

# MINUTES

**Committee:** Amenities Committee  
**Date:** Monday, 28 September 2020  
**Time:** 7:06 pm  
**Venue:** Zoom

## Present

Cllr Barry Rogers (Chair)  
Cllr Les Bayliss  
Cllr Colin Buchan  
Cllr Matt Osborn

## Also Present

Alice Lloyd, Country Park Ranger, Cranbrook Town Council  
Tracy Simmons, Deputy Clerk, Cranbrook Town Council

## A/20/28 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Kim Bloxham and Cllr Ray Bloxham.

## A/20/29 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Cllr Matt Osborn declared a personal interest in agenda item 6 the proposal to split the dog exercise area.

## A/20/30 MINUTES

It was proposed by Cllr Barry Rogers, seconded by Cllr Matt Osborn and resolved to accept and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 17 August 2020 as a correct record.

## A/20/31 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public in attendance.

## A/20/32 UPDATED FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The Committee considered the drafted response to Devon Country Councils Updated Flood Risk Management Strategy. The Committee clarified that within the response, only principles that were relevant to Town Councils were commented on.

It was proposed by Cllr Barry Rogers, seconded by Cllr Colin Buchan and **resolved** to submit the response to Devon County Council.

## A/20/33 PROPOSAL TO SPLIT THE DOG EXERCISE AREA

The Committee considered the proposal to split the dog exercise area into two separate areas.

Signed .....

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The Committee discussed that it would be disproportionate for the Council to spend large amounts of money on a small proportion of residents, however it was noted that there may be community led support for funding the project.

The Committee clarified that the dog walking area was a temporary feature, it was originally created to create a safe space to walk animals, while building works were being carried out.

It was proposed by Cllr Barry Rogers, seconded by Cllr Matt Osborn and **resolved** to  
(a) take no action at this time other than place signage on both access gates to remind users to close the gate and to be mindful that other animals may be in the area,  
(b) note that if a community led project was presented including all expenses fully costed with funding options the Committee would consider the proposal again at a later date.

#### **A/20/34 PUBLIC OPEN SPACE PLANTING**

The Committee considered the report on planting in public open spaces.

The committee noted that any proposals regarding the specifics of planning on verges would need to be complicit with any road safety and traffic visibility measures.

It was clarified that the proposals benefits were

1. Preventing these areas being driven over or used to park vehicles.
2. Make the area more attractive and nature friendly by offering urban habitat.
3. Ultimately potentially reduce the maintenance cost to the Council as once the shrubs are established, they would require less maintenance than the grass verges.

It was proposed by Cllr Barry Rogers, seconded by Cllr Les Bayliss and **resolved** to support the principle of planting in public open spaces, and that any proposals are submitted to the Asset Delivery Group for approval.

#### **A/20/35 RESIDENT REQUEST TO MAINTAIN PUBLIC OPEN SPACE**

The Committee considered the request from a resident to maintain an area of public open space.

The Committee commented that the area concerned is currently a Taylor Wimpy parcel.

It was proposed by Cllr Les Bayliss, seconded by Cllr Matt Osborn and **resolved** to advise the resident to seek permission from Taylor Wimpey and to have a discussion with the resident whether or not they wish to continue maintaining the area when the land transfers to the Council.

#### **A/20/36 GEOCACHING IN THE COUNTRY PARK**

The Committee considered the proposal for expanding geocaching in the Country Park.

The Committee noted that there is no cost to the Council for this proposal. It was observed that encouraging people to walk in the Country Park is a positive outcome.

It was proposed by Cllr Les Bayliss, seconded by Cllr Barry Rogers and **resolved** to note that permission had already been granted for the geocaches to be placed in the Country Park.

#### **A/20/37 PUBLIC ACCESS TO NATURE RESERVE IN THE COUNTRY PARK**

The Committee noted that following a site visit by the Environment Agency, the steppingstones to facilitate public access to the nature reserve will be put in place by the Country Park Ranger with the aid of volunteers.

**The meeting closed at 7.37 pm.**

Signed .....

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