



MINUTES

Committee: Amenities Committee
Date and Time: Monday, 12 August 2019, 7:00pm
Venue: Younghayes Centre, 169 Younghayes Road EX5 7DR

Present

Cllr Barry Rogers (in the chair)
Cllr Colin Buchan
Cllr Kim Bloxham
Cllr Les Bayliss
Cllr Matthew Osborn

Also Present

Cllr Ray Bloxham, Cranbrook Town Council
Cllr Sam Hawkins, Cranbrook Town Council
One member of the public
Tracy Simmons, Cranbrook Town Council

A/19/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No Apologies for absence have been received.

A/19/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

A/19/18 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 June 2019 were accepted as a correct record.

A/19/19 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The member of the public discussed an email sent to the Council, regarding tree planting at a specific location, along the B3174. This email was in relation to a visual and sound barrier as well as to combat pollution.

Following this discussion, the Committee agreed to move agenda item 6. tree planting initiative to before agenda item 5. blue hearts introduction of wildflower verges.

A/19/20 TREE PLANTING INITIATIVE

The Committee considered the report on tree planting. The committee discussed the benefits of planting trees in the country park and discussed working collaboratively with the schools on this project where possible.

The Committee considered ash dieback and noted that one or two areas within Cranbrook show evidence of the disease that will need ongoing management.

It was discussed that future planning and development of Cranbrook needs to be taken into consideration regarding road links, pavements and cycle paths; any planting that is undertaken requires careful

Signed:

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consideration, so no trees planted need to be removed later. It was perceived that the suggestion from the member of the public regarding tree planting for noise and visual barriers was a valuable insight and should be taken into consideration when choosing locations for tree planting.

The committee discussed replanting Christmas trees, but felt these trees would most likely not survive due to being kept indoors for several weeks.

It was proposed by Cllr Colin Buchan, seconded by Cllr Les Baylis and **resolved** to support the tree planting initiative with the following suggestions;

- further research regarding location and benefits of planting
- this initiative would not be limited to the Country Park but all areas of Cranbrook
- engagement with all stakeholders and residents regarding location

A/19/20 BLUE HEARTS INTRODUCTION OF WILDFLOWER VERGES

The Committee considered the report from Cllr Barry Rogers, regarding where it would be appropriate to use the Blue Hearts to allow rewilding within Cranbrook and progressing alternative means which would allow wildlife to flourish.

The Committee discussed that the management of green spaces in and around Cranbrook was already comprehensive regarding species and cutting regime. It was discussed that the blue hearts may help identify areas that are left wild, so that it was clear to residents and visitors that these areas were purposeful. The Committee also discussed that notice boards would be installed in the country park, these could contain information regarding the maintenance of the areas including wilding and the Blue Hearts.

It was discussed that the involvement of school children in the development of the signs would be beneficial as this may instill a sense of ownership and pride, and hopefully prevent vandalism of these signs.

It was proposed by Cllr Les Baylis, seconded by Cllr Colin Buchan and **resolved** to use blue hearts as a way to inform Cranbrook residents of the management scheme already in place in the Country Park and other green areas around Cranbrook.

A/19/22 MANAGEMENT OF BALES OF GRASS

The Committee considered the report on the future management of bales of grass in the Country Park.

The Committee discussed the Country Park Management plan, which stipulates that the grass needs to be baled, but not what to do with these bales. The committee commented that the bales may not be commercially viable, due to the mix of grasses in the bales and possible contamination from dog faeces.

One bale can take 2 years or more to decompose, while acting as a hibernaculum increasing insect populations, and consequently benefiting birds and small mammals. As the bales take time to degrade, it was discussed a sensible viable solution needs to be found, so that there is not an excessive number of bales in the Country Park.

It was discussed that a possible means to dispose of the bales would be biomass fuel. It was delegated to Cllr Les Baylis to explore this option and to report back to the Committee.

It was proposed by Cllr Kim Bloxham, seconded by Cllr Les Baylis and **resolved** to find a solution to the management of grass bales, which is to be taken to full Council for consideration, before next year's grass is due to be cut and baled.

The meeting closed at 8.00 pm.

Signed:

25 March 2019