



**Minutes of Credition Town Council's Policy & Forward Planning Committee, held on Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2018, at 6.00 pm, at the Council Offices, Market Street, Credition**

**Present:** Cllrs Mrs L Brookes-Hocking (Committee Chairman), Mr F Letch, Miss J Harris, Mr J Downes and Mr J Ross

**In Attendance:** Mrs Clare Dalley, Town Clerk

**96. To receive and accept apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Mrs A Hughes. (Proposed by Cllr Harris)

**97. Declarations of Interest**

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

**98. Public Question Time**

There were no members of the public present.

**99. Order of Business**

There were no changes to the order of business.

**100. Chairman's and Clerk's Announcements**

There were no announcements.

**101. Policy & Forward Planning Committee Minutes – To approve and sign the minutes of the Policy & Forward Planning Committee Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017, as a correct record.** It was **resolved** to approve the minutes of the Policy & Forward Planning Committee Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017, as a correct record and they were duly signed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking. (Proposed by Cllr Letch)

**102. Matters Arising**

Page 24, minute number 86 - Cllr Letch asked if the Clerk had been in contact with Mr Simon Newcombe. The Clerk confirmed she had and a more detailed update would be provided later in the meeting.

**103. To receive an update on the progress of Credition Neighbourhood Plan.**

Cllr Brookes-Hocking advised the plan is making slow and steady progress. She has been speaking with Forward Planning Officers at Mid Devon District Council (MDDC) regarding:

- a) the recent article in the Credition Courier detailing the possibility of the south-side of the Town being developed and;
- b) the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) Devon meeting, being held on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2018, regarding New Housing & The Greater Exeter Strategic Plan.

The Forward Planning Officers were not aware of the CPRE meeting and had not been invited. The Officers felt the meeting was to discuss The Greater Exeter Strategic Plan call for sites, as numerous sites will be put forward that will impact upon Devon.

Cllr Brookes-Hocking expressed concern that when the Town Council embarked on the Neighbourhood Plan things were very different. MDDC's Local Plan will go to 2033 but it is now unlikely to be adopted until the end of 2018. In the meantime, speculative developers have come forward as MDDC do not have an agreed land allocation and sites that were never considered for development are coming forward. The planning landscape is changing and the Neighbourhood Plan requires a very forward-looking vision. She stressed the importance of protecting the Creedy and Yeo Valleys and their environs. This will involve talking to neighbouring parishes.

- 104. To receive an update on the potential High Street/town centre traffic management feasibility study.** The Clerk advised that she had been in contact with Mr Kevin Swift, Public Health Officer at Mid Devon District Council, to ascertain if, due to Crediton's air quality issues, any funding is available for the High Street/town centre traffic management feasibility study. Mr Swift has received a copy of the Scoping Report and is looking into the possibility of S106 funding.

Cllr Letch advised that Cllr Wright was a member of Mid Devon District Council's (MDDC) Environment Policy Development Group and requested the e-mail stream with Mr Swift be forwarded to him. Cllr Brookes-Hocking wondered what Cllr Wright's views were on the High Street/town centre traffic management feasibility study and the Clerk confirmed she would ask him.

It was **resolved** for the Clerk to request a copy of the latest Air Quality Report from MDDC and ask if the money set aside for air quality improvement works at St Lawrence Green (which the Town Council has never agreed with) could be spent on a High Street/town centre traffic management feasibility study, which will look at keeping traffic flowing through the town. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

- 105. To consider correspondence from Devon County Council regarding the maintenance of Crediton High Street footways, and agree a course of action.** Further information relating to this item had been issued with the agenda, including a map detailing the area concerned, which includes Market Street and the High Street from St Saviours Way to just past North Street. Members discussed the two available options. Option one involved removing the existing slabs and replacing with black tarmac. Option two involved relaying/replacing the slabs in the identified three main hotspot areas of the High Street. It was also noted that if any additional works are required they will have to be paid for and maintained by the Town Council and no other improvements will be undertaken by Devon County Council. After detailed discussion Cllr Letch proposed that option one was recommended to full council. The proposal failed 2 For, 3 Against.

It was **resolved** to recommend option two to the Town Council. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking, 3 For, 2 Against) Cllr Letch requested the minutes show he objected to the proposal.

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It was further **resolved**:

- for the Clerk to submit a Freedom of Information request to Devon County Council (DCC) Highways department requesting the costs of both options.
- for the Clerk to establish the timeframe involved regarding the works and when a response is required from the Town Council.
- the recommendation to be submitted to Council once the costs of both options has been established, if possible.

(Proposed by Cllr Letch)

- 106. To receive an update on the planned Health & Well-Being Open Day for Spring 2018 and agree any further actions.** The Clerk advised that fourteen organisations had confirmed their attendance so far. Reminder letters have been sent to the remaining thirteen organisations asking for a response by Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> January 2018. Dr David Jenner has very kindly agreed to be the guest speaker at the event.

Cllr Ross advised that Mid Devon District Councillor Binks had requested information regarding the Open Day. The Clerk confirmed she would e-mail her.

- 107. To consider and comment on the [Rural Productivity Commission Report](#).** Councillors had been advised to follow the link to access the report. The report was discussed, it was **resolved** for the Clerk to prepare a response, which could be circulated to committee members prior to submission, for comment and amendment, detailing the following points:
- The Council supports the recommendations in Theme 6 'Broadband and Mobile Connectivity'.
  - The Council particularly supports recommendation 48 in Theme 9 'Geography, Hubs and Spheres of Influence'. It is imperative that there is a more distributive spatial approach. There must be investment in rural town and villages with the creation of growth nodes and hubs.
  - There is insufficient focus in Theme 5 'Transport and Accessibility' and the need for sustainable transport. In particular, the need for electric bikes and dedicated cycle routes in rural areas. Cycle routes need to connect rural towns and villages to each other as well as to the larger conurbations.
  - The recommendations in Theme 2 'Small and Scale-Up Business' are not strong enough recommendations to the Local Enterprise Partnership. There is insufficient focus on micro-businesses/self-employed individuals and how they can be supported to expand. For example, the provision of clustered workshop spaces with shared welfare facilities, which enable and assist businesses to take on extra staff.
  - There is insufficient focus on improving highway infrastructure and transport links in Theme 5 'Transport and Accessibility'. There needs to be investment in improving transport links in the rural areas. It needs to be a robust approach not just concentrating on connections between towns and urban areas but also between the rural areas. Without this infrastructure development the rural areas will not be opened for economic development.

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**PART TWO**

- 108.** It was **resolved** under section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 that the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following items as it involves the likely disclosure of sensitive and confidential information. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)
- 109.** **To receive an update from the Town Clerk on the Council Office building and agree any further actions.** Due to the sensitive and confidential nature of this item, no further information can be disclosed at this time.
- 110. Close**  
The meeting closed at 7.29 pm.

Signed:   
(Chairman)

Date: 06/03/18