



**Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Tuesday, March 18, 2025 at 19:30 at Credition Library, Belle Parade, Credition, EX17 2AA**

**Present:** Cllrs Guy Cochran, Liz Brookes-Hocking, Steve Huxtable, Giles Fawssett, Rachel Backhouse, Paul Perriman, John Downes and Jim Cairney

**Apologies:** Cllrs Joyce Harris, Frank Letch and Natalia Letch

**In Attendance:** 1 member of the public  
Stuart Jarvis (Devon County Council)  
Kate Lock and Rosemary Stephenson (Credition Heart Project)

**Minute Taker:** Rachel Avery, Town Clerk

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## MINUTES

### 2025/102 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Cllr Cochran opened the meeting at 19.00 and members introduced themselves.

### 2025/103 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A member of the public made the following comments:

- concern about the visibility of councillors in the town, questioning how many councillors would attend the upcoming event on Saturday
- congratulated the council on choosing a peaceful venue for the meeting
- queried why the Liberal Democrat candidate for the upcoming by-election in Lawrence Ward had not attended a meeting.

### 2025/104 BONIFACE TRAIL UPDATE

Stuart Jarvis from Devon County Council provided a detailed presentation on the Boniface Trail survey and next steps. He outlined the public engagement conducted last autumn, which received 839 questionnaire responses and 26 emails, indicating strong community interest. The survey presented two route options: quiet lanes north of the A377 and a direct route paralleling the A377. Results showed a slight preference for the direct route, but both options had significant support. He highlighted the technical assessments planned for the three sections of the trail and the intention to present a preferred option to the Devon County Council cabinet in the autumn. He emphasised the importance of funding and phased delivery, noting the potential for interim use of quiet lanes. The presentation concluded with a Q&A session, addressing concerns about safety, funding, and prioritisation of sections based on congestion and accident rates.

The presentation is available for members of the public to view on the town council website.

### 2025/105 UNION ROAD TOILET BLOCK

Rosemary Stevenson and Kate Locke from the Credition Heart Project presented their vision for the regeneration of the Union Road toilet block site into a community

and arts hub named the Park House. They outlined the project's background, including public consultations and collaborations with local groups. The proposed building would feature a flexible theatre space, café, bar area, outdoor amphitheatre, rehearsal room, and professional facilities. The steering group includes representatives from various local organisations. The next steps will include extensive public consultation. Fundraising efforts will be required to progress to the planning stage. The presentation highlighted the project's potential to enhance community engagement and improve the park's usability. Questions from councillors addressed funding, accommodation of various groups, and the impact on vulnerable individuals in the park.

The presentation would be available for members of the public to view on the town council website in due course.

## **2025/106 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

County Cllr F Letch's county report had been circulated to members prior to the meeting.

District Cllr Downes provided updates on economic development in Mid Devon, highlighting the impending end of the Shared Prosperity Fund. The fund, which has supported various community enhancements, is dwindling, and future funding prospects are uncertain. he emphasised the significant reduction in financial support post-Brexit, impacting local economic initiatives.

Councillor Cairney highlighted efforts to increase electric taxis in Mid Devon, noting the challenges posed by limited charging infrastructure in rural areas. The leisure centre's refurbishment was also highlighted, with significant investments in new changing rooms, showers, and lockers, aiming to improve the facility for users.

## **2025/107 APOLOGIES**

**Decision:** The apologies of Cllrs Harris (holiday) and Cllrs F Letch and N Letch (personal) were **noted**.

## **2025/108 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS**

### **2025/108.1 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS (DPI'S) IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **2025/108.2 TO CONSIDER ANY DISPENSATION REQUESTS (REQUESTS SHOULD BE MADE TO THE TOWN CLERK PRIOR TO THE MEETING)**

There were no dispensation requests.

## **2025/109 ORDER OF BUSINESS**

There were no changes to the order of business.

## **2025/110 CHAIR'S AND CLERK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Town Clerk reminded councillors of the civility and respect pledge, urging everyone to adhere to it following a complaint about a member's conduct.

The Town Clerk also apologised to Cllr Backhouse for omitting an agenda item regarding member participation, which would be discussed at the next Full Council meeting.

#### 2025/111 TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

**Decision:** The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 21 January 2025, were **approved** as a correct record. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

#### 2025/112 TOWN COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES

**Decision:** It was **resolved** to ratify the minutes of the Community Committee meeting held on 07 January 2025. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

**Decision:** It was **resolved** to ratify the minutes of the Oversight Committee meeting on 14 January 2025. (Proposed by Cllr Huxtable)

**Decision:** It was **resolved** to ratify the minutes of the Community Committee meeting held on 04 February 2025. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

**Decision:** It was **resolved** to ratify the minutes of the Oversight Committee meeting on 11 February 2025. (Proposed by Cllr Huxtable)

#### 2025/113 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

Crediton Twinning Association: Councillor Huxtable had attended the AGM.

Boniface Link Association: Cllr Huxtable had attended the AGM.

DALC: Cllr Brookes-Hocking advised that a further meeting regarding Devolution had been scheduled. The Town Clerk advised that she could not attend, and requested that members register to attend.

Age Concern: Cllr Cairney advised of the financial pressures due to a lack of grants.

Haywards Educational Foundation: Cllr Cairney reported on recent purchases made by the Foundation to support education at Haywards.

Crediton Chamber of Commerce: Cllr Cochran highlighted a lack of meetings, but that he had been making personal efforts to engage with new and existing retailers.

#### 2025/114 GRANTS 2025/26

Members received and reviewed the Town Clerk's report.

**Decision:** It was **resolved** to approve the allocation of grants for the financial year 2025/26. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

#### 2025/115 EARMARKED RESERVES 2024/25

Members received and reviewed the Town Clerk's report.

**Decision:** It was **resolved** to approve recommendations for the allocation of earmarked reserves for the financial year 2024/25. (Proposed by Cllr Huxtable)

#### 2025/116 STATEMENT OF INTERNAL CONTROL 2024/25

The Statement of Internal Control for the financial year 2024/25 was reviewed with minor amendments made.

**Decision:** It was **resolved** to approve the Statement of Internal Control for the financial year 2024/25 with minor amendments for clarity. (Proposed by Cllr Huxtable)

**2025/117 AUDIT 2024/25****2025/117.1 TO REVIEW AND ADOPT THE AMENDED FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

The amended Financial Regulations were reviewed.

**Decision:** It was **resolved** to approve and adopt the amended Financial Regulations. (Proposed by Cllr Huxtable)

**2025/117.2 TO APPROVE THE STATEMENT OF INTERNAL CONTROL 2023/24**

The Statement of Internal Control for the financial year 2023/24 was reviewed with minor amendments made.

**Decision:** It was **resolved** to approve the Statement of Internal Control for the financial year 2023/24 with minor amendments for clarity. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

**2025/117.3 TO REVIEW AND ADOPT THE MEMBERS ALLOWANCE POLICY**

The Members Allowance Policy was reviewed.

**Decision:** It was **resolved** to approve and adopt the Members Allowance Policy. (Proposed by Cllr Fawcsett)

**2025/118 PULSE HUBS**

Documentation regarding the installation of Pulse Hubs was received and **noted**.

**2025/119 NEWCOMBES MEADOW PADDLING POOL**

The Town Clerk provided a verbal update, noting ongoing discussions with the MDDC Section 151 officer regarding the breakdown of costs and the potential for a splash pool. The Town Clerk confirmed the commitment to investigating proposals for such an asset, pending further information from MDDC. The discussion revolved around the uncertainty of the paddling pool's opening for the summer but expressed frustration with the lack of opportunity to obtain relevant information. The council remains firm on their stance regarding the financial aspect, emphasising the need for detailed costings before proceeding.

It was **noted** that Cllr Downes would contact the S151 Officer.

**2025/120 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

**Decision:** The date for the Annual Town Meeting was approved for 17th June 2025 at 19.00, on the Town Square.

**2025/121 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was **noted** as Tuesday, 20th May 2025.

**2025/122 PART II**

**Decision:** It was **resolved** to move into Part II under section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, excluding the public and press. (Proposed by Cllr Cochran)

**2025/123 COUNCIL OFFICES**

The Town Clerk's confidential report was received.

**Decision:** It was **resolved to approve the** recommendations in the report.  
(Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

**2025/124 REPORTS PACK**

Signed .....

Dated.....