CREDITON
TOWN COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Community Committee held on Tuesday, October 27, 2026 at 18:30 in The White Rooms Creative Space, EX17 1DN

Present: Cllrs Liz Brookes-Hocking, Jim Cairney, Guy Cochran, Giles Fawssett, Vix Frisby, Joyce Harris, Steve Huxtable, Tim Stanford

Apologies: None

In Attendance: 4 members of the public

Minute Taker: Emma Anderson

MINUTES

72 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

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

73 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A member of the public asked whether the previously discussed £33,000 Christmas lighting contract remained in place, noting that the report appeared to describe a much smaller scheme and following 2 Freedom of Information requests a contract with Event Power Engineering had not been produced. The Chair confirmed that a response would be provided.

74 APOLOGIES

None received.

75 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

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

Cllr Fawssett declared a personal interest in relation to item 85, Peoples Park Wildlife Garden, as the member had met both individuals tendering for the gardening work and confirmed he would not comment on the item.

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

No dispensation requests had been received.

76 ORDER OF BUSINESS

There were no changes to the order of business.

77 CHAIR'S AND CLERK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

78 COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Decision: It was **resolved** to **approve** the minutes of the Community Committee meeting held on 15 September 2026. (Proposed by Cllr Cairney).

79 MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

26/01250/MFUL | Variation of condition 8 of planning permission 25/00755/MFUL (Variation of condition (2) of planning permission 18/01800/MFUL (Construction of an on-farm anaerobic digestion plant and associated infrastructure) to increase the annual feedstock limit from 32,500 tonnes to 48,500 tonnes and remove the restrictions relating to individual feedstock types, tonnages and source sites | Land at NGR 285024 100245 (East of Lords Meadow Industrial Estate) Crediton Devon

Members discussed the application in depth, acknowledging the comments received from Mr Hamm as well as Graphic PLC.

Decision: It was **resolved** to **OBJECT** to the application on the following grounds:

- The proposal represents a serious expansion and is substantially larger in scale than the original planning application.
- Concerns were raised regarding the growing of crops to supply the plant and associated implications.
- Increase in traffic.
- Adverse impacts on existing businesses and traders operating within the industrial estate.
- Concerns regarding lack of storage for surplus digestate in the proposal.
- Impact on residents in close proximity to the industrial estate particularly smells, noise, air and light pollution.
- Members also noted their support of the objections submitted by CPRE, Mr Hamm and Cllr Henry Gent.

(Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

Task: Submit planning comments to MDDC *@Emily Armitage*

80 MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL PLANNING DECISIONS:

Members **noted** the planning decisions

81 DCC AMENDMENT ORDER FOR JOSEPH LOCKE WAY & STATION APPROACH

The Chair initially highlighted a lack of joined up thinking with Mid Devon District Council's Masterplan. Concerns centred on parking for residents, vehicle speed on a clearer stretch of road, and the absence of obvious mitigation for people walking between the station and town. Cllr Cairney suggested a meeting onsite with the planners.

Decision: It was **resolved** to accept the TTRO as members understood the reasoning, however members highlighted the need to prioritise pedestrian safety, particularly in light of increased vehicle movement and the lack of parked cars likely leading to higher traffic speeds. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

Task: Submit TTRO comments to DCC *@Emily Armitage*

82 PREMISES LICENCE APPLICATION

Decision: It was **resolved** to recommend **NO OBJECTION** to the premises licence application from The Lekker Saffa Ltd. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

83 20'S PLENTY

Members supported the proposal and clarification was provided explaining 20's Plenty is an advisory scheme, not an enforceable speed limit.

Decision: It was **resolved** to support the implementation of 20's Plenty in Crediton, initially covering the roads around Haywards Primary School, Landscore Primary School, the Town Square and Belle Parade. (Proposed by Cllr Frisby)

Decision: It was **resolved** to purchase 25 x 20s Plenty signs. (Proposed by Cllr Frisby)

Task: Purchase 20's Plenty signs for installation in identified locations *@Emma Anderson*

84 PEOPLES PARK WILDLIFE GARDEN

The Deputy Clerk explained that the proposals included the planning and coordination of volunteers, and clarity was provided as to the length of the sessions with this likely changing throughout the seasons.

Decision: It was **resolved** to instruct Gardener B to carry out 8 sessions per year at a cost of £124 per session, with the remainder of 26/27 funded by existing maintenance budgets and a recommendation to the Oversight Committee for this to be budgeted for in 27/28. (Proposed by Cllr Frisby)

Task: Arrange the approved Peoples Park Wildlife Garden sessions for the remainder of 26/27. *@Emma Anderson*

Task: Include provision for Peoples Park Wildlife Garden sessions in budgeting process for 27/28 as a recommendation to Oversight Committee *@Emma Anderson, Rachel Avery*

85 EXHIBITION ROAD ALLOTMENT BOUNDARY

Decision: It was **resolved** to proceed with inspecting and maintaining the unregistered strip of land on the Exhibition Road allotment boundary. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

Task: Instruct contractors to continue with hedge and tree works on Exhibition Road allotment boundary *@Emma Anderson*

86 WAR MEMORIAL & BUS SHELTER ROOF REPAIRS

Members considered the worsening condition of the shingle roofs at the war memorial and bus shelter. The committee queried the practical value of paying for surveys when a more substantial intervention might be inevitable. Following discussion, members were in agreement that a like-for-like replacement approach was preferable to patching, with the bus shelter also being replaced like-for-like to remain in keeping with the area. Members requested quotes are obtained for full replacement works, rather than commissioning a preliminary survey. It was also noted that contact should be made with the Royal British Legion as well as Crediton Hamlets Parish Council about possible contributions towards the works.

Decision: It was **resolved** to obtain quotes from suitable heritage contractors for full roof replacement works to the war memorial and bus shelter. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

Task: Seek to obtain a minimum of three quotes for full roof replacement works to the war memorial and bus shelter. *@Emma Anderson*

Task: Contact Crediton Hamlets Parish Council and the Royal British Legion about coordination and possible funding support for the war memorial roof works. *@Emma Anderson*

87 ST LAWRENCE GREEN TELEPHONE BOX

Members who had recently visited St Lawrence Green said the current camera obscura installation was working well, particularly on bright days, and there was support for retaining it.

Decision: It was **resolved** for the camera obscura to continue through the winter, with a review scheduled for March. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

Task: Review the use of the St Lawrence Green telephone box in March. *@Emma Anderson*

88 CHRISTMAS 2026

The Chair provided an overview of the report advising that due to the layout of the high street, adding cross-streets is made that much harder as well as the conservation constraints linked to fixing points on buildings. There was support for opening a broader discussion with the conservation officer, although it was accepted that nothing significant could now be delivered for this year.

Members also noted that the Christmas Tree Trail project supported by high-street businesses would provide a different element for this season, linking with the switch-on event and encouraging people to walk around the high street.

Decision: It was **resolved** to **note** the Christmas lighting report including the update on the catenary wires and the delivery of a Christmas Tree Trail. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

89 MDDC LOCAL GREEN SPACE CONSULTATION

Members reviewed the consultation material and reflected on whether any additional local green spaces could realistically be nominated.

Decision: No suitable nominations were identified for submission.

90 CREDITON TREE WARDEN NETWORK

The committee received an update on the Crediton Tree Warden Network and noted the upcoming event on 29 November.

Decision: It was **resolved** to support the creation of a Crediton Tree Warden Network. (Proposed by Cllr Fawssett)

Cllr Huxtable left the meeting at 19.32

91 TPO (WEEPING ASH, EAST STREET)

Cllr Cairney explained that that the tree had previously been inspected by two professional tree surgeons because of its proximity to the building, and that earlier works had been undertaken for safety reasons affecting the public and children. The Deputy Clerk advised that recent correspondence from a Haywards Trustee emphasised that qualified contractors had been used, the tree was now recovering well, and there was no intention to damage the environment. It was also noted that an application to carry out works on a tree protected by a Tree Preservation Order would not incur a fee.

Decision: It was **resolved** to apply for a Tree Preservation Order on the weeping ash on East Street. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

Task: Submit application for a TPO on East Street weeping ash. *@Emma Anderson*

Cllr Huxtable returned to the meeting at 19.35

92 TOWN SQUARE BENCHES

Decision: It was **resolved** to **note** the report, advising that the Town Square benches would be sanded and treated in February. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

93 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Members **noted** that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 8 December 2026. The meeting closed at 19.38.

94 REPORTS PACK

Signed ……

Dated……