



Minutes of Credition Town Council's Floral Credition Committee Meeting, held on Tuesday, 10th April 2018, at 5.30 pm, at the Council Chamber, Market Street, Credition

Present: Cllrs Mr M Szabo (Committee Chair) Miss J Harris, Mr F Letch and Mrs K Piercy

In Attendance: Mrs Emma Anderson, Assistant Clerk
Mr Bert Jewell
Ms Shelley O'Berg, Incredible Edibles Group

25. To receive and accept apologies

None received.

26. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Letch declared that as a member of more than one authority, any views or opinions expressed at the meeting would be provisional and would not prejudice any views expressed at a meeting of another authority.

27. Public Question Time

There were no questions.

28. Order of Business

It was **resolved** to change the order of business and bring forward agenda item 13 'To discuss the weeds growing around the trees on the Town Square and agree any actions.' in order that this can be discussed after item 7 'Matters Arising' as Shelley O'Berg has attended the meeting to discuss this item. (Proposed by Cllr Szabo)

29. Chairman's and Clerk's Announcements

Cllr Szabo

- Will be on the Town Square on Farmer's Market days to hand out the Keep Credition Clean Campaign leaflets.
- Has started taking photographs for the Britain in Bloom entry portfolio/leaflet.
- A new Britain in Bloom TV series is starting on BBC 2 next week, which follows cities and towns that enter the Britain in Bloom competition. Cllr Szabo was contacted by the program and has registered Credition's interest in being involved.

30. Floral Credition Committee Minutes – To approve and sign the minutes of the Floral Credition Committee Meeting held on 27th February 2018, as a correct record. Copies had been circulated with the agenda. It was **resolved** to approve, and sign, the minutes of the Floral Credition Committee Meeting, held on 27th February 2018, as a correct record. (Proposed by Cllr Letch)

31. Matters Arising

None.

32. To discuss the weeds growing around the trees on the Town Square and agree any actions.

This item had been requested by Cllr Szabo.

Cllr Szabo circulated a copy of the judges' feedback from last year's Britain in Bloom Competition and highlighted the following comment "the tall weeds around some of the other trees were obvious and detracted from the otherwise well managed Town Square".

Cllr Szabo had spoken to one of the volunteers involved in the maintenance of these areas on the Square, Yvonne Crone, and she had explained that the members of the group that started the Incredible Edibles initiative had been very busy and had not been able to put as much effort into the maintenance. Yvonne had advised Cllr Szabo that the group wouldn't object to stepping back from the responsibility of maintaining this corner of the Square.

Shelley O'Berg introduced herself and explained that the Incredible Edibles group started an initiative to promote edible gardens, as this was the focus of the Its Your Neighbourhood Competition a few years ago. The idea led to planting around some of the trees on the Town Square (on the corner opposite the Council Offices) and the installation of a planted container. Shelley explained that due to work commitments, she had not been able to carry on with this project to the standard she would have liked. Shelley did also confirm that she and another member of the group weeded these areas last Friday following Cllr Szabo's concerns.

Shelley explained that she and Bert had discussed the planted container and the idea of Bert taking on the maintenance of this. The planter would be planted with edible flowers and vegetables such as runner beans, kale etc.

Cllr Szabo highlighted that the main issue is with the areas around the trees as opposed to the planted container. These beds need to be maintained on a regular basis and although the Council is grateful to the Incredible Edible group for its contribution to the Town Square gardening scheme, the main concern is whether the maintenance will be kept on top of.

Bert Jewell explained that the beds beneath the trees need hoeing on a regular basis otherwise the weeds will come back. He agreed he would be happy to take on this maintenance but only if the Incredible Edible group decided to fully hand over the project as the beds would need to be completely cleared out for the ideas he has in mind.

It was agreed for Shelley to speak to the other members of the Incredible Edible group to decide whether the group want to continue to maintain the beds beneath the trees, as well as the planted container, and whether they have enough time to commit to the project. Shelley agreed to speak to the group and let the Assistant Clerk know by Sunday, 15th April 2018.

Cllr Szabo thanked Shelley for her contribution to the meeting.

33. **To confirm the approval of the manufacturing and installation of 6 hanging basket poles to be located in the grounds of Crediton Parish Church, at a total cost of £252.00.** It was resolved to the approve the manufacturing and installation of 6 hanging basket poles to be located in the grounds of Crediton Parish Church, at a total cost of £252.00. (Proposed by Cllr Harris)
34. **To receive an update on increasing the number of floral displays in the town and agree any actions.** The Assistant Clerk confirmed she had discussed the possibility of siting three-tier flower towers on the pavement near QE Upper School and Hillbrow Care Home with Crediton's Neighbourhood Highway Officer, Steve Tucker. Mr Tucker is still obtaining further information in relation to this and will be in touch once this has been received.

Cllr Szabo confirmed he has approached the Wetherspoons manager to see if they would be interested in increasing their planting. Bert confirmed they have recruited a new gardener.

35. **To receive an update on the floral displays/planting in the town for 2018 and agree any actions.** The Assistant Clerk confirmed everything is in place for the hanging baskets and troughs to go up on 1st June 2018. Bert confirmed he will be planting up the boxes on Susan's Flower Shop again this year.
36. **To consider a project idea to transform an area of open space in Westernlea into a floral meadow feature and agree any actions.** Further information relating to the project idea had been issued with the agenda. Cllr Letch advised members that this area of open space is outside Crediton's town boundary.

Cllr Szabo explained that Greg Martin started the Save the House Martins of Westernlea Group. This group has previously entered the It's Your Neighbourhood (IYN) competition however, because they did not have any floral arrangements, the group only met two of the three IYN criteria. During last year's judging, the judges suggested that the Save the House Martins of Westernlea Group could transform this area of open space within Westernlea in order to meet the 'floral arrangements' criteria.

Cllr Szabo confirmed Crediton Hamlets Parish Council are supporting this project and Cllr Letch confirmed Crediton Hamlets wish to use S106 money to fund the project.

The Committee supported the project idea.

37. **To discuss contributing to Crediton Rotary Club to help purchase plants for the entrance to the town and agree any actions.** This item had been requested by Cllr Szabo. Cllr Szabo had been approached by one of the members of Crediton Rotary Club as Crediton Hamlets Parish Council had refused to fund the plants for the barrels located on the verge alongside the section of the A377 by Ladds.

The Assistant Clerk advised members that the floral budget is already stretched, particularly with the new arrangements that have had to be made for the hanging baskets, troughs and watering. The planters are also located outside of the town boundary.

The Assistant Clerk also advised members that Homeleigh Crediton Garden Centre had been in touch after its quote for the hanging baskets and troughs had been unsuccessful. The manager confirmed that the Homeleigh Crediton Garden Centre would still like to support the town's floral projects by donating planters or plants. Bert confirmed he was planning to visit the Garden Centre soon to discuss this offer and suggested that plants could be obtained for the barrels.

It was **resolved** for Bert to visit Homeleigh Crediton Garden Centre to discuss the donation of plants. (Proposed by Cllr Szabo)

It was further **resolved** for the Assistant Clerk to contact Tesco and Morrisons to see if they would be willing to contribute towards Floral Crediton 2018. (Proposed by Cllr Piercy)

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38. **To receive an update on Crediton Town's entry into the 2018 Britain In Bloom Pennant Competition and agree any actions.** Cllr Szabo confirmed the fee and entry form had been submitted. He also requested for the Assistant Clerk to contact Community Pay Back and see if they would be interested in cleaning the street furniture on the High Street again. Cllr Szabo discussed the judging route and explained he was concerned about stopping near Morrisons and Mill Street in case the judges spot the graffiti on the wall by Glen Creedy Court.

Bert felt the judges needed to see the Crediton Inn as well as ATS and Cllr Szabo agreed he would liaise with Bert to finalise the route.

39. **To receive an update from Cllr Szabo on the It's Your Neighbourhood Awards Competition.** Cllr Szabo confirmed there are 14 entries for Crediton, two of which are new entries namely Westward Barbell and Greenfingers of Sandford. The gentleman from Westward Barbell had volunteered to get a team to paint the graffiti at Glen Creedy Court if the paint was supplied.

The IYN Awards presentation is being held on 4th October 2018. It was agreed to present the IYN certificates in the Council Chamber on Tuesday, 9th October 2018 at 5.30 pm.

40. **To receive an update on the Floral Crediton Competition 2018 and agree any actions.** The Assistant Clerk confirmed that no entries had been received as it is still quite early in the year for the competition. The competition is being promoted in the newsletter that has just been published, the entry form will be circulated on social media and entry forms will also be available from the Mayor's Surgery.

41. **To review the Committee's aims and objectives as detailed within the Council's Strategic Plan.** A copy of the Strategic Plan had been issued with the agenda. Members agreed the Committee is on track to achieve its aims and objectives and has done well considering the changes this year to the provision of hanging baskets, troughs and watering.

42. **Close**
The meeting closed at 6.23 pm

Signed.....
(Chairman)

..... Date: 10-7-18