken to F J Stevens and they were willing to undertake this work, together with the cleaning of the St Boniface statue, free of charge. Members requested that recognition was given to the company for its generosity to the Town.
  - d) **Bandstand electrics**  
The Administrative Assistant explained that the bandstand electric box door had been bent open, allowing the electricity to be switched on. A set of speakers had also been found plugged into the electricity socket in the bandstand roof. N.S. Burd is currently carrying out works to prevent this being able to occur again.

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51 **Business Brought Forward**

Cllr Szabo

- Explained he had noticed a tree at Exhibition Road with branches overgrowing onto the pavement and bench. Cllr Szabo requested for this to be reported.

52 **Close**

The meeting closed at 6.48 pm

Signed  ..... Date: 10-3-15.  
(Chairman)

# Play Area Questionnaire

## Crediton Town Parish

### For Parishes with MDDC Play Areas

	Yes	No
Our Parish is interested in Mid Devon's proposal and request further information.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Our Parish would consider employing Mid Devon Staff to inspect our play areas.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>We don't own any.</i>
We would like more information on how residents can become Play Area Wardens.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Our Parish would like to receive help and advice on our play areas.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

It would also be appreciated if you could give an indication on how well Mid Devon Play Area's are used within your Parish.

Site	Play area is well used, children are often on site	Play Area is moderately used, children are occasionally on site	Play area is under used, children rarely on site	Unable to supply information	Any other comments
Greenway					<i>never used</i>
Beech Park				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

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Newcombes Meadow	✓				
Barnfield	✓				
Tuckers Meadow				✓	
Lords Meadow	✓				
Walnut Drive				✓	
Spinningpath Gardens				✓	

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Queen Elizabeth Drive				✓	
Beacon Park				✓	
Lords Meadow "In Line Skating"	✓				
Fulda Crescent					Empty
Cromwells Meadow				✓	
Monks Close				✓	

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Kirton Drive				✓	
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