



CREDITON TOWN COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Tuesday, June 3, 2025 at 19:00 at Credition Library, Belle Parade, Credition, EX17 2AA

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

Apologies: Cllrs Natalia Letch and Guy Cochran

In Attendance: Three members of the public

Minute Taker: Rachel Avery, Town Clerk

MINUTES

2025/025 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Cllr Huxtable opened the meeting at 19.00 and members introduced themselves.

2025/026 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The following questions were raised:

- funding situation for the paddling pool at Newcombes Meadow: Cllr Huxtable clarified that there had been no further communication from MDDC regarding the funding. There was discussion about potential contributions from CTC towards the pool's upkeep, with an estimated cost of up to £20,000
- Whether members of more than one authority were taking their allowances from higher authorities: Cllr Huxtable advised that the question was not relevant to the work of CTC or the agenda for this meeting
- Why details on the noticeboard at Adams had been amended: Cllr Huxtable advised that an answer would be provided in writing and posted on the website, despite the public's insistence on an immediate answer.

2025/027 APOLOGIES

Decision: The apologies of Cllrs Letch and Cochran (personal) were **noted**.

2025/028 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

2025/028.1 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS (DPI'S) IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA

Item 46: Cllr Brookes-Hocking declared a personal interest.

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2025/028.2 TO CONSIDER ANY DISPENSATION REQUESTS (REQUESTS SHOULD BE MADE TO THE TOWN CLERK PRIOR TO THE MEETING)

There were no dispensation requests.

2025/029 CLIMATE EMERGENCY

It was **noted** that all decisions would be made with the climate emergency at the forefront of decision and policy making.

2025/030 ORDER OF BUSINESS

There were no changes to the order of business.

2025/031 CHAIR'S AND CLERK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

2025/032 REPORTS

2025/032.1 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

County Cllr Cairney reported on the recent shift in the balance of power in Devon County Council, highlighting the loss of seats by the Conservatives and the gain by the Reform Party and Liberal Democrats. He emphasised the collaborative efforts of all parties to improve services, including pothole repairs and social services. District Cllr Downes shared positive news about MDDC's recycling rates, the opening of paddling pools, and various initiatives by Mid Devon District Council, such as energy advisory services and personalised accounts for residents on their website. He also mentioned the new app for leisure centres offering reduced membership fees for students during the summer.

2025/032.2 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES REPRESENTATIVES

Twinning Association: Cllr Huxtable reported on the successful VE Day celebrations and the positive feedback from visitors.

Boniface Trail Association: Cllr Fawcett reported on the Boniface Trail Association's hopes for decisions on trails and cycle routes in the autumn, emphasising the importance of the coalition support at DCC.

2025/033 TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Decision: It was **resolved** to **approve** the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 20 May 2025, as a correct record. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

2025/034 TOWN COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES

Decision: It was **resolved** to ratify the minutes of the Parish Paths Sub-Committee meeting held on 01 April 2025. (Proposed by Cllr Fawcett)



Decision: It was **resolved** to ratify the minutes of the Community Committee meeting on 06 May 2025. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

Decision: It was **resolved** to ratify the minutes of the Oversight Committee meeting held on 13 May 2025. (Proposed by Cllr Huxtable)

2025/035 TERMS OF REFERENCE

The following amendments to Committee Terms of Reference were considered and agreed:

- The HR committee's responsibility for the Town Clerk's appraisal was clarified to include feedback from the full committee
- The Youth Service Delivery Committee was tasked with providing recommendations to the HR Committee regarding staffing
- Training for HR committee members was deemed necessary
- The Grants Policy would be reviewed at the first meeting of the Grants Committee, to ensure all applications, regardless of amount, are reviewed effectively.

Decision: It was **resolved** to approve the Terms of Reference, with the above amendments. (Proposed by Cllr Backhouse)

2025/036 SCHEME OF DELEGATION

The following amendment to the Scheme of Delegation were considered and agreed:

- Community events coordination and facilitation were added to Full Council's responsibilities to ensure councillors are informed and involved in event planning, to support officers and facilitate discussions around events.

Decision: It was **resolved** to approve the Scheme of Delegation, with the above amendment. (Proposed by Cllr Harris)

2025/037 ELECTION OF COMMITTEES 2025/26

Decision: It was **resolved** to appoint Cllrs Brookes-Hocking, Frisby, Huxtable, Backhouse and Perriman to the HR Committee. (Proposed by Cllr Fawssett)

Decision: It was **resolved** to appoint Cllrs Harris, Brookes-Hocking, Frisby, Huxtable and Downes to the Grants Committee. (Proposed by Cllr Fawssett)

Decision: It was **resolved** to appoint Cllrs Brookes-Hocking, Frisby, Huxtable, Backhouse to the Youth Service Delivery Committee, noting that there is one vacant position. (Proposed by Cllr Fawssett)

2025/038 REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES 2025/26

Decision: It was **resolved** to appoint representatives on outside bodies as follows (Proposed by Cllr Downes):

- Haywards Educational Foundation: Cllr Cairney
- Boniface Trail: Cllr Fawssett

- Chamber of Commerce: Cllr Cochran
- Crediton Hospital League of Friends: Cllr Cairney
- Crediton United Charities: Cllr Harris
- DALC: Cllr Brookes-Hocking
- Boniface Link: Cllr Harris
- Friends of Crediton Station: Cllr Perriman
- Sustainable Crediton: Councillor Backhouse
- Twinning Association: Cllr Huxtable
- Okehampton Rail: Cllr Huxtable
- Age Concern: Cllr Frisby

2025/039 MEETING SCHEDULE

Decision: It was **resolved** to **approve** the draft meeting schedule for the period from 20 May 2025 to 19 May 2026, subject to further confirmation of certain dates.

2025/040 MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

The committee reviewed several planning applications submitted to MDDC:

25/00548/FULL | Erection of three-storey dwelling | The Cott Stanbury Court
Crediton Devon EX17 2AS

Decision: The council decided to object to the planning application for the erection of a three-storey dwelling at The Cott, Stanbury Court due to the lack of information from the conservation officer and the absence of bin and cycle storage.

25/00685/TPO | Application to remove 1 Monterey Pine to ground level and reduce overall height of 1 Silver Birch tree from 14m to 11.5m above ground level, protected by Tree Preservation Order 08/00010/TPO | Cedar House Threshers
Crediton Devon EX17 3NL

Decision: The council supported the planning application to remove a Monterey Pine and reduce the height of a Silver Birch at Cedar House, Threshers.

25/00699/FULL | Change of use of ancillary accommodation to a dwelling for short term let | Trenavin George Hill Crediton Devon EX17 2DS

Decision: The council decided to object to the planning application for the change of use of ancillary accommodation to a dwelling for short-term let at Trenavin, George Hill, citing the need for longer-term rental properties in the area.

25/00731/CAT | Notification of intention to prune 2 Lime trees by approx 1-2m, crown lift 1 Copper Beech to 5.5m clearance from ground level, reduce aspect by 1-2m and overextending limb in upper SE canopy by 3m and prune 1 Ash trees overhanging branches on north by approx 2m in a Conservation Area | Crediton Dairy Ltd Church Lane Crediton Devon EX17 2AH

Decision: The council supported the planning application to prune trees at Crediton Dairy Ltd.

25/00717/FULL | Change of use of holiday/ancillary accommodation to residential dwelling | Barn at NGR 283150 99319 (Higher Park Farm) Crediton Devon EX17 3PR

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Decision: The council had no objections to the planning application for the change of use of holiday/ancillary accommodation to a residential dwelling at Higher Park Farm.

2025/041 MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL PLANNING DECISIONS:

The council noted the approval of several planning applications by Mid Devon District Council, including:

- The felling of a Conifer Tree at Courtis Gardens
- The removal of a public payphone service
- Various tree works at Chantry Care Services
- The erection of a single-storey rear extension at Meadow Gardens
- The change of use of part of a showroom to a cafe at Eakers DIY
- The installation of replacement refrigeration plant at Morrisons

No queries or concerns were raised about these decisions.

Decision: The council noted the approval of several planning applications by Mid Devon District Council.

2025/042 PEOPLES PARK

Councillor Fawcett provided a verbal update on Peoples Park, reporting positive feedback from the public after the grass was cut. He suggested meeting with members of the public and discussing the timing of the next grass cut, which was likely to be in September. Councillor Brookes-Hocking suggested taking photographs to document the park's condition.

2025/043 CREDITON URBAN TASKFORCE

Councillor Backhouse gave an update on the Crediton Urban Taskforce, noting their regular meets every second Saturday to tackle main entrances into the town. She mentioned sporadic volunteer attendance but highlighted the significant contributions from a group of Ukrainian women. The next taskforce event was planned for the upcoming Saturday, coinciding with the weekend of the Big Boniface Bash. Councillor Cairney raised concerns about overgrown areas in the town, particularly Bowden Hill, and suggested using weed killer, though he was advised on CTC's policy not to use it.

2025/044 DEFIBRILLATOR RENEWAL PACKAGE

Decision: It was **resolved** to approve the defibrillator renewal package, at a cost of £1800.00 + VAT. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

2025/045 ST LAWRENCE GREEN TELEPHONE BOX

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Decision: It was **resolved** to approve the proposal to adopt the St Lawrence Green telephone box and enter the agreement for its sale at £1.00. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

2025/046 TRAFFIC ISSUES ON PARLIAMENT STREET

Councillors Backhouse and Fawssett co-presented the proposal to reduce traffic flow on Parliament Street to improve safety and reduce noise. Councillor Backhouse emphasised the importance of public consultation before spending the proposed £4,000.00. Councillor Perriman expressed opposition, citing concerns about ambulance access, increased traffic on Market Street, and potential pollution. Cllr Brookes-Hocking suggested conducting a traffic survey and public consultation before proceeding.

Decision: It was **resolved** to agree to support progressing the proposal, including a traffic survey, public consultation, and obtaining upfront costs. (Proposed by Cllr Downes)

2025/047 LAND SOUTH OF BARNFIELD

Councillor Brookes-Hocking provided a brief update on the land South of Barnfield, summarising the comments from March which confirmed previous concerns about access. She mentioned the need for a traffic assessment to evaluate the impact of development and suggested using neighbourhood planning reserves or Section 106 monies for this purpose. A member of the public expressed interest in further discussion, and Councillor Brookes-Hocking agreed to follow up on this after the meeting.

2025/048 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Decision: The date of the next meeting would be Friday 20 June 2025 at 13:00.

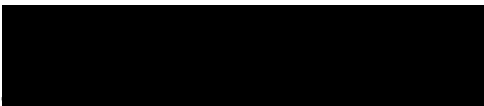
2025/049 PART II

Decision: It was **resolved** to move into Part II under section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, excluding the public and press. (Proposed by Cllr Huxtable)

2025/050 YOUTH WORK

Decision: It was **resolved** to accept the proposals within the report. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking, Cllr Backhouse voted against)

2025/051 REPORTS PACK

Signed ... 

Dated..... 31 July 25