

# MINUTES

**Committee:** Amenities Committee  
**Date:** Monday, 7 June 2021  
**Time:** 7:00pm  
**Venue:** Younghayes Centre, 169 Younghayes Road EX5 7DR

## Present

Cllr Barry Rogers (Chair)  
Cllr Les Bayliss  
Cllr Kim Bloxham  
Cllr Ray Bloxham  
Cllr Colin Buchan

## Also Present

Cllr Kevin Blakey, Cranbrook Town Council  
Cllr Sam Hawkins, Cranbrook Town Council  
Alice Lloyd, Country Park Ranger, Cranbrook Town Council  
Tracy Simmons, Deputy Clerk, Cranbrook Town Council

## A/21/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

## A/21/24 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Cllr Barry Rogers declared a personal interest in agenda item 10 by virtue of being an allotment holder.

## A/21/25 MINUTES

It was proposed by Cllr Kim Bloxham, seconded by Cllr Ray Bloxham and **resolved** to accept and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 29 March 2021 as a correct record.

## A/21/26 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public in attendance.

## A/21/27 TERMS OF REFERENCE

It was proposed by Cllr Ray Bloxham, seconded by Cllr Kim Bloxham and **resolved** to accept the Amenities Committee terms of reference with no changes to the original published draft.

## A/21/28 HEDGE PLANTING

The Committee considered the report on a resident planting a hedge in the Country Park. It was discussed that the varieties planted should be those of the native planting mix already used throughout the Country Park.

It was noted that Tony Benger Landscaping would include the maintenance of this hedgerow in their cutting schedule and had confirmed that there would be no maintenance implications.

Signed .....

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The Committee questioned who would own the hedge and if damage were to be caused to the residents' fence who would be responsible. It was clarified that as the hedge would be on Council land, the hedgerow would be Council responsibility.

It was proposed by Cllr Ray Bloxham, seconded by Cllr Les Bayliss and **resolved** to grant permission for this stretch of Country Park to be planted as additional hedgerow and for the Country Park Ranger to supervise the resident in planting the hedge to take place winter 2021/22.

### **A/21/29 METAL DETECTING IN THE COUNTRY PARK**

The Committee considered the proposal on metal detecting in the Country Park. The Country Park was likely to be severely disturbed in certain areas by the FAB Link - France Alderney Britain an electrical interconnector underwater and underground cable between France and Great Britain.

It was clarified that the land in phases 1 & 2 of the Country Park was owned by Cranbrook Town Council and phase 3 was planned to be owned by the town Council by the 9<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

Currently metal detecting has happened in the Country Park without permission, this activity may result in substantial finds not being recorded and monitored correctly. Metal detecting club participants sign up to a code of conduct which ensures that finds are correctly logged.

The Committee questioned whether any costs to the Council were involved, it was clarified that a metal detecting club would pay the landowner for the rights to perform a survey and split any profits made from the activity.

It was proposed by Cllr Ray Bloxham, seconded by Cllr Colin Buchan and **resolved** to:

1. agree in principle to the granting of search agreements for metal detection in the country park owned by the Town Council.
2. delegate to the Clerk and Chairman of the Amenities Committee authority to grant permission in individual cases.

### **A/21/30 DOG RESTRICTION ZONE**

The Committee considered the report on a dog restriction zone in the public open space at St Martins play park. It was clarified that there is no Public Space Protection Order for dogs on leads in the area, so the sign was not enforceable. There are signs at two of the three entrances, and this was causing confusion for some residents.

It was clarified that the whole of the East Devon District is covered by a Public Space Protection Order for dogs however specific areas then have additional orders on top of this, no dogs, dogs on leads etc.

It was suggested that the Council's website be updated to ensure that the information for dog walkers was up to date.

It was proposed by Cllr Kim Bloxham, seconded by Cllr Les Baylis and **resolved** to remove the signs on the lower entrances to the public open space at St Martins play park to avoid confusion.

### **A/21/31 COUNTRY PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW**

The Committee considered the Country Park Management Plan review and report.

It was proposed by Cllr Kim Bloxham, seconded by Cllr Colin Buchan and **resolved** to note the draft Country Park Management Plan and agree to a cost of up to £200 from the amenities budget to update the park plans.

### **A/21/32 WASTE BIN AT THE CRANNAFORD ALLOTMENTS**

The Committee considered the report to install a bin at the Crannaford Allotment site.

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It was proposed by Cllr Colin Buchan, seconded by Cllr Les Baylis and **resolved** to not install a bin at the allotment site, in accordance with East Devon District Council's litter bin policy and to advise allotment holders to take all general waste home.

#### **A/21/33 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Due to the sensitive or confidential nature of the following items it was proposed by Cllr Kim Bloxham, seconded by Cllr Les Bayliss and **resolved** to exclude the press and public from the remainder of the meeting on the basis of Section 1 paragraph 2 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 which stipulates that a council may, by resolution, exclude the public from a meeting (whether during the whole or part of the proceedings) whenever publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted or for other special reasons stated in the resolution and arising from the nature of that business or of the proceedings.

#### **A/21/34 REMOVAL OF BALES FROM CRANBROOK COUNTRY PARK**

The Committee considered the report on the removal of bales from Cranbrook Country Park.

It was questioned whether Exeter Livestock Centre charge for the auction if the bales were not sold, it was clarified that if the bales are not sold there would be no cost to the Council.

The Committee commented that there was a need to reduce the amount of baling that happens, and the baling regime needed to be altered. There were areas in the Country Park that should not be getting cut every year and areas where the grass cutting could be left.

It was proposed by Cllr Ray Bloxham, seconded by Cllr Barry Rogers and **resolved** that the Country Park Management Plan working party will assess the cutting regime looking at areas to reduce cutting frequency, areas to leave cuttings on the ground and reduce the number of bales created and return to amenities with another report.

#### **A/21/35 FLAGPOLE AT THE YOUNGHAYES CENTRE**

The Committee considered the report on the installation of a flagpole at the Younghayes Centre.

The Committee questioned if a wall mounted flagpole would be preferable as it would be less likely to be misused. It was commented that if the Council were to have a flagpole it would be better placed at the Tillhouse where the Council would be based moving forward.

It was proposed by Cllr Kim Bloxham, seconded by Cllr Les Bayliss and **resolved** to not install a flagpole at the Younghayes Centre but to incorporate a flagpole in the Tillhouse design.

#### **A/21/36 CHRISTMAS TREE ELECTRICS AT THE YOUNGHAYES CENTRE**

The Committee considered the report on the Christmas tree electrics at the Younghayes Centre.

It was proposed by Cllr Kim Bloxham, seconded by Cllr Colin Buchan and **resolved** to instruct Infinity Electrics to replace the electrics for the Christmas tree at the Younghayes Centre as it was a watertight solution to the issue.

#### **A/21/37 TABLE TENNIS TABLES**

The Committee considered the report on table tennis tables. It was clarified that although the report recommendation showed total costs of £1967.12 this was not accurate, the total cost would be £1957.12.

The Committee commented that the recommended table tennis table was the most suitable, as it had an anti-graffiti surface and could be securely anchored at the proposed location in St Martins Play Area.

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It was proposed by Cllr Kim Bloxham, seconded by Cllr Colin Buchan and **resolved** to

1. purchase a Cornilleau Park Outdoor Table Tennis Table from Table Tennis England; Tony Bengers Landscaping to install the table in St Martins play area using the ground anchors, for a total cost of £1,957.12 inc VAT.
2. not install a sign.

**The meeting closed at 8.09 pm.**

Signed .....

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