



Minutes of Credition Town Council's Property & Allotments Committee Meeting, held on Tuesday, 10th March 2015, at 6pm, at the Council Chamber, Market Street, Credition

Present: Cllrs Miss J Harris, Mr M Szabo, Mr D Webb, Mr R Adams (part meeting) and Mrs G Ford (part meeting)

In Attendance: Miss E Lucas, Administrative Assistant
Ms Penni Tearle, Chairman of Boniface Allotment Association
1 member of the press

53 To receive and accept apologies

No apologies were received.

54 Declarations of Interest

None declared.

55 Public Question Time

There were no questions.

56 Order of Business

There were no changes to the order of business.

57 Chairman's and Clerk's Announcements

There were no announcements.

58 Property & Allotments Committee Minutes – To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Property & Allotments Committee Meeting held on 13th January 2015.

Copies had been circulated with the agenda. It was **resolved** to approve, and sign, the minutes of the Property & Allotments Committee Meeting held on 13th January 2015, as a correct record. (Proposed by Cllr Webb, seconded by Cllr Szabo)

59 Matters Arising

Minute number 44 - Cllr Webb asked whether Newcombes Meadow Community Group had been contacted. The Administrative Assistant advised that Cllr Wyer had been contacted and provided with information on the matter, on behalf of Newcombes Meadow Community Group.

Minute number 49 - Cllr Webb requested an update from the Administrative Assistant. The Administrative Assistant advised that the matter was still being investigated.

60 Allotments [CTC Allotments](#)

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

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

The Administrative Assistant advised that plot E20 was vacant. The Administrative Assistant also explained that, after carrying out an inspection at Exhibition Road, letters had been sent to draw attention to the fact that we are entering the growing season, in order to focus the minds of those that do not seem to have been doing any work to their plots.

Cllr Adams arrived at 6.05 pm

Cllr Ford arrived at 6.06 pm

JH.

➤ **Allotment boundaries encroaching on access paths**

It was **resolved** to acknowledge that one particular plot holder appeared to be stretching the boundaries of their plot, which has adversely impacted on the width of the public paths surrounding it. (Proposed by Cllr Webb, seconded by Cllr Szabo)

It was further **resolved** for the Clerk, in liaison with the Chair of the Boniface Allotment Association and Cllr Harris, to be delegated responsibility to take action to remedy the situation by writing to the plot holder to arrange a meeting. (Proposed by Cllr Webb, seconded by Cllr Szabo)

The Administrative Assistance advised that if the plot holder failed to cooperate the issue would be brought back to the attention of the Committee.

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

It was **resolved** to acknowledge that one particular plot holder was causing a nuisance and annoyance to a neighbouring plot holder as a result of his excessive planting of trees. This is adversely impacting on the neighbouring plot by blocking light. (Proposed by Cllr Webb, seconded by Cllr Szabo)

It was further **resolved** for the Clerk, in liaison with the Chair of the Boniface Allotment Association and Cllr Harris, to be delegated responsibility to take action to remedy the situation by writing to the plot holder to arrange a meeting. (Proposed by Cllr Webb, seconded by Cllr Szabo)

The Administrative Assistance advised that if the plot holder failed to cooperate the issue would be brought back to the attention of the Committee.

It was **resolved** for the Council to refund one third of the neighbouring allotment holders rent, as part of his plot has been rendered unusable by the trees blocking light. (Proposed by Cllr Webb, seconded by Cllr Szabo)

➤ **Maintenance of boundary hedges and footpaths**

The Administrative Assistant explained that one quotation had been obtained so far for the maintenance of boundary hedges and that further quotations are still being obtained. The Town Clerk has a meeting with two contractors on Thursday to discuss the works required. The Administrative Assistant explained that as we are entering the nesting season a contractor needs to be appointed immediately.

It was **resolved** to pass a virement to take £2,000 from the Peoples Park maintenance budget, where there is an underspend, and allocate this to the maintenance of boundary hedges at Exhibition Road. (Proposed by Cllr Szabo, seconded by Cllr Webb)

It was further **resolved** to delegate responsibility to the Town Clerk, in conjunction with the Chair, to appoint a contractor, with the quote deemed most appropriate, to carry out the maintenance of boundary hedges, to a maximum of £2,000. (Proposed by Cllr Szabo, seconded by Cllr Webb)

The Administrative Assistant advised that one quote had been obtained from Hooper Services for the work required to the footpaths and that a second quote would be obtained from another contractor. The Town Clerk is also in contact with Community Payback in order to see if the work can be done as part of a Community Payback Scheme.

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

Ms Tearle explained that one of the members of the Boniface Allotments Association had concerns that the tap at Barnfield Allotments had a leak. Cllr Adams advised that he was looking into this matter and that he had turned the water on this afternoon and had taken a meter reading. He advised he would check the reading again tomorrow and report back to the Town Council Offices.

JA

c) To consider matters and issues raised by allotment tenants

None raised.

- 61 **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. Cllr Ford explained the scheme to members suggesting that allotment holders may be interested in the scheme. Ms Tearle explained that a lot of time is required to maintain the allotment plots, therefore plot holders may not have the time to take on another project. Ms Tearle confirmed she would bring the idea to the attention of the Boniface Allotments Association at its next meeting and publicise where possible.

Members recommended for Cllr Ford to explore the scheme further and get in touch with the Gardening Club, Queen Elizabeth's Academy Trust and the Crediton Courier to see whether there was any interest from volunteers.

Ms Tearle and Cllr Ford left the meeting at 6.28 pm

62 **To consider the following works to Upper Deck:**

These items had been requested by Cllr Szabo

- **Cleaning with a high pressure hose.**

The Administrative Assistant explained that Mr K Hooper cleans the area annually. It was **resolved** for Mr Hooper to carry out the existing maintenance as usual and reassess the area afterwards. (Proposed by Cllr Szabo, seconded by Cllr Webb)

- **Having the wooden bench treated.**

It was **resolved** to obtain quotes for the treating of the wooden bench, subject to checking the ownership of the bench. (Proposed by Cllr Webb, seconded by Cllr Szabo)

- **Repairing the cracks in the cement foundation.**

The Administrative Assistant circulated photos of cracks. It was **resolved** to obtain quotes for filling the cracks. (Proposed by Cllr Webb, seconded by Cllr Szabo)

- **Replanting of the beds.**

The Administrative Assistant advised members that Mr Bert Jewell had been asked to provide a quote for the replanting of the beds and that the quote hadn't been received yet.

- 63 **To consider whether the Council should plan an event to mark the 100th anniversary of the building of Upper Deck.** This item had been requested by Cllr Szabo.

Cllr Adams declared a personal interest.

It was **resolved** to request for this item to be considered at a full Council meeting. (Proposed by Cllr Adams, seconded by Cllr Szabo)

- 64 **To consider a quotation for the removal of two tree stumps at Peoples Park.** This item had been requested by Cllr Szabo. The Administrative Assistant circulated a quotation from Hooper Services for £220 +VAT. It was **resolved** to obtain further quotes for the removal of two tree stumps at Peoples Park. (Proposed by Cllr Webb, seconded by Cllr Adams)

Cllr Adams suggested approaching a firm based in Cheriton Fitzpaine and Cllr Webb suggested approaching RC Services Garden & Property Maintenance, after they showed an interest in the Peoples Park Wildlife Area.

- 65 **To consider the painting of the finger posts and the wedding cake planters owned by the Town Council.** This item has been requested by Cllr Szabo. It was **resolved** to obtain quotes for the painting of the finger posts and the wedding cake planters owned by the Town Council. (Proposed by Cllr Szabo, seconded by Cllr Webb)

SH -

Cllr Szabo suggested approaching A R Davey Painters & Decorators.

66 **To consider building a new wishing well floral planter (brick wall) around the new CREDITON sign on Exeter Road, near the entrance to Tesco.** This item had been requested by Cllr Szabo. It was **resolved** to look into the cost of building a new wishing well floral planter (brick wall) around the new CREDITON sign on Exeter Road. (Proposed by Cllr Szabo, seconded by Cllr Webb)

67 **To consider a quotation for the spraying of weeds on the A377 through Crediton following Devon County Council's proposals to cease all weed control in the County.** The Administrative Assistant circulated a quote from Mr Bert Jewell for £350, which combined the two quotes previously approved, as well as the spraying of weeds on the A377. It was **resolved** to accept the quotation of £350. (Proposed by Cllr Webb, seconded by Cllr Szabo)

68 **Business Brought Forward**

- Cllr Webb explained that a few members of public had approached him regarding creating a small memorial for Samuel Cocker. Members agreed that this suggestion should be brought to the attention of the full Council.

69 **Close**

The meeting closed at 6.48 pm

Signed. 

(Chairman)

Date: 9-6-15