



**Minutes of the Community Committee meeting held on Tuesday, September 15, 2026 at  
18:30 in Crediton Library, Belle Parade, EX17 2AA**

**Present:** Cllrs Liz Brookes-Hocking, Tim Stanford, Giles Fawssett, Jim Cairney, Vix Frisby and Joyce Harris

**Apologies:** Cllrs Steve Huxtable and Guy Cochran

**In Attendance:** 6 members of the public

**Minute Taker:** Emma Anderson

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## MINUTES

### 57 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Cllr Brookes-Hocking opened the meeting and members introduced themselves.

### 58 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No questions were raised.

### 59 APOLOGIES

**Decision:** It was **resolved** to receive and accept apologies from Cllr Huxtable (holiday) and Cllr Cochran (other meeting). (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

### 60 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

#### 60.1 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.

#### 60.2 TO CONSIDER ANY DISPENSATION REQUESTS (REQUESTS SHOULD BE MADE TO THE TOWN CLERK PRIOR TO THE MEETING)

No dispensation requests had been received.

### 61 CLIMATE EMERGENCY

The committee **noted** that decisions would continue to be taken with the climate emergency at the forefront of policy and decision-making.

**62 ORDER OF BUSINESS**

There were no changes to the order of business.

**63 CHAIR'S AND CLERK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

**64 COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**Decision:** It was **resolved** to **approve** the minutes of the Community Committee meeting held on 28 July 2026. (Proposed by Cllr Harris)

**65 MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

Members reviewed the following planning applications:

26/01045/HOUSE | Erection of a two storey extension and home office | South View Park Street Crediton Devon EX17 3HL

**Decision:** It was **resolved** to recommend NO OBJECTION with an additional comment that the windows could have shown more character and better reflected the period of the building. (Proposed by Cllr Fawssett)

26/01114/HOUSE | Erection of a two storey extension | 15 George Hill Crediton Devon EX17 2DT

**Decision:** It was **resolved** to recommend NO OBJECTION with an additional comment that the extension design could have been more interesting. (Proposed by Cllr Fawssett)

**Task:** Submit planning comments to MDDC. @Emily Armitage 2026-09-21

**66 MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL PLANNING DECISIONS:**

Members **noted** the planning decisions, particularly the part refusal on the trees works.

**67 PREMISES LICENCE**

**Decision:** It was **resolved** to recommend NO OBJECTION to the premises licence application by Silverbelly Western Ltd. (Proposed by Cllr Harris)

**68 PROPERTY INSPECTIONS**

**Decision:** It was **resolved** to **note** the property inspections and the recommendations therein. (Proposed by Cllr Harris)

**Task:** Action property inspection recommendations @Emma Anderson

**69 NEWCOMBES MEADOW WATER PLAY**

Cllr Brookes-Hocking opened the discussion to members noting that information had been provided in the report and circulated to members. It was also noted that comparative water use and running costs relating to splashpads had been difficult to obtain due to these generally being run by principal authorities and the costs, particularly water, being linked to other leisure facilities.

Cllr Fawcett argued that the issue had become overcomplicated, including the use of S106 money, and the present paddling pool was working satisfactorily. He welcomed a resolution but would be reluctant to assume responsibility for the asset.

*Standing orders were suspended at 18.49 to allow public contribution*

Members of the public made the following comments:

- Local residents value the existing paddling pool and do not see a splash pad as an adequate replacement. Concerns were raised about the potential for higher water use and not being environmentally friendly in recent dry conditions. Reference was also made to information shared from Tiverton Town Council, suggesting that a substantially lower quote had been obtained for a similar refurbishment
- The paddling pool suits younger children and functions as a well-used community asset, whereas a splash pad would likely attract an older age range and might worsen existing problems of misuse around the play area. If water play is to remain, toilet provision should form part of the plan
- The potential for water consumption to reach five times that of a paddling pool is deeply concerning considering increasingly dry summers as well as reports of splash pads elsewhere being closed due to water shortages. It was challenged that splash pads are presented as the more sustainable option. The survey comments show strong anecdotal support for the existing pool, including feedback that it has been used successfully by children with additional needs. The survey comments also show repeated anecdotal concerns about splash pads suffering mechanical difficulties
- It was noted that the survey results were very close between paddling pool and splash pad.
- It was queried whether the apparent covenant linked to the housing association had been investigated. Cllr Brookes-Hocking confirmed that information had been sought but not yet provided and reminded members that toilet provision remained expressly subject to Mid Devon District Council's investigation of any restrictive covenant.

*Standing orders were reinstated at 19.00*

The Chair acknowledged the discussions as well as the papers received.

**Decision:** It was **resolved** to proceed with Option A, replacing the paddling pool like-for-like. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

*Standing orders were suspended at 19.02*

A member of the public raised safeguarding concerns regarding the proposed toilets being located close to the paddling pool. Members responded that the proposed location would be visible and not hidden away, and that children using the park would ordinarily be accompanied by parents or family members. A member of the public highlighted that a closer toilet could reduce safeguarding problems caused by families having to use the current facilities which are further away. It was also suggested that any toilet block could be locked with operating hours to be agreed.

*Standing orders were reinstated at 19.06*

**Decision:** It was **resolved** that the chosen option should include the provision of a toilet block, subject to Mid Devon District Council's investigation of restricted covenants. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

*Standing orders were briefly suspended at 19.08*

One member of the public highlighted that the immediate pressure associated with local government reorganisation timing had eased. Members were reminded that the S106 funds are time restricted and Mid Devon District Council have made it clear that the matter is urgent.

*Standing orders were reinstated at 19.08*

**Decision:** It was **resolved** to enter negotiations with Mid Devon District Council on the future safeguarding of the asset, including the potential for ongoing day-to-day maintenance responsibility. (Proposed by Cllr Harris)

**Decision:** It was **resolved** to recommend that Full Council consider the future financial arrangements for Newcombes Meadow water play, including contingency and general maintenance. (Proposed by Cllr Harris)

**Task:** Write to MDDC regarding the decision to proceed with Option A and enter negotiations on the future safeguarding of the asset, including the potential for ongoing day-to-day maintenance responsibility @Emma Anderson, Rachel Avery

## 70 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Members **noted** that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 27 October 2026. The meeting's location was **noted** as The White Rooms Creative Space. The meeting closed at 19.10.

## 71 REPORTS PACK

Signed .....

Dated.....