



**Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at 19:00 in the Old
Landscape School, Greenway, Credition**

Present: Liz Brookes-Hocking, Steve Huxtable, Giles Fawssett, Joyce Harris, Jim Cairney,
Natalia Letch, Frank Letch, Guy Cochran, Paul Perriman, Rachel Backhouse

Apologies: Cllr Downes

In Attendance: Two members of the public

Minute Taker: Rachel Avery

MINUTES

2024/001 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Cllr Brookes-Hocking opened the meeting and members introduced themselves.

2024/002 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Questions were raised by two members of the public. The questions and full responses would be provided on the town council's website in due course.

2024/003 APOLOGIES

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

2024/004 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations of interest.

2024/005 ORDER OF BUSINESS

There was no requirement to change the order of business.

2024/006 CHAIR'S AND CLERK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Clerk advised that:

- the MDDC Crediton Masterplan drop-in consultation is on Wednesday 17 January, between 16.00 and 19.00 at the Boniface Centre
- The Celebration of Youth Event is on Monday 22 January, open to the public between 16.00 and 18.00 at Lords Meadow Leisure Centre.

2024/007 TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

It was **resolved** to accept and approve the minutes from the meeting held on Tuesday 19 December 2023. (Proposed by Cllr Cochran).

2024/008 TOWN COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES**Grants Sub-Committee on 25 July 2023**

It was **resolved** to ratify the minutes of the Grants Sub-Committee. (Proposed by Cllr Huxtable).

Planning and Town Strategy Committee on 07 November 2023

It was **resolved** to ratify the minutes of the Planning and Town Strategy Committee (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking).

Council Affairs and Finance Committee on 14 November 2023

It was **resolved** to ratify the minutes of the Council Affairs and Finance Committee (Proposed by Cllr Huxtable).

Planning and Town Strategy Committee on 05 December 2023

It was **resolved** to ratify the minutes of the Planning and Town Strategy Committee (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking).

Council Affairs and Finance Committee on 12 December 2023

It was **resolved** that these minutes had not yet been approved and would be ratified at the next meeting of Full Council.

2024/009 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

Haywards Educational Foundation (Cllr Cairney) - helping to raise money for the school in partnership with the school. Pathway cleared but ash tree causing damage to wall, which will be removed in due course.

Mid Devon Community Safety Partnership (Cllr Huxtable) - communication with MDDC to discuss activity.

Friends of Crediton Station (Cllr Perriman) - Town Clerk to investigate meetings.

Sustainable Crediton (Cllrs Backhouse and Stone) - Food Larder was open over Christmas, with support from 30 volunteers. A woodland project in Morchard Bishop is commencing, and the group is continuing to use Sustainabubble. The Seed Share will take place on 24 January 2024.

Boniface Trail Association (Cllr Fawcett) - waiting for update from DCC.

Crediton Chamber of Commerce (Cllr Cochran) - no update at the moment.

Okehampton Rail Forum (Cllr Perriman) - there has been no further meeting.

League of Friends of Crediton Hospital (Cllr N Letch) - Town Clerk to investigate meetings.

Age Concern Trustee (Cllr Cairney) - whilst unable to attend the AGM, he had attended a meeting with Age Concern and Mel Stride MP.

2024/010 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME POLICY

There was a lack of support for the advice document that had been created and the following comments were made:

- Debate should be enabled for the public at meetings
- There should be set deadlines for questions to be sent to officers in preparation of a meeting
- It was not acceptable that members of the public are shut down after three minutes.
- Concerns regarding asking questions which could appear undermining and bullying in nature
- a level of discretion to the Chair was required
- More debate is necessary, but a council meeting is not necessarily the forum.
- Comments have been made before at PQT which may not be the view of the town council given the way the response is made
- Best practice as advised by NALC should be followed.

It was **resolved** that the document would not be approved and would be taken to the Council Affairs and Finance Committee for further review. (Proposed by Cllr Cochran)

2024/011 CREDITON URBAN TASKFORCE WORKING GROUP

2024/011.1 BUDGET 2023/24

Cllr Huxtable advised that the budget was compiled to offer approximate amounts. Cllr Cairney stated that this was a wonderful initiative and would ask for free bins from MDDC.

It was **resolved** that Cllr Cairney would make the request to MDDC. (Proposed by Cllr Backhouse)

It was **resolved** to approve the budget and pay mileage until a different arrangement can be made. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking).

2024/011.2 WORKING GROUP

It was **resolved** not to approve the working group terms of reference, with further review by the Community and Environment Committee. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

2024/012 BUDGET 2024/25

2024/012.1 ANNUAL BUDGET 2024/25

It was **resolved** to approve the budget. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking, Cllrs Backhouse and N Letch voted against)

2024/012.2 RESERVES 2024/25

Cllr Backhouse stated that she was unable to agree to the budget and reserves due to concerns raised to her by some members of the public regarding Old Landscore School.

It was **resolved** to approve the reserve levels for the 2024/25 financial year. (Proposed by Cllr Harris)

2024/012.3 PRECEPT REQUEST 2024/25

It was **resolved** to approve the precept of £491,499.00 (an £11.99/7.4% increase on a Band D property. (Proposed by Cllr Huxtable, Cllrs Backhouse and N Letch voted against).

2024/013 CONTRACTED WASTE COLLECTION

Consideration was given to the report.

Cllrs F and N Letch left the meeting at 20.15

It was **resolved** to approve, subject to Cllr Cairney's conversations with MDDC regarding support to the town council in removing waste. (Proposed by Cllr Huxtable)

2024/014 COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

Cllr Backhouse highlighted that she stated had previously concerns regarding the document but recognised the importance of the action plans. It was noted that the Town Clerk had obtained a further year of support from the company.

It was **noted** that the strategy supported the creation of opportunities for debate.

It was **resolved** to approve the Communications Strategy. (Proposed by Cllr Cairney).

2024/015 KIRTON QUARTERLY

It was **resolved** to approve the addition of a town council article in the Kirton Quarterly. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking).

2024/016 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was **noted** as Tuesday 19 March 2024.

2024/017 PART II

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

2024/018 COUNCIL OFFICES

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

2024/019 REPORTS PACK

SIGNED.....

Dated.....