



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

Present: Liz Brookes-Hocking, Steve Huxtable, Frank Letch, Joyce Harris, Guy Cochran, Giles Fawcett, Natalia Letch, John Downes, Rachel Backhouse, Jim Cairney

Absent: Paul Perriman, Georgina Stone

Minute Taker: Rachel Avery (Town Clerk)

MINUTES

2023/024 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no members of the public present.

2023/025 APOLOGIES

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

No apologies had been received from Cllrs Perriman and Stone.

2023/026 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

Cllrs Cairney, Downes, Cochran, F Letch 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.

Cllr F Letch declared a pecuniary interest agenda item 2023/030 (DCC parking proposals).

2023/027 ORDER OF BUSINESS

There was no requirement to change the order of business.

2023/028 CHAIR'S AND CLERK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

2023/029 TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

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

2023/030 DEVON COUNTY ON-STREET PARKING PROPOSALS

Cllr Huxtable expressed concerns regarding lack of evidence and proof of statements made and asked for a guarantee from DCC to ensure that there will be no removal of the free hour due to lack of change to current scheme.

Cllr F Letch explained that meters are to be introduced to ensure easier enforcement due to tickets being issued.

Cllr Cochran stated that bank holidays are not included in the proposals.

Cllr Downes stated that the increase in free time and then the additional chargeable time should not be accepted; the off-street car parks should be utilised for longer stays.

Cllr Cochran stated that the additional charge for the second hour will potentially reduce the turnover on the High Street.

Cllr Fawssett stated that there don't appear to be huge issues, there are some long-term car stays in the High Street under the current arrangements but this could be dealt with by increased enforcement officers visits.

Cllr N Letch expressed concerns that the free hour will be removed very quickly.

Cllr F Letch stated that because it is easier for the enforcement officers to check vehicles, there will be more visits undertaken.

Cllr Cairney expressed concerns that those who visit the High Street quickly will need to get a ticket, and this could reduce short visits to businesses. He also asked whether people will be able to pay for a ticket with coins. The Town Clerk advised that DCC had confirmed payment with cards or coins.

Cllr Huxtable asked if MDDC had been contacted regarding their view on the proposals. Furthermore, whether there would be work undertaken to mitigate the change in street scene on the High Street.

Whilst CTC fully supports the removal of bank holiday parking restrictions, it cannot support the pay and display proposals for the following reasons:

- Lack of evidence has been provided by DCC that the scheme would reduce congestion, pollution and increased air quality
- An economic impact assessment had not been undertaken by DCC, and there has been no evidence provided to prove the proposals would not negatively impact or benefit the town
- The proposals will impact Crediton as a commercial and social centre
- Retention of 1-hour free parking and the introduction of further paid for parking would set a principle of paid for parking on the streets, resulting in making it easier for future changes to parking times and fees to be made by DCC without consultation

- Lack of convenience in accessing ticket machines due to location proposals
 - Likely to reduce use of off-street car parks for long term parking
 - Increasing the permitted on-street parking time by introducing a second hour would create congestion and decrease turnover of spaces, contrary to DCC’s reasons for implementation of the scheme.
- (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking).

2023/031 COMMUNITY SELF DELIVERY OF HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENTS

Cllr Huxtable stated that the proposals are a devolution of service, which will remove DCC from being responsible for any additions that CTC may choose to. It was noted that there is no obligation to do any work under the scheme. Some town and parish councils have a budget line for such work. It was suggested that the use of the ear marked reserves for work devolved from other authorities may be considered.

2023/032 GRANTS

It was **resolved** to request that a full application be supplied for consideration in January for payment in the next financial year due to a lack of funds for the full amount. (Proposed by Cllr Huxtable).

2023/033 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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

2023/034 REPORTS PACK

Signed

Dated.....