



**Minutes of the Community and Environment Committee meeting held on Tuesday,  
November 28, 2023 at 19:00 in Old Landscore School, Greenway, Credition, EX17 3LP.**

<b>Present:</b>	Cllrs Guy Cochran, Liz Brookes-Hocking, Giles Fawssett, Joyce Harris, Natalia Letch, Paul Perriman,
<b>Apologies:</b>	Cllr John Downes
<b>Absent:</b>	Cllr Georgina Stone
<b>In Attendance:</b>	2 members of the public Cllrs Steve Huxtable and Rachel Backhouse
<b>Minute Taker:</b>	Emma Anderson

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## MINUTES

### 47 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The following questions were asked by a member of the public:

*Why has the table arrangement been moved back to the previous layout?*

Cllr Liz Brookes-Hocking explained that the layout being trialed was not working well. For councillors, they were struggling to see and hear each other from one end of the tables to the other. It was also not appropriate for the clerk to sit next to the chair in this layout, as again, it meant certain councillors were not visible. Cllr Brookes-Hocking also explained that some members of the public had felt that the new layout was intimidating and like they were in front of an interview panel. Cllr Cochran explained that the layout would be looked at further to see what the best approach would be for all.

The member of the public then asked the following questions. The responses were given by the town clerk via email before the meeting.

*Item 50 "To note that decisions will be made with the climate emergency at the forefront of decision and policy making". This appears on virtually all CTC Committee agendas but seems to be nothing more than an item to read out. It is even less than a tick box exercise. Of all the meetings I have attended and seen on Facebook, there has been little if any consideration given to it. Have the Council or would the Council consider a further agenda item towards the end of each meeting to reflect on how this most important item has been addressed?*

We are starting to incorporate this into our officer reports, and we are amending policies to reflect a commitment, such as reduced grass cutting. We have a climate emergency committee, which are due to meet in January and will consider the council's Climate Action Plan. Cllr Brookes-Hocking added that she had requested this item be included on all agendas to remind Cllrs to consider the climate emergency, where possible, on all agenda items to follow.

*Item 54 "Crediton Urban Taskforce". One thing that stands out to me personally is the extortionate costs quoted for printing leaflets. The cost of printing 3000, presumably double-sided, A5 leaflets is shown as being £200. Having largely personally funded the printing of the recent 2500 A3 double sided cross folded leaflets, issued to Crediton residents encouraging new hosts for Ukrainian refugees, something that has appeared on BBC spotlight and will I believe be in this week's Crediton Courier, I can say that cost could be far, far lower. The cost of 3000 a5 leaflets through SoloPress would cost somewhere in the region of £70 and be delivered within 2 working days. Is CTC stuck in some form of contract with Hedgerow and, if not, why do we not look at far cheaper options?*

These proposals were put forward by those that are interested in sitting on the sub-committee. Emma and I (Deputy Clerk who administers the committee) have discussed the merits of the various costs and we do not feel that the cost of printing is reasonable. We would be able to do the printing required in house. We support local suppliers where possible; Hedgerow provide our Christmas leaflet printing free of charge, but when we have used them, their quotes have been reasonable.

*Item 56 "Floral displays". Naturally, residents of Crediton would like the Town to look green and inviting, but the inevitable question is cost. I am, however, a little confused that just 3 options are being proposed. Would CTC consider approaching business owners at least for the provisioning of the plants? I feel confident there would be sufficient window cleaners only too happy to provide watering services at far more reasonable rates that we currently see.*

We have investigated many options, and this will be discussed this evening. We have reached out to businesses (as you will see in the report it says details awaited) and obtained other quotes for the watering and planting.

#### 48 APOLOGIES

It was **resolved** to receive and accept apologies from Cllr J Downes (Proposed by Cllr Cochran)

#### 49 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

Cllrs G Cochran and N Letch declared that as members of more than one authority that any views or opinions expressed at this meeting would be provisional and would not prejudice any views expressed at a meeting of another authority. There were no dispensation requests.

#### 50 CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Noted.

## 51 ORDER OF BUSINESS

There were no changes to the order of business.

## 52 CHAIR'S AND CLERK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr Cochran advised he had received complaints about weeds on Jockey Hill.

The Deputy Clerk announced the following regarding the allotments:

- 4 NTQ and 8 NCN have been issued since the previous meeting
- The BAA Core Group will be meeting to discuss allotments on Wed 29 November

*Standing orders were suspended*

Member of the public asked if the BAA meeting has been held to discuss the GDPR query raised at the last Council Affairs meeting. The Deputy Clerk confirmed this was a routine meeting of the BAA core group.

*Standing orders were reinstated*

## 53 COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES

It was **resolved** to approve and sign the minutes from the meeting held on 26 September 2023. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

## 54 STREET SCENE AND CLEANSING

*Standing orders were suspended*

Lengthy discussion took place regarding the use of the term sub-committee versus working group. The Deputy Clerk explained that both of these options would require a terms of reference and clerked meetings. The idea of the group being independent from the town council was raised, however members of the committee explained the benefits of working under the remit of a sub-committee and explained that a budget would not be allocated to an independent working party.

Cllr N Letch provided a verbal presentation explaining what the Crediton Urban Taskforce (CUT) wish to achieve, which included the need for road warden volunteer training. The Deputy Clerk agreed the members of CUT could be signed up to the training.

Members of CUT present at the meeting explained that they need support from Crediton Town Council for the following:

- Link to road warden scheme
- Grant applications
- Printing
- Storing tools
- Disposing of green waste/reimbursing trips to the tip

*Standing orders were reinstated*

*Cllr S Huxtable left the meeting at 20.12*

It was **resolved** to approve the terms of reference included in the report with the following amendments:

- Name to be changed to "Crediton Urban Taskforce Working Group"
- Membership of the working group will be made up of 3 members of Crediton Town Council

(Proposed by Cllr N Letch, Cllr Harris abstained)

It was **resolved** to make a recommendation to full council for a budget of £1,500 to be set for 23/24, allocated from general reserves. (Proposed by Cllr N Letch, Cllr Harris abstained)

## 55 20MPH ZONE

Cllr Brookes-Hocking expressed concern that 20mph across the whole town would not be feasible, with the high street being an A-road, and that individual 20mph zones may be a better approach.

It was **resolved** not to accept the recommendation in the report to apply for 20mph across Crediton. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

The Deputy Clerk agreed to find out more information about the cost of doing individual 20mph zones and what similar towns have implemented. Cllr Brookes-Hocking suggested this item may be better suited to the Planning & Town Strategy Committee moving forward.

## 56 FLORAL DISPLAYS

The Deputy Clerk advised members that the volunteers who had planted the single tier tubs around the town this year have agreed to plant the tiered towers in 2024, saving the cost of contractors. Sincere thanks were expressed by members.

Two businesses on the town square have also offered to sponsor and water one of the flower towers on the square. The Deputy Clerk will continue to pursue this, with the aim being that all four towers will be watered by businesses once per week, leaving only one water per week by the chosen contractor.

It was **resolved** to accept option 2 in the report provided, which includes switching to more sustainable plants in the hanging baskets that reduce the watering to once per week. (Proposed by Cllr Cochran)

The Deputy Clerk advised that sponsorship of the hanging baskets/plants has also been sought from a local garden centre and an update is awaited.

## 57 REMEMBRANCE DAY MAROON

It was **resolved** to approve the recommendation contained within the report. (Proposed by Cllr Cochran)

## 58 TREE WORKS

It was **resolved** to instruct Contractor C. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

*Cllr Perriman left the meeting at 20.56*

## 59 TRADE WASTE COLLECTION

It was **resolved** to enter into contracted waste collection service and review after 12 months, with the recommendation going to full council for approval. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

*Cllr Perriman returned to the meeting at 21.00*

## 60 STONYPARK

It was **agreed** for Cllr Fawssett to meet with the Deputy Clerk at Stonypark to look at the issue of the gate frequently being left off its hinges and the lack of signage. Cllr Fawssett volunteered to plant a variety of oak and beech trees in the hedge line to help strengthen it.

## 61 PEOPLES PARK WILDLIFE AREA

It was **resolved** to purchase 3 shrubs at a cost of £60, with the money being allocated from the Peoples Park Wildlife Area budget. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

## 62 KIRTON QUARTERLY

Members **noted** that due to the publication being produced by a political group, the town council would not be submitting articles.

**63 HIGH STREET BRACKETS**

The Deputy Clerk advised members that these were assessed on 4<sup>th</sup> November with 12 brackets needing attention. These properties have been made aware and will not be used until repaired.

**64 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was **noted**. The meeting closed at 21.04.

**65 PART II**

It was **resolved** that under section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, 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 Cochran)

**66 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT REVIEW**

The Deputy Clerk provided an update on the current contract. It was **noted** that a further review would take place at the meeting on 26 March 2024.

**67 REPORTS PACK**

Signed .....

Dated.....