



Minutes of the Community Committee held on Tuesday, September 3, 2024 at 19:00 in the Old Lansdown School, EX17 3LP

Present: Liz Brookes-Hocking, Joyce Harris, Steve Huxtable, Giles Fawssett, Natalia Letch, Paul Perriman and Jim Cairney

Apologies: Cllr G Cochran

In Attendance: Cllr F Letch (part meeting)

Minute Taker: Emily Armitage

MINUTES

40 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The meeting was opened at 19.00 and Cllrs introduced themselves.

41 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no members present.

42 APOLOGIES

Decision: It was **resolved** to receive and accept apologies from Cllr Cochran due to his presence at a meeting of MDDC. (Proposed by Cllr Fawssett)

43 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

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

Cllr Brookes-Hocking declared a personal interest in planning application 24/01200/LBC as she is the neighbouring property owner.

44 CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Noted.

45 ORDER OF BUSINESS

There was no requirement to change the order of business.

46 CHAIR'S AND CLERK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Administrative Officer advised that following a complaint and further information from Cllr John Downes the Town Clerk has reported a perceived planning breach at Crediton Milling carpark site at Fordton.

47 PLANNING AND TOWN STRATEGY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Decision: It was **resolved** to approve the minutes of the Community Committee from 02 July. (Proposed by Cllr Harris)

48 MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

24/01120/CLU | Certificate of lawfulness for the existing use of agricultural land and buildings for use as grounds maintenance storage and depot for a period in excess of 10 years | Hooper Services (South West) Ltd Crediton Devon EX17 3DH (middevon.gov.uk)

Decision: It was **resolved** to recommend supporting Cllr Brookes-Hocking's comments to oppose the application. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

24/01144/HOUSE | Variation of Condition (2) of planning permission 23/00894/HOUSE (Erection of a two-storey side extension and single storey rear extension) to allow substitute plans showing alterations to doors, windows and external finish | 16 Blagdon Close Crediton Devon EX17 1EL (middevon.gov.uk)

Decision: It was **resolved** to recommend no objection as it was agreed to be a significant improvement on what was there before and provided the Conservation Officer has no concerns. (Proposed by Cllr Huxtable)

24/01219/FULL | Conversion of existing buildings and garages to dwelling | Land and Buildings at NGR 283390 100465 Deep Lane Crediton Devon EX17 2BZ (middevon.gov.uk)

Decision: It was **resolved** to recommend no objection. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

24/01199/FULL | Installation of replacement windows | Manor Office 6 North Street Crediton Devon EX17 2BT (middevon.gov.uk)

Decision: It was **resolved** to recommend no objection as they are replacing like-for-like windows, and it was agreed they need changing. (Proposed by Cllr Harris)

24/01200/LBC | Listed Building Consent for installation of replacement windows and guttering; erection of internal dry lining wall and retention of underpinning works | Gilbert Stephens Solicitors Manor Office 6 North Street Crediton Devon EX17 2BT (middevon.gov.uk)

Decision: It was **resolved** to recommend supporting the applicant's offer to replace with matching sash windows. (Proposed by Cllr Harris)

49 MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL PLANNING DECISIONS:

Noted.

50 CREDITON URBAN TASKFORCE [CUT!]

Action days have moved to 10 am start on Saturday's and now taking place once per month. New leaflets are due to be designed to try and encourage volunteers with the use of incentive in some way. [CUT!] were also approached by Crediton Brownies and will be doing a joint weeding/litter picking session on Monday 16 Sept.

Cllr N letch advised she had been approached by the Lions Club to do a joint event.

Task: @Deputy Clerk to contact the Lions Club.

51 ALLOTMENTS

51.1 RENT

The Administrative Officer advised the committee of allotment costs of other town councils within Devon. **Decision:** It was **resolved** to increase the rent by 5% for 2024-25 in line with other town councils. (Proposed by Cllr Harris) and for any underspend to be put into EMR.

51.2 USE OF WEED KILLER

Decision: It was agreed for Cllr Huxtable to have a conversation with the neighbouring property owner about removing weeds on their side of the wall.

Task: Cllr Huxtable to report back to the committee at the next meeting.

52 ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR/STREET-DRINKING COMPLAINTS

The Town Clerk is due to be scheduling a meeting with Adrian Gardner at MDDC and a Police representative to discuss what more, if anything, can be done to engage, and prevent/reduce their behaviour and perhaps explore any powers to limit their ability to purchase so much alcohol. **Decision:** It was agreed to wait until after the meeting between the Town Clerk and MDDC and to report back in October. Members agreed this was a big problem which needs to be resolved as it is causing a nuisance to office workers in the area and members of public.

53 NALC SURVEY ON PROPOSED REFORMS TO THE NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK (NPPF)

Cllr F Letch commented that MDDC officers have done a thorough review of the proposed changes.

Decision: It was agreed for delegated authority to be given to Cllr Brookes-Hocking and Cllr Huxtable.

54 BUS SHELTER AT THRESHERS

The Administrative Officer advised that no correspondence could be found from a member of public relating to this, however, the Town Clerk has received a verbal response from DCC Neighbourhood Highways Officer, that this section of pavement is too narrow for a bus shelter to be installed.

55 DESIGNATION OF LOCAL GREEN SPACE

Cllr Brookes-Hocking advised that LGS were looked at when the Neighbourhood Plan was being created but there was nowhere in Crediton that fit the criteria.

Decision: Cllr Huxtable to do some research on possible sites.

Task: Cllr Huxtable to liaise with the office.

56 PREMISES LICENCE APPLICATION

Members were happy to support the application.

57 MDDC LICENSING CONSULTATIONS: LICENSING ACT 2003 AND GAMBLING ACT 2005

There were no concerns or comments to make.

58 PROPERTY INSPECTION

Decision: It was agreed to accept the report, to note the issue with bird mess and for Turning Tides maintenance team to continue to check it regularly and clean as necessary as it was felt this would be the least invasive option.

Task: @Deputy Clerk to seek advice on how to prevent birds nesting in the roof.

Boniface Statue – there was concern about more work being required as work to the slabs around the statue had been carried out in the previous two/three years which had been expensive.

Task: @Deputy Clerk to check previous quotes and what was recommended.

59 GRASS CUTTING

59.1 PEOPLES PARK GRASS CUTTING

This item was requested by Cllr Fawssett and was also encouraged by comments from the Britain in Bloom judges that the town council could be doing a lot more at Peoples Park to make the most of the space.

Decision: Cllr Fawssett to get the public consultation results at the Big Green Fair, and report back at the next meeting.

Cllr Brookes-Hocking queried the holly tree at Peoples Park and who had planted it, but members were unaware. **Task:** @Deputy Clerk to advise

59.2 STONYPARK GRASS CUTTING

The Administrative Officer advised that it was not cut last year due to it being too wet, but the £400 has been carried forward.

Cllr N Ietch left the meeting at 20.27 and returned at 20.28

Decision: It was **resolved** to get the field cut once in February at the same time as Peoples Park and for the cuttings to be taken away, but to monitor the results and how the grass is affected. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking) It was agreed by the majority of members that it needed doing to prevent weeds and brambles taking over.

Cllr Fawssett voted against.

60 TREE WARDENS

The Administrative Officer gave a verbal update on the scheme

The Tree Warden Scheme gives people who feel that trees matter an opportunity to champion their local trees and woods by carrying out or encouraging practical projects e.g. planting trees, surveying trees, guided tree walks etc.

The Deputy Clerk met with Anne Stobart (who approached CTC about tree wardens) and two members of MDDC.

Decision: It was agreed that MDDC would become a member of the Tree Council to facilitate the creation of tree warden networks in Mid Devon parishes/towns. Training/induction documents etc. will be provided by the Tree Council. CTC will keep a list of registered volunteers and feed this information back to MDDC. Deputy Clerk will confirm whether tree wardens will be sufficiently covered under CTC's current insurance schedule as volunteers.

Anne sent out a call for volunteers via Sustainable Crediton and an initial list of interested residents has already been compiled. Once the registration is complete with the Tree Council, MDDC will devise a registration form for volunteers which will be circulated at the Big Green Fair as well as MDDC and CTC website. The aim is to plan an Autumn/Winter Walk as an introduction and hold an official launch which is offered by the Tree Council. Cllr Fawssett will volunteer, and members supported it.

61 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was agreed as being Tuesday 01 October 2024. The meeting was closed at 20.34.

62 REPORTS

Signed

Dated.....