



**Minutes of the of Credition Town Council Meeting held on  
Tuesday 19 July 2022 at 19.00 at Old Landscore School, Greenway, Credition**

**Present:** Cllrs E Brookes-Hocking, J Downes, J Harris, M Szabo, J Cairney, F Letch, N Letch, D Ross, S Huxtable and S Chenore

**Apologies:** Cllr G Cochran

**In Attendance:** R Avery, Town Clerk  
Sue Reed, Credition Courier  
Tim Steer, ACE Railway  
David Northey, Tarka Rail Association Committee  
Roger Blake, Railfuture  
Alan Clark, Tarka Rail Association

3 members of the public

**2207/042 To receive a presentation from Tim Steer on the Tarka Rail Line extension to Bideford**

A presentation was received regarding the Tarka Rail Line extension.

Councillors enquired about the following issues:

- How much work would be required to reinstate? - track bed still exists, but parts of the Tarka Way will require new land for line to be found
- Whether Oke Rail had been consulted given their success in reopening the line? – the executive team had been helpful and meetings had been held
- Whether an application for funding had been made? – it is hoped that the restoration of the railway will be a community-led project, with an initial business case being created.

Cllr Brookes-Hocking stated that the town council has a history of supporting emerging railway initiative and would welcome further information as it emerges.

Cllr Downes stated that he would raise this at Devon Rail Forum meeting next week.

**2207/043 Public Question Time**

Cllr Brookes-Hocking stated that members of the public are welcome to ask question in this forum, alongside other opportunities such through the office, through consultations and at events. Continual questions can start to become harassment. She raised concerns that some members of public have addressed and spoken to staff in an unacceptable manner. Council staff are not footballs and neither are councillors.

In terms of councillors, the Code of Conduct used by all town and parish councils requires strengthening, it is not strong enough for sanctions against councillors who don't show suitable respect.

Courtesy to staff, councillors and public which works both ways, and any behaviour that could be taken as harassment, bullying or vexatious will not be tolerated.

A member of the public had submitted a list of questions yesterday to the Town Clerk, some of which have been raised more than once before. Written answers to the questions would be provided to them. It was **noted** that the Town Clerk would respond

to the questions with support from two councillors, circulated to all councillors for agreement and send to the member of public.

**2207/044 To receive and accept apologies**

It was **resolved** to receive and accept apologies from Cllr Cochran. (Proposed by Cllr Harris).

**2207/045 To co-opt the vacant seat of Town Councillor in Boniface Ward**

It was **resolved** to co-opt Giles Fawssett as a Town Councillor to Boniface Ward (8 councillors for, 1 against).

*Cllr Fawssett signed his declaration of interest*

**2207/046 Declarations of Interest**

Cllrs Cairney and F Letch declared that as members of more than one authority, that any views or opinions expressed at this meeting would be provisional and would not prejudice any views expressed at a meeting of another authority.

Cllr Ross declared an interest in item 13 as Chairman of Sustainable Crediton.

**2207/047 To receive reports from County and District Councillors**

District Cllr Letch reported on the following:

- Changes to MDDC bin collections
- Some council-owned houses have been empty since December, with 50 currently vacant and only 9 employees on the home maintenance team
- Requested a copy of the original plans/proposals for Newcombes Meadow using S106 funds

District Cllr Downes reported on the following:

- MDDC almost balanced their budget this year, taking £100,000 from reserves, but cuts rather than savings will be required moving forward
- MDDC have received a Levelling Up allocation of £1.5 million, replacing EU funding of £3 million. A business case is being brought forward for tranches of funds over 3 years, which will be community-focussed and include improvements of high streets
- The Lidl planning application will be considered on 27 July by the Planning Committee
- Civil works have commenced on the anaerobic digester
- The next phase of bidding for the railway at Bere Alston has started
- The J27 project at Cullompton is being reconsidered, with a scaled down proposal due to changes in land allocation and some local farmers no longer offering land for the project.

County Cllr Letch provided the following report:

- Defending his motion on MOTs for roads given the poor state of roads in the area
- Compensation to drivers since 2019 totalled £181,000, and he has asked how many defects are currently registered, what the timetable is for repairs and how many staff work on repairing highways. He stated that the 0.4% budget increase represented a 7.3% deficit and us asking for Executive to lobby central government to release a realistic amount of money to fix Devon roads.

**2207/048 Order of Business**

There were no changes to the order of business.

**2207/049 Chairman's and Clerk's Announcements**

The Town Clerk reported that the door at The Bungalow has now been fitted, making it usable as a meeting room.

Cllr Brookes-Hocking reported that she will be visiting Avranches with The Twinning Association over the weekend of 30-31 July.

**2207/050 Town Council Minutes**

It was **resolved** to approve and sign the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 07 June 2022 as a correct record. (Proposed by Cllr Harris).

**2207/051 To receive, and to ratify the decisions therein, the minutes of the following meetings (minutes had been issued with the agenda):**

- **Christmas in Crediton Sub-Committee held on Tuesday 26 April 2022**  
It was **resolved** to receive and accept the minutes of the Christmas in Crediton Sub-Committee. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking).
- **Planning and Town Strategy Committee held on Tuesday 03 May 2022**  
It was **resolved** to receive and accept the minutes of the Planning and Town Strategy Committee. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking).
- **Council Affairs and Finance Committee held on Tuesday 10 May 2022**  
It was **resolved** to receive and accept the minutes of the Council Affairs and Finance Committee. (Proposed by Cllr Harris).
- **Amenities & The Built Environment Committee held on Tuesday 25 May 2022**  
It was **resolved** to receive and accept the minutes of the Amenities and The Built Environment Committee. (Proposed by Cllr Harris).
- **Christmas in Crediton Sub-Committee held on Tuesday 24 May 2022**  
It was **resolved** to receive and accept the minutes of the Christmas in Crediton Sub-Committee. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking).
- **Planning and Town Strategy Committee held on Tuesday 07 June 2022**  
It was **resolved** to receive and accept the minutes of the Planning and Town Strategy Committee. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking).
- **Council Affairs and Finance Committee held on Tuesday 14 June 2022**  
It was **resolved** to receive and accept the minutes of the Council Affairs and Finance Committee. (Proposed by Cllr Harris).

**2207/052 To resolve to grant the Town Clerk, in conjunction with Cllrs Brookes-Hocking and Harris, designated authority to comment of planning applications during the summer recess**

It was **resolved** to grant the Town Clerk, in conjunction with Cllrs Brookes-Hocking and Harris, authority to comment on planning applications during the summer recess. (Proposed by Cllr Downes). Cllr Brookes-Hocking stated that applications would still be circulated to all members of the Planning and Town Strategy Committee to enable them to comment.

**2207/053 To receive the report on investing council funds with the CCLA and to approve the recommendations therein**

It was **resolved** to approve the investment of £250,000 with the CCLA. (Proposed by Cllr Szabo).

- 2207/054 To consider and approve the following:**
- **That Sustainable Crediton install and maintain a permanent display at 8A North Street, for public information on living sustainably and the climate emergency**
  - **That the Town Council supports Sustainable Crediton in creating a hub to encourage other local organisations to take part in using 8A North Street as a place to provide information**
  - **That the Town Council supports Sustainable Crediton in setting up a weekly information session for members of the public to attend and encourage other organisations to staff drop-ins on other days of the week**

Cllr Letch asked if other organisations could use the space. Cllr Ross explained that it would be a permanent display, but various other groups could use the space to provide further information. It may be possible to create meeting space, dependant on the development of the display. It was noted that other groups are yet to be contacted.

*Cllr Ross left the meeting at 20.08*

Cllr Brookes-Hocking reported that there was a lot of information available at the Market Street Offices, prior to its closure. When the building was lost, the loss of information was clear. The new office at North Street didn't offer the space or same public access.

Community organisations can apply for funds that the town council are not able to, and Cllr Brookes-Hocking stated that she would be looking to create partnerships to achieve funding rather than increasing the precept to fund such initiatives.

Consideration was given to the voluntary staffing of the front office. It was expected that Sustainable Crediton would be a substantial partner in the creation of a hub.

Cllr Cairney stated that Crediton is a diverse community and the more support that the town council can offer to enable groups to come together is beneficial but would not support any proposed increase in the precept to pay for it.

It was **resolved** to invite Sustainable Crediton to create a framework for the creation of a hub, liaising with community organisations and funders to enable further consideration by the council. (Proposed by Cllr Chenore).

*Cllr Ross re-joined the meeting at 20.24*

- 2207/055 To note the date of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion training – Thursday 19 October 2022 at 18.00 at Bovey Tracey Town Council**

The date of the meeting was **noted**.

- 2207/056 To receive the report on 'Citizen Award' badges and to approve the recommendations therein**

It was **resolved** approve the cost of the badge costing no more than £95.76 + VAT, however the incorporation of the Freeman of the Parish should be investigated. (Proposed by Cllr Downes). It was **noted** that a further meeting in August would be held to discuss this, alongside the reserve budget for Town Plates.

- 2207/057 To receive reports from Town Councillors (for information only)**

Cllr Letch reported that he had received a phone call regarding people using Peoples Park for toileting.

*Cllr N Letch left the meeting at 20.33*

Cllr Szabo reported that Britain In Bloom judging commenced this morning. There has been a slight issue with watering and highlighted the importance of water harvesting moving forward. The judges had visited 7 It's Your Neighbourhood sites, with the senior judge stated that in 19 years he has never seen a school with such an outstanding outdoor area like Landscore. Further judging takes place on Friday.

*Cllr N Letch re-joined the meeting at 20.36*

Cllr N Letch stated that Alison Richardson is interested in joining Christmas in CREDITON and sharing ideas.

She also advertised a photo exhibition taking place on 19-20 August regarding the Ukraine War.

Cllr Ross reported that the Chamber of Commerce is looking to restart meetings. A competition is being held to find odd objects in shop windows; this was advertised in the CREDITON Courier.

Cllr Brookes-Hocking reported on Plan Mid Devon. She had spoken to Director of Place Richard Marsh regarding the CREDITON Masterplan, which will progress in the autumn. A strategic planning meeting had been held, with all parishes stating that they wished to meet more often. Cluster meetings will commence to discuss issues affecting CREDITON and the surrounding parishes.

An increase in anti-social behaviour at Newcombes Meadow and the surrounding area is becoming a serious issue, and a meeting has been requested with stakeholders.

**2207/058**

**To note the date of the next meeting – Tuesday 13 September 2022**

The date of the next meeting was **noted**. The meeting was closed at 20.45.

Signed .....  
Chairman

Dated.....