



CREDITON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on Friday 17 May 2025 at 18.30 in the Boniface Centre, Credition

Present: Cllrs Brookes-Hocking (Town Mayor)

Cllrs Huxtable, Harris, F Letch, N Letch, Fawcett, Backhouse, Downes, Cochran and Cairney
53 members of the public

1. Welcome and Introductions

Cllr Brookes-Hocking opened the meeting and welcomed town councillors and residents to the Annual Town Meeting.

2. Minutes of Annual Town Meeting

It was **resolved** to approve the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 13 March 2023. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

3. Review of Mayoral Term

Cllr Liz Brookes-Hocking provided an overview of her Mayoral Term (since 2021). She highlighted the following:

Neighbourhood Plan

Requires regular review to ensure that it complies with other strategic documents such as Local Plans, National Planning Policy.

Youth Service

Our Youth Service delivery commenced in 2021 with a range of detached work meeting young people out and about to what is now a staff team of our lead Youth Worker Cath Kelly, who is supported by three part time youth workers, 4 peer mentors and a fantastic volunteer worker. We are lucky to have further support from the community, who provide materials, ad hoc DIY work, Christmas trees to mention a few.

We have undertaken consultation in the community on issues that have been raised to the town council. Whilst the skate park is a Mid Devon District Council asset, we have worked hard to obtain the views of the community with an online survey and a consultation evening where we had a graffiti artist and refreshments. We were able to gather information and details on people who were interested in supporting an improvement project. We are trying to work with MDDC to further designs and plans....and funding.

We have increased the range of delivery we provide. Alongside our open access junior and senior clubs, we now run an outdoor club at QE Upper School, a Dungeons and Dragons session, a quiet club and a girls group.

We provide sessions in QE at lunchtimes, and work with them to support the needs and aspirations of our young people. To aid this, we organised, with support from QE, Involve Mid Devon, Credition Congregational Church and Mid Devon Healthcare PCN, we provided a Celebration of Youth event which showcased over 20 Credition-based groups such as boxing, tae kwon do, youth orchestra, art and sports.

Events

We have been able to build on the success of our Christmas in Credition event, following the Covid outbreak of 2020 and the need to virtually switch lights on – that seems like a long time ago now! 2023's lantern parade grew and it was a joy to see our young people get involved. Local artist Charlotte Turner ran successful lantern making workshops with Credition Youth Club, the primary schools and Scouts and Guides to provide a delightful show of lights!

Jo Ward and Ian Rogers once again adorned the town with beautiful lighting in the Town Square, High Street and St Lawrence Green.

2022 and 2023 saw even more events....! We saw the King's Coronation, where we celebrated all things British on the Town Square.

This followed a very busy 2022, which saw beacon lighting, childrens craft morning, a cream tea concert, open air cinema and a picnic on the square to celebrate the Queens jubilee. The picnic saw a celebration of St Boniface too, which we have expanded on and are excited to hold this year!

Volunteers

We are incredibly lucky to have such fab volunteers.

Sally and Paul Parkhouse have done a beautiful job of the war memorial and will be planting the Town Square for us this year.

Peter Please and Cllr Giles Fawssett have taken on Peoples Park Wildlife area and we must thank community groups such as the Rotary Club, Crediton Lions and Sustainable Crediton for making areas of Crediton sing with colour!

CUT!

New initiative, built on by Paul Vincent, CUT! Is doing a wonderful job of clearing up areas in the town. It is really hard to get and keep hold of volunteers, but we are so grateful.

Britain in Bloom

Community groups join in with the It's Your Neighbourhood scheme, run by Britain in Bloom. This is another showcase of many groups working together to make Crediton better.

Crediton Cluster

Purpose:

Provide a stronger voice for the cluster in discussions with District and County.

Establish common purpose – identify where parish / town councils can work together.

Develop an approach / mechanism for councils to working together.

Approach:

Project based approach - for example, developing a mid-Devon footpath network.

Loose enough group to flex to be able to include nearby town / parish councils, but tight enough to give weight in a collective voice.

Sophisticated enough to enable communities to work together where it is appropriate and facilitate groups within groups.

Monthly meetings continue as the group grows organically.

Strategic Plan

We have worked and consulted on our priorities, which form part of the 2024-2027 Strategic Plan.

4. Public Participation

A member of the public asked why the town council's precept was so high. Cllr Brookes-Hocking highlighted the breadth of work being undertaken and how the precept funds the improved services provided by the town council.

The meeting was followed by a reception and buffet, concluding at 21.00