



Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Tuesday, September 2, 2025 at 19:00 at Credition Library, Belle Parade, Credition, EX17 2AA

Present: Cllrs Steve Huxtable, Guy Cochran, Giles Fawcett, Jim Cairney, John Downes, Joyce Harris, Liz Brookes-Hocking, Paul Perriman, Rachel Backhouse and Vix Frisby

Apologies: Cllrs Natalia Letch and Tim Stanford

In Attendance: 2 members of the public

Minute Taker: Rachel Avery – Town Clerk

MINUTES

2025/066 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Cllr Huxtable opened the meeting at 19:03, and members introduced themselves.

2025/067 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The following questions were raised by members of the public:

- Will the town council confirm if there have been discussions, or have they been approached by Credition Heart Project, to move the war memorial?
- Is there an update on the Credition signs?
- Is there an update on the bus shelter at Redlands?
- How will the town council ensure that the redevelopment of Old Landscore School stays on or as close to the schedule provided?
- Where the funding for the redevelopment of Old Landscore School coming from and how much?
- Cllr Frisby advised in her election campaign that the precept is too high. How many councillors feel that the precept is too high? Chair stated that this was not the forum to ask councillors such a question and there was no desire for him to do so
- Independents for Credition have thoughts for improving the scope and deliver of the town council grants, with the town council policy being very basic. There are some organisations that may not be aware of the fund, and the town council could have a more proactive approach. Should organisations be allowed to apply for funding for hardship funds where the cost of membership or equipment is too high for some? The Chair requested that thoughts/comments be provided in writing, for consideration when the policy is reviewed.

The Chair assured that written responses would be provided to the first four questions posed, and responses would be added to the town council's website.

2025/068 APOLOGIES

Decision: It was **resolved** to receive and accept apologies from Cllrs Letch and Stanford (personal). (Proposed by Cllr Huxtable)

2025/069 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

2025/069.1 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS (DPI'S) IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA

No declarations of personal interest or disclosable pecuniary interests were made.

2025/069.2 TO CONSIDER ANY DISPENSATION REQUESTS (REQUESTS SHOULD BE MADE TO THE TOWN CLERK PRIOR TO THE MEETING)

There were no dispensation requests.

2025/070 ORDER OF BUSINESS

There were no changes to the order of business.

2025/071 CHAIR'S AND CLERK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

2025/072 TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Decision: It was **resolved** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 15 July 2025, as a correct record. (Proposed by Cllr Cochran)

2025/073 MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

25/01030/FULL: Change of use of offices to residential bungalow (Land and Buildings at NGR 283318 100354 (The Annexe), 8 North Street, Crediton, Devon) –

Decision: It was **resolved** to note the application. (Proposed by Cllr Huxtable)

25/01038/FULL: Erection of 1.5m high totem pole (Land at NGR 283206 100597 (Peoples Park), Peoples Park Road, Crediton, Devon)

Decision: It was **resolved** to note the application. (Proposed by Cllr Huxtable)

25/01166/CAT: Notification of intention to remove two lower limbs of Ash tree that overhang garden of No 6 Walnut Drive at approximately 8metres in height within the conservation area (The Beeches, Old Tiverton Road, Crediton, Devon, EX17 1EF

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

There was a broader discussion about the importance of vigilant oversight of tree work, especially in conservation areas. Cllr Downes proposed that the town council send letters to applicants reminding them that tree works will be subject to review. It was noted that this would be added to the agenda for the meeting on 07 October 2025.

Task: Submit planning comments to MDDC. @Emily Armitage

2025/074 MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL PLANNING DECISIONS:

Decision: Members **noted** the approval of planning applications by Mid Devon District Council, as set out in the agenda pack.

There was particular concern about the demolition and erection of a dwelling at The Cott, Stanbury Court, Crediton. Members expressed frustration over the lack of enforcement when historic properties are taken down without permission, emphasising the need for stricter oversight and adherence to conservation regulations.

2025/075 CREDITON URBAN TASKFORCE

Cllr Backhouse provided an update on the activities of the Crediton Urban Taskforce. After a break in August, the taskforce would resume on Saturday 13 September, focusing on East Street. The taskforce plans to leaflet the area to encourage community participation and possibly offer coffee vouchers as an incentive. The aim is to support local efforts in improving the street's appearance and fostering community spirit.

2025/076 PEOPLES PARK

Cllr Fawssett reported on the activities in Peoples Park, highlighting the extensive watering efforts during the dry summer. The oak trees planted recently are thriving, thanks to the efforts of volunteers. There was an unexpected pruning by an arboriculturist, which was appreciated. The council expressed gratitude to Cllr Fawssett and Peter Please for their dedication to maintaining the park.

2025/077 PREMISES LICENCE

Decision: It was **resolved** to recommend no objection to the new premises licence for 8 & 9 Market Street. (Proposed by Cllr Cochran, Cllr Downes abstained)

2025/078 APPEALS SUB-COMMITTEE

The meeting date was set for Tuesday 23 September at 19.00

2025/078.1 TO RECEIVE NOMINATIONS FOR THREE MEMBERS TO SIT ON THE APPEALS SUB-COMMITTEE

Nominations were received for three members to sit on the Appeals Sub-Committee.

Decision: It was **resolved** to appoint Councillors Harris, Downes, and one additional member from Councillors Stanford, Cairney, or Letch to sit of the Appeals Sub-Committee.

2025/078.2 TO APPROVE A DATE FOR THE APPEALS SUB-COMMITTEE TO MEET (W/C 22 SEPTEMBER 2025)

Decision: The meeting date for the Appeals Sub-Committee was set for Tuesday 23 September at 19.00

2025/079 OUTSTANDING DEBTS

Decision: It was **resolved** to approve the Notice of Intended Court Proceedings pro-forma letter. (Proposed by Cllr Frisby)

2025/080 HIGH STREET CHRISTMAS LIGHTING

The council reviewed the report on High Street Christmas lighting and decided to proceed with the continued use of three catenary wires for the next three years. The quote received was within the delegated power of the Town Clerk, who will sign off on it. Efforts to add new festoons and motifs will continue but will not be implemented this year. The lighting for Town Square and St Laurence Green will proceed as planned.

Decision: The council decided to proceed with the continued of three catenary wires for the next three years for High Street Christmas lighting. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

2025/081 PROPERTY INSPECTIONS

The council **noted** the property inspection report. Any recommendations that do not involve a cost will be actioned immediately. Quotations for necessary work will be prioritised, and any significant expenses outside of existing budgets will be brought to future meetings. Health and safety issues will be prioritised. The Deputy Clerk was thanked for her work on the document.

2025/082 WEATHER STATION

The proposal for a weather station to support air quality data collection was discussed. A member of the public presented the benefits of correlating weather data with pollution levels, suggesting it would enhance MDDC's reporting capabilities. The council debated the viability of funding through Section 106 money, which was initially denied by MDDC. There was consensus on the potential benefits of a weather station for community engagement and educational purposes.

Decision: The council requested that the member of public pursue detailed specifications and costings for the weather station proposal to support air quality data collection.

2025/083 EAR MARKED RESERVES

Decision: It was **resolved** to approve the spending of £16,702.13 from the Elections EMR for the elections held on 27 March and 26 June 2025. (Proposed by Cllr Harris)

2025/084 CURRENT OFFICE BUILDINGS REDECORATION

Decision: It was **resolved** to accept Quote C (Sutton Cavill) for the redecoration of the current office buildings. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

2025/085 MANOR OFFICE BROADBAND AND TELEPHONES

Decision: It was **resolved** to accept Quote B (The Logical Group) for the provision of broadband and telephones at Manor Office. (Proposed by Cllr Frisby)

2025/086 MANOR OFFICE

A member of the public asked if the council had permission to sublet rooms. The Town Clerk clarified that while they could sublet rooms with the landlord's permission.

Decision: It was **resolved** to provisionally approve the licence agreement between Crediton Town Council and Crediton Area History and Museum Society, allowing the society to use the top floor of the Manor Office. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

2025/087 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was **noted** that the date of the next meeting will be Tuesday 16 September 2025.

2025/088 PART II

Decision: It was **resolved** to approve the exclusion of the public and press were from the meeting under section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960. (Proposed by Cllr Huxtable)

Cllr Cairney joined the meeting at 20.19

2025/089 MANOR OFFICE

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

2025/090 REPORTS PACK

Signed

Dated.....