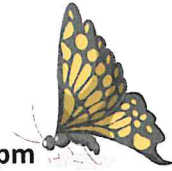




**Crediton Open Space Committee Meeting,  
Held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2018, at 4:00 pm**



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**Councillors Present:** Mrs Liz Brookes-Hocking, Mr Frank Letch and Mr Bob Wright

**Community Present:** Yvonne Crone and Laura Conyngham

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

**23 To receive and accept apologies.**

It was **resolved** to receive and accept apologies from Kendra Ezekiel. (Proposed by Cllr Letch)

**24 Declarations of Interest**

Cllrs Letch and Wright declared that as members 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.

**25 Crediton Open Space Committee Minutes – To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Crediton Open Space Committee Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2017.** It was **resolved** to approve and sign the minutes of the Crediton Open Space Committee Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2017, as a correct record. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

**26 Matters Arising**

Page 3, minute number 17 – Cllr Wright asked for an update regarding lighting. Clare advised that she had been in contact with Devon County Council (DCC) who had checked its land charges maps for the area and confirmed that none of the footpaths appear to be highways maintainable at public expense (HMPE) therefore, technically, the streetlight PL1 outside the substation doesn't belong to DCC. As DCC has always maintained and repaired the streetlight, the officer concerned does not think DCC can really off-load it now, however, as the footpaths belong to the Town Council, it would be the responsibility of the Town Council to organise and fund any additional lights. DCC also advised that any lighting installed in previously unlit areas should comply with the current lighting Code of Practice – BS5489-1:2013, however, as this is a private area, the Town Council doesn't have to legally comply with this. If the decision is taken to install lighting that does not comply with BS5489-1:2013, the Council could be liable to a claim should there be an accident (trip/fall), which could be attributed to poor lighting. DCC's policy is that if an area isn't already lit and funding isn't available to install a compliant lighting scheme, it is better to leave the area unlit rather than have inadequate, non-compliant lighting.

On this basis, the Clerk has been trying to obtain quotations for solar lighting to be installed and has also taken advice from Mid Devon District Council's (MDDC) Conservation Officer as to whether this would be permissible. So far, she had only been able to secure one quotation which was approx. £4,000 to install 2 x solar lighting columns to BS5489-1:2013. She also pointed out that the solar lights available to meet these requirements were not very in keeping with the area and there was no guarantee they would consistently work through the winter months due to the shorter days, the amount of usage, battery storage and overhanging trees. She also pointed out that such a project was outside of this Committee's remit and that the matter should really be referred to the Property & Allotment Committee.

Cllr Brookes-Hocking suggested that this should be transferred to the Property & Allotment Committee and included with the Council's Strategic Plan. It was felt that this project should form part of a Sustainable Transport Policy and that grant funding could be sourced.

In the meantime, members asked Clare to investigate the possibility of pruning the trees around the existing light.

Page 3, minute number 16 – Clare confirmed she had spoken to Westward Barbell. Due to circumstances beyond the owners control the project has been delayed. It is still on his radar.

**27 To receive an update on the Peoples Park Wildlife Area project and agree any further actions.**

- **Planting of native hedging**

The hedging arrived on the 7<sup>th</sup> March 2018. Yvonne and Laura, together with a local volunteer, planted it. All members thanked them for their hard work.

- **Painting of wall and fence** – Clare advised that the Amber Foundation had volunteered to do this work. It has been booked in, and cancelled, several times due to adverse weather. Clare is currently trying to reschedule it for Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

- **Compost bin** – Three quotations have been obtained and were considered. It was **resolved** to instruct John Lewis at a total cost of £125.00. (Proposed by Cllr Letch) It was requested for the bin to be installed at the opposite end to the existing one, where the laurel hedge finishes and the cob wall starts.

- **Leaf holder** – It was **resolved** to install a 1.5 metre square leaf holder using 4 tree stakes and rabbit mesh in August. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking) It was further **resolved** to give the Clerk designated responsibility to purchase the equipment and instruct a contractor to install it. (Proposed by Cllr Letch)

- **Jackson's volunteers**

It was agreed that, with the exception of the painting, volunteers were no longer needed at the wildlife area until the Autumn. It was **resolved** to ask Ernest Jackson if their staff could assist in the clearing of the overgrown triangle of waste land behind the Royal Mail office on the cut through between Hawkins Way and Mill Street. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking) Clare was asked to ascertain if Westward Barbell are still interested in sponsoring this area and if so, to ask if they would sponsor a tree, some low maintenance plants and keep an eye on the area, including carrying out some watering until the tree and plants are established. Laura confirmed she would speak to Ernest Jackson about clearing the area on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2018. Yvonne agreed to look into a suitable tree, possibly a multi-stemmed birch and to e-mail members with her findings. It was noted that due to the time of year, the tree needed to be container grown and of a decent size.

Clare was asked to investigate whether the council had any left-over weed membrane from the wildlife area, as this would be needed once the area had been cleared, together with some pegs to keep it in position.

**28 To consider expanding the amount of wildlife planting at Peoples Park.**

Clare advised that the 'Grow Wild' seed pack application had been successful and the kit should be received next week. After much discussion, which included the most appropriate way to prepare the ground and sow the seeds, it was agreed for the seeds to be sown in late April on the other side of the wildlife area path. Clare was asked to advise all members once the seed kit arrives, so they can check what's in it. Frank confirmed he would speak to the Scouts to see

if they would like to sow the seeds. Liz, Yvonne and Laura agreed to arrange a site visit to establish the exact location for the seeds and how it could be protected.

**29 To receive an update from the Town Clerk on the maintenance of the land, owned by the Guinness Trust, at Queen Elizabeth Drive.** Clare advised that the area was now being maintained by the Guinness Trust. She had a new reliable contact who would oversee the area. She confirmed she would continue to monitor the situation.

**30 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. Frank advised that MDDC do have powers to serve notice on land owners if they need to tidy/clean up an area.

Yvonne suggested the Committee consider contacting Tesco about the long strip of land located on the other side of their fence, which runs adjacent to the car park. It's always full of rubbish and there could be the potential for some planting.

It was also suggested that the Committee engage with Mole Avon regarding them planting some heritage trees on the boundary of their new site. Clare advised that she understood Mole Avon were developing right up to their boundary.

Bob advised that the land between the new Mole Avon site and the A377 had been allocated for a fast food outlet. Clare was asked to investigate this.

Laura expressed concern that stock proof fencing had been installed on the land situated across the road from Tesco and the Red Deer and asked who had done this and what is happening with this area.

It was **resolved** that consideration and further investigation needs to be given to the land surrounding Tesco, Red Deer and Mole Avon, especially as it is an important entrance to the Town. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

Bob Wright left the meeting at 5.06 pm

Several members objected to the Council's Floral Crediton Committee's plans to install artificial grass underneath four trees in the Town Square.

Yvonne asked members whether they still supported the Incredible Edible Garden in the Town Square, as Michael Szabo had visited her and implied that their planting was preventing the Square from achieving a gold in the Britain in Bloom Competition. Members advised Yvonne that they still supported the Incredible Edible project.

**31 Close**  
The meeting closed at 5.12 pm

Signed .....  
Chairman

Dated.....10-7-18.....