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CREDITON
TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Tuesday, September 15, 2026 at 18:00, at Crediton Library, Belle Parade, Crediton, EX17 2AA

Present: Cllrs Liz Brookes-Hocking, John Downes, Joyce Harris, Jim Cairney, Paul Perriman, Natalia Letch, Tim Stanford and Rachel Backhouse

Apologies: Cllrs Steve Huxtable, Guy Cochran and Giles Fawssett

Absent: Cllr Frisby

In Attendance: Three members of the public

Minute Taker: Rachel Avery, Town Clerk

MINUTES

2026/062 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION
Cllr Brookes-Hocking opened the meeting and members introduced themselves by name and ward representation before the meeting moved to formal business.

2026/063 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME
Public question time was taken under the reduced time allowance for this meeting. Members of the public made the following comments:
- A member of the public questioned an unadvertised meeting held in the White Room and asked on what legal basis councillors could meet without public notice. Cllr Brookes-Hocking stated that councillors may meet informally in different combinations for planning and discussion, stating that this had happened routinely over the last 30 years. She distinguished those informal discussions from formal council meetings, which are publicly advertised
- A further member of the public challenged the way they had been addressed. No further substantive question was pursued.

2026/064 APOLOGIES
Decision: Apologies from Cllrs Huxtable (holiday), Cochran (other meeting), and Fawssett (personal) were accepted.

2026/065 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

2026/065.1 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS (DPI'S) IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA
No personal interests or disclosable pecuniary interests were declared in respect of items on the agenda.

2026/065.2 TO CONSIDER ANY DISPENSATION REQUESTS (REQUESTS SHOULD BE MADE TO THE TOWN CLERK PRIOR TO THE MEETING)

No dispensation requests had been received.

2026/066 ORDER OF BUSINESS

There were no changes to the order of business.

2026/067 CHAIR'S AND CLERK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements were made by either the Chair or the Town Clerk.

2026/068 TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Decision: It was **resolved** to **approve** the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Tuesday 07 July 2026. (Proposed by Cllr Cairney)

2026/069 POLICIES (MOTION FROM CLLR HUXTABLE)

2026/069.1 TO REVIEW, ASSESS AND ADOPT THE FOLLOWING REVISED POLICIES:

Members received the Town Clerk's report and associated amended documentation regarding the adoption of revised Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, the Scheme of Delegation, and Terms of Reference for immediate operational use. Cllr Brookes-Hocking emphasised that the changes were intended as a short-term governance arrangement to ensure that the council continues to function lawfully, with a more detailed review to follow.

Following review of all documentations and the following amendments at the meeting:

- numbering and track-change formatting would be tidied after approval and confirmed that these issues did not alter the substance
- Financial Regulation 1.1 and 18 were clarified about removal of Oversight Committee, namely that the relevant body could recommend changes to Full Council for consideration
- reference to working groups had been removed for clarity from the Scheme of Delegation and said that spending authority would be aligned explicitly with the already adopted Financial Regulations
- Quorum for the Emergency Committee be 3 rather than 2 and wording would be made clearer that the committee would only act with full powers in a sudden local or national disaster, and only where relevant to that emergency.

Decision: It was **resolved** to adopt the revised Standing Orders. (Proposed by Cllr Harris, Cllr Backhouse abstained)

Decision: It was **resolved** to adopt the revised Financial Regulation. (Proposed by Cllr Harris, Cllr Backhouse abstained)

Decision: It was **resolved** to adopt the revised Scheme of Delegation. (Proposed by Cllr Harris)

Decision: It was **resolved** to adopt the revised Terms of Reference. (Proposed by Cllr Harris)

2026/069.2 TO CREATE A WORKING GROUP TO DETERMINE AMENDMENTS REQUIRED, FOR ADOPTION BY FULL COUNCIL NO LATER THAN 17 NOVEMBER 2026

Decision: It was **resolved** to create a working group to review the policy documents and bring amendment recommendations back to Full Council by 17 November 2026. (Proposed by Cllr Backhouse)

Decision: It was **resolved** to appoint Cllrs Backhouse, Brookes-Hocking, Huxtable and Stanford to the working group. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

Task: Review the policy documents in detail and prepare amendment recommendations for Full Council by 17 November 2026.

2026/070 APPROVAL OF DECISIONS FOLLOWING INCORRECT APPROVAL OF SCHEME OF DELEGATION

Members considered the Town Clerk's report.

Decision: It was resolved to approve and ratify the decisions highlighted in the report, affected by the earlier incorrect approval of the Scheme of Delegation. (Proposed by Cllr Harris, Cllr Backhouse voted against)

2026/071 PADDLING POOL

Decision: It was **resolved** to delegate authority to the Community Committee to approve:

- which option the council wishes to proceed with, with regards to the future of water play in Newcombes Meadow
- agree whether the chosen option will include the provision of a toilet block (subject to MDDC's investigation of restricted covenants)
- consider entering negotiations with MDDC regarding the future safeguarding of the asset to potentially include ongoing responsibility for day-to-day maintenance.

(Proposed by Cllr Harris)

2026/072 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting date was **noted** as Tuesday 17 November 2026.

2026/073 REPORTS PACK

Signed ……………………………………………………………………………………

Dated…………………………………