



Minutes of Crediton Town Council's Community & Environment Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 26 July 2022, at 19.00 at Old Lanscore School, Greenway, Crediton.

Present: Cllrs E Brookes-Hocking, J Harris, G Cochran, D Ross, N Letch, M Szabo and S Chenore (part-meeting)

In Attendance: Emma Anderson, Assistant Clerk
Penni Tearle, Chairman of the Boniface Allotment Association
1 member of the public

67 Public Question Time

There were no questions.

68 To receive and accept apologies

None received.

69 Declarations of Interest

Cllrs Szabo and Ross declared a personal interest in agenda item 13 - both would be attending the event.

70 To note that decisions will be made with the climate emergency at the forefront of decision and policy making

This was noted.

71 Order of Business

It was **resolved** to bring agenda item 14 "To receive an update on Stonypark" forward to allow the member of the public in attendance to speak.

72 Chairman's and Clerk's Announcements

There were no announcements

73 Committee Meeting Minutes - To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Community & Environment Committee meeting held on 21 June 2022

It was **resolved** to approve and sign the minutes. (Proposed by Cllr Harris)

Cllr Chenore entered the meeting at 7 02 pm

74 To receive an update on Stonypark

The Town Clerk had looked through the original paperwork and there were no restrictions stated regarding the use of the land. Due to the South West Water reservoir adjacent to the land, and potential pipework, an orchard may not be suitable.

Cllr Brookes-Hocking allowed member of the public, Miss Hennig, to speak on the item. Standing orders were suspended.

Miss Hennig advised members that she would be interested in renting the land at Stonypark. She also provided an overview of her family's history with Stonypark and her intentions to harvest the land should she be the next tenant.

Cllr Brookes-Hocking advised Miss Hennig that the current tenant was due to vacate the land on 31 July 2022 and a decision would not be made regarding its future use until the handover was complete. Miss Hennig agreed to register her interest in writing.

Standing orders were reinstated.

It was **agreed** to discuss the future use of Stonypark at the next meeting.

Miss Hennig left the meeting at 7.17 pm

75 Allotments:

- **To note the details and outcome of an incident involving a dog at Barnfield**
Correspondence following the incident had been circulated to members. The committee agreed that dogs should be on leads at all times when on the allotments. The Assistant Clerk advised that letters had been issued to all allotment holders to remind them of the rules relating to dogs. There are also posters up at the allotment site.

- **To consider joining the National Allotment Society at a cost of £55 + VAT**
It was **resolved** to join the National Allotment Society at a cost of £55 + VAT. (Proposed by Cllr Harris)

- **To consider the following issues and agree a course of action – Vacant plots, Non-Cultivation Notices and Notices to Quit**
It was noted that there has been 1 Non-Cultivation Notice and 2 Notices to Quit issued in June/July.

- **To consider matters raised by the Boniface Allotments Association and allotment tenants and agree any actions, including the following:**

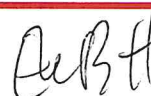
- **Making allotment sites chemical/pesticide free**
The Committee agreed that use of pesticides should be minimised however due to it being difficult to police, it was agreed that education and encouragement would be the best approach.

The Assistant Clerk advised members that the idea of an allotment newsletter had been discussed in the office. It was **agreed** to start publishing a monthly allotment newsletter and use this as a way of promoting the Council's aim to reduce the use of pesticides and promote biodiversity.

Penni Tearle left the meeting at 19.32

76 To discuss the agreement in place between Crediton Town Council and Devon County Council relating to the regulation of unauthorised signs and agree any actions

It was **resolved** for the Assistant Clerk to contact Devon County Council and find out if the policy had been updated since originally signing it in 2016. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)



It was agreed for Cllr Brookes-Hocking to meet with the Clerk and Assistant Clerk to look at the policy in detail, draw up practical examples of how the policy can realistically be enforced and update the policy if necessary.

It was **resolved** to reconsider the policy, and any recommended changes, at the next meeting. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

77 To discuss the property inspection report and agree any actions (a copy of the report had been circulated prior to the meeting)

The Assistant Clerk provided the following updates:

- Graffiti on the war memorial and bus shelter has been cleaned by Turning Tides
- Spinning Path Gardens play area – the fence has been repaired at a cost of £30 as it was a hazard to members of the public
- Grounds maintenance contractors have visited Fulda Crescent to address the weeds

It was **resolved** to agree to the recommendations contained within the report and obtain quotes where necessary. (Proposed by Cllr Harris)

78 To receive an update on the three graffitied trees at Peoples Park and agree any actions

The Assistant Clerk advised that one option was to use a chainsaw to take off the layers of bark that have been vandalised, but the bark wouldn't grow back. Turning Tides are going to try some less intrusive methods including sanding the graffitied areas by hand.

79 To receive an update on Floral Crediton, including:

- **Flower beds in Newcombes Meadow**

The buzy lizzies in the flower beds have not survived the intense heat. Extra watering had been carried out, but this was not enough. There are also signs that a mildew specific to buzy lizzies may have taking hold, contributing to the failure. The council's watering contractor has collected new begonias to replace the dead flowers at a cost of £100 + VAT and has planted these free of charge.

- **Mill Street planter**

Unfortunately, this has been missed off by the watering contractor causing the flowers to die. He has replanted the tub free of charge.

80 To consider purchasing 4 tickets for the South West in Bloom Presentation event to be held in Crewkerne on Thursday, 13 October and agree any actions

It was agreed to purchase 4 tickets for the South West in Bloom Presentation event at a cost of £100. (Proposed by Cllr Harris)

81 To receive an update on the 2022 Britain in Bloom In Your Neighbourhood and Pennant Award

Cllr Szabo updated members explaining that the focus of the Britain in Bloom competition is continuously growing into community involvement. The main focus of the competition is community benefit and injecting pride into the town. The judging results for Crediton will be announced at the presentation on 13 October.



82 To receive an update on tree planting and open spaces

- **Purchasing and planting a Liquidambar tree in Peoples Park**

Committee members agreed the Jubilee tree should be planted in one of the open spaces at Peoples Park so it would be a standalone tree.

It was **agreed** for the Assistant Clerk to get professional advice on the planting of a liquidambar in Peoples Park specifically related to how big they can grow.

Cllr Szabo suggested a request could be put to the developers of Libbets Grange to plant a Beech tree on the triangular verge next to the new development. Cllr Brookes-Hocking explained that the new development plans would need looking at as the grassed area may not remain following the re-engineering of the road.

83 To note the date of the next meeting – 20 September 2022

The date of the next meeting was **noted**. The meeting was closed at 20.04

Signed

A large black rectangular redaction covers the signature of the Chairman. A small handwritten mark is visible above the redaction.

Chairman

Dated.....

27/09/2022