



**Minutes of the Full Council of the Democratic Services held on Tuesday, November 21, 2023
at 19:00 at Old Landscore School, Greenway, Credition, EX17 3LP**

Present:	Liz Brookes-Hocking, Steve Huxtable, Guy Cochran, Joyce Harris, Frank Letch, Natalia Letch, Giles Fawssett, Rachel Backhouse, John Downes, Jim Cairney, Paul Perriman
Absent:	Georgina Stone
In Attendance:	One member of the public
Minute Taker:	Rachel Avery (Town Clerk)

MINUTES

2023/011 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A member of the public asked what contribution councillors not attending meetings were making to the council.

2023/012 APOLOGIES

It was **resolved** to approve apologies from Cllr Huxtable. (Proposed by Cllr Harris).

2023/013 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

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

2023/014 ORDER OF BUSINESS

There was no requirement to change the order of business.

2023/015 CHAIR'S AND CLERK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair announced that she had attended the second anniversary of the opening of Okehampton Station and there were discussions regarding reopening the line to Bude, highlighting the importance of the rail network.

2023/016 TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

It was **resolved** to approve the minutes. (Proposed by Cllr Harris).

It was **resolved** to receive and ratify the minutes of the following committees as a correct record:

Community and Environment Committee on Tuesday 25 July 2023 (Proposed by Cllr Cochran)

Christmas in Crediton Sub-Committee held on Tuesday 05 September 2023 (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

Planning and Town Strategy Committee on Tuesday 05 September 2023 (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

Council Affairs and Finance Committee on Tuesday 12 September (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

Planning and Town Strategy Committee on Tuesday 03 October 2023 (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

Christmas in Crediton Sub-Committee held on Wednesday 04 October 2023 (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

Council Affairs and Finance Committee on Tuesday 17 October 2023 (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

2023/018 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

District Councillor Cairney reported that the MDDC Housing Committee have adopted a policy to deal with mould in their housing, including identifying and carrying out remedial work. He also reported that the café at Lords Meadow Leisure Centre will re-open soon.

District Councillor Downes reported that car parking fees will be increased by inflation (6.7%). He also reported that funding from HS2 will be used invested into the Devon railway network.

2023/019 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

Mid Devon Community Safety Partnership - Cllr Huxtable was not in attendance.
Friends of Crediton Station - Cllr Perriman reported that he had no communication.
Sustainable Crediton - Cllr Backhouse reported that their application for charitable statues was moving forward, the Green Fair had been successful and Sustainabubble was working well.

Boniface Trail Association - Cllr Fawssett reported that there had been no meeting. Cllr Brookes-Hocking explained that DCC engineers had largely dealt with problems between Crediton and Newton St Cyres, but were awaiting information for consultants and engineers on plans between Newton St Cyres and Cowley.

Crediton Chamber of Commerce - Cllr Cochran reported that there had been no convened meetings. Okehampton Rail Forum - Cllr Perriman reported that the construction of the parkway is imminent, there was discussion regarding the Bude Line and the use of Meldon viaduct.

League of Friends of Crediton Hospital - Cllr N Letch reported that there has been no communication.

Age Concern Trustee- Cllr Cairney reported that they are looking to expand service provision and attract more volunteers.

Standing Orders were suspended

A member of the public stated that architects will not use data provided by another company and asked what the brief stated.

Standing Orders were reinstated

The Town Clerk provided an overview of the brief that have been provided to enable quotes to be obtained.

It was **resolved** to approve quote A for the survey (Centre Line Surveys) at a cost of £1605.00 + VAT. (Proposed by Cllr N Letch).

It was **resolved** to approve quote B for the architect drawings (Vivian Architecture Ltd) at a cost of £1950.00. (Proposed by Cllr N Letch).

Cllr F Letch joined the meeting at 19.41

Cllr Backhouse expressed concerns over spending money on the building. The Town Clerk advised funding would be investigated to undertake work.

Cllr Cairney stated support for investment into an asset owned by the town council, with Cllr Fawssett agreeing that the town council had been lucky to acquire the building at the cost it had.

2023/021 BUDGET 2023/24

The Town Clerk advised that the three budgeting workshops had taken place but had been relatively poorly attended. However, she thanked all those who had taken the time to come and provide opinions and thoughts. The results would be analysed for review alongside the Council Affairs and Finance Committee meeting on Tuesday 12 December.

She advised that informal meetings would be offered to members to discuss the draft budget.

Standing orders were suspended

A member of the public asked if the informal meetings would be open to the public. The Town Clerk advised that they would not, but the public were welcome to attend the meeting of the Council Affairs and Finance Committee meeting on Tuesday 12 December.

Standing orders were reinstated

2023/022 UNION ROAD TOILET BLOCK SURVEY

The report was received and it was **resolved** to approve quote A (Prism measured Surveys) at a cost of £1215.00 + VAT. (Proposed by Cllr Harris).

Standing orders were suspended

A member of the public stated that the document had been a waste of money. He asked if there were possibilities to make savings using MDDC's online systems.

Standing orders were reinstated

Concerns were raised regarding the document, due to there still being typographical errors and it was suggested that the document was not bespoke. It was **noted** that the document would be considered further by the Council Affairs and Finance Committee on Tuesday 12 December, and the Town Clerk would contact the company used.

2023/024 AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDERS

It was **resolved** to approve the amendment, alongside any reference to 'show of hands' being amended to 'indicate'. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking).

2023/025 GRANT 2023/24

It was **resolved** to approve the grant payment of £150.00 to Crediton Methodist Church. (Proposed by Cllr Backhouse).

2023/026 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting, Tuesday 16 January 2024, was **noted**.

2023/027 PART II

It was **resolved** to move into Part II. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking).

2023/028 COUNCIL OFFICES

2023/028.1 UPDATE

The Town Clerk provided a verbal update.

2023/028.2 EXPENSES

It was **resolved** to approve item 4.2, as detailed in the report. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking).

2023/029 REPORTS PACK

Signed

Dated.....