



Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Tuesday, April 14, 2026 at 19:00 at Credition Library, Belle Parade.

- Present:** Cllrs Steve Huxtable, Liz Brookes-Hocking, Guy Cochran, Joyce Harris, Rachel Backhouse, Giles Fawcett, Vix Frisby, Tim Stanford, Jim Cairney (part meeting) and Paul Perriman (part meeting)
- Apologies:** Cllrs John Downes and Natalia Letch
- In Attendance:** 19 members of the public
- Minute Taker:** Emma Anderson

MINUTES

2026/522 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Cllr Huxtable opened the meeting, welcoming all members of the public and advised the order of the agenda would be adjusted to accommodate the items of interest to the majority of attendees. Members introduced themselves.

Cllr Cairney joined the meeting at 19.04

2026/523 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A member of the public raised concerns about the Council's compliance with legal standards, particularly regarding the Statement of Internal Control for 2025/26. Issues were highlighted including the Council displaying an outdated Gold Award logo, CCTV signage and the failure to update certain policies including the Model Publication Scheme. The member of the public questioned whether the Council could approve the Statement of Internal Control, based on these issues.

Another member of the public suggested members of the Council carrying out a SWOT analysis together, to look at the Council's strengths and weaknesses. The Chair acknowledged this suggestion.

2026/524 APOLOGIES

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

2026/525 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

2026/525.1 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS (DPI'S) IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA

Cllr Brookes-Hocking declared a personal interest in relation to agenda item 2026/529, planning application 26/00384/LBCDOC.

2026/525.2 TO CONSIDER ANY DISPENSATION REQUESTS (REQUESTS SHOULD BE MADE TO THE TOWN CLERK PRIOR TO THE MEETING)

The Chair confirmed that no dispensation requests had been received prior to the meeting.

2026/526 ORDER OF BUSINESS

Given the large number of members of the public in attendance, the Chair proposed bringing forward agenda item 532, concerning the highways proposal, and taking it as the next item on the agenda.

Decision: It was **resolved** that item 532 would be taken after item 526. (Proposed by Cllr Huxtable)

2026/527 CHAIR'S AND CLERK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Agenda item taken as item 2026/528

There were no announcements.

2026/528 TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Agenda item taken as item 2026/529

Decision: It was **resolved to approve** the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Tuesday 17 March 2026. (Proposed by Cllr Harris)

2026/529 MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Agenda item taken as item 2026/530

Members reviewed several planning applications submitted to Mid Devon District Council:

26/00262/HOUSE | Erection of a first floor extension over side extension | 51 Spruce Park Crediton Devon EX17 3HJ

Decision: It was **resolved** to recommend APPROVAL, noting that it was a very well-designed addition. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

26/00384/LBCDOC | Details pursuant to the Discharge of Conditions 5 (relating to detailed drawings) and Condition 6 (floor build ups) of Listed Building Consent 24/01803/LBC | Crediton Town Council Manor Office 6 North Street Crediton Devon EX17 2BT

Cllr Brookes-Hocking declared a personal interest

The application was **noted** with no comments.

26/00424/CAT | Notification of intention to pollard 1 Goat Willow to approximately 2.8m in height; reduce the height and trim the sides of 1 Bay tree by 3m within the Conservation Area | 63 East Street Crediton Devon EX17 3BA

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

26/00495/HOUSE | Erection of single-storey rear and side extension to include conversion of garage to games room

Decision: It was **resolved** to recommend NO OBJECTION. (Proposed by Cllr Backhouse)

Task: Submit planning comments to MDDC. @Emily Armitage

2026/530 MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL PLANNING DECISIONS

Agenda item taken as item 2026/531

Members **noted** the planning decisions.

2026/531 PREMISES LICENCE

Agenda item taken as item 2026/532

Cllr Backhouse queried the timeframe requested on the application. It was clarified that this is standard practice to avoid the need for frequent licence amendments.

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

Task: Submit premises licence comments to MDDC. @Emily Armitage

2026/532 HIGHWAYS PROPOSAL

Agenda item taken as item 2026/527

Discussion took place regarding the proposal to extend double yellow lines along Westwood Road. The Chair outlined the usual process, including a consultation period and the opportunity for residents to submit comments directly to Devon County Council.

Cllr Perriman joined the meeting at 19.12

Standing orders were suspended

Several residents expressed their views. Residents supporting the proposal highlighted safety concerns, particularly the danger posed by cars parked near the junctions and on the brow of the hill, which forces drivers into the opposite lane and creates blind spots. They highlighted near misses and the potential for serious accidents, especially for cyclists and pedestrians.

Opponents of the proposal argued that the parked cars did not significantly obstruct visibility and that the primary issue was the speed of vehicles travelling down the hill. They pointed out that the recent addition of double yellow lines had already

reduced available parking and that further restrictions would exacerbate the problem.

Standing orders were reinstated

Members discussed the proposals, agreeing that the speed of vehicles on that road appears to be the greater issue. Members agreed that traffic calming in this area needs to be investigated. Suggestions included speed bumps, 20 mph limits, 'slow down' signs as well as alternative signage on the junction from Salmonhutch to discourage turning right due to the poor visibility.

Cllr Cairney advised that this area poses significant safety risks. He explained that the proposal for double yellow lines had previously been considered but due to safety concerns this decision is being revisited. Due to the complexities of the area senior traffic managers will be involved in the decision, not just the HATOC committee.

It was agreed that a site visit with the highways officer, and possibly more senior staff, would be beneficial to assess the situation thoroughly and explore all options for improving safety.

Decision: It was **agreed** that the comments raised by members of the public would be passed onto Devon Highways for consideration.

Decision: It was **agreed** to arrange a site visit at Westwood Road, for councillors to attend along with the local highways officer.

Task: Submit public comments regarding double yellow lines proposal to Cllr Cairney and DCC Highways Officer. @Emma Anderson

Task: Arrange a site visit for councillors with local highways officer to assess visibility issues and explore solutions for traffic calming measures near Westwood, Crediton. @Emma Anderson, Jim Cairney

2026/533 CREDITON URBAN TASKFORCE [CUT!]

The council received a report from [CUT!], highlighting recent activities on East Street. The excellent community spirit amongst residents at East Street was highlighted. The report was **noted**.

2026/534 POLICIES

The following policies were reviewed:

- Bench Seat Policy
Decision: It was **resolved** to approve the Bench Seat Policy. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)
- Eye Test and Glasses Policy
Decision: It was **resolved** to approve the Eye Test and Glasses Policy. (Proposed by Cllr Harris)
- Leadership in Planning Policy
Decision: It was **resolved** to approve the Leadership in Planning Policy. (Proposed by Cllr Harris)

- Motion Request Form
Decision: It was **resolved** to approve the Motion Request Form. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)
- Tree Risk Management Policy: Cllr Backhouse raised concerns regarding the frequency of inspections. The Deputy Clerk advised that the tree consultant's advice was that two and four year intervals would be appropriate for the sites. Cllr Backhouse queried whether the increased use of Stonypark for Parkrun should be considered in terms of increased risk.

Decision: It was **resolved** to approve the Tree Risk Management Policy with the agreement to include Stonypark in the 2027 QTRA inspection, in order to review inspection frequency. (Proposed by Cllr Huxtable)

Task: Include Stonypark in 2027 QTRA and review inspection frequency following the results of the survey. @Emma Anderson

2026/535 RESERVES SPENDING

Decision: It was **resolved** to approve the recommendations contained in the report, as follows:

- To approve an overspend of £143.10 from the 25/26 Newcombes Meadow toilets supplies & repairs budget.
 - To approve spending £972.50 from EMR 366: Youth underspend 24/25 to purchase a new laptop.
 - To approve spending £972.50 from EMR 339: IT Equipment/Support to purchase a replacement laptop.
 - To approve an overspend of £43.70 from the Council Offices electricity budget.
 - To approve the transfer of £211.23 into new EMR 375: Cluster Grant
- (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

2026/536 STATEMENT OF INTERNAL CONTROL 2025/26

Decision: It was **resolved** to approve the Statement of Internal Control for the financial year 2025/26. (Proposed by Cllr Harris)

2026/537 ASSET REGISTER

Decision: It was **resolved** to approve the Council's Asset Register as at 31 March 2026. (Proposed by Cllr Harris)

2026/538 FLORAL WATERING CONTRACT

Cllr Backhouse queried whether it would be more efficient to alternate the watering of flower beds with the watering carried out every 10 days and the beds fully soaked on each visit. A suggestion was also raised to try using mulch before the next season, before the ground dries out. The Deputy Clerk agreed this could be looked at next year. Cllr Cochran queried whether water retention crystals are used in the soil. The Deputy Clerk agreed to contact the contractors regarding options to improve watering efficiency within the schedule as well as contacting the nursery regarding water retention crystals.

Decision: It was **resolved** to appoint Contractor A to carry out the floral watering contract for 2026. (Proposed by Cllr Harris)

Task: Instruct Contractor A to carry out the watering of floral displays from 1 June - 30 Sept 2026. @Emma Anderson

2026/539 TOWN SQUARE BENCH CLEANING

The Council discussed the proposal for cleaning benches in the Town Square. Cllr Backhouse highlighted the need for regular cleaning, especially during the summer and before events. A suggestion was made to approach the new owners of the Three Little Pigs to see if they would consider contributing to the cleaning. Concerns about liability and public safety were raised in regard to a regular cleaning schedule being adhered to.

Decision: It was **resolved** to obtain quotes for cleaning the benches on the town square over the summer, with the addition of engaging with the new owners of the Three Little Pigs to explore potential collaboration. (Proposed by Cllr Backhouse)

Task: Investigate costs for regular bench cleaning services during summer months, including weekly and fortnightly. @Emma Anderson

Task: Engage with the new owners of the Three Little Pigs to discuss potential collaboration on maintaining cleanliness of benches on the town square. @Tim Bland

2026/540 CREDITON AREA ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

The report was **noted**.

2026/541 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was **noted** that the date of the next meeting would be Tuesday, 21 April 2026. Meeting closed at 20.38.

2026/542 REPORTS PACK

Signed

Dated.....