



# Credition Town Council



## Minutes of the Meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on 5 May 2009

<b>Present:</b>	<b>Councillors</b>	<b>Miss J Harris (Chairman)</b> <b>Mr W Brown</b> <b>Mr F Letch (Council Chairman- part meeting)</b> <b>Mr R Adams (part meeting)</b> <b>Mrs L Brookes-Hocking</b> <b>Mr P Finnegan</b> <b>Mr R Wright (Vice Chairman)</b>
	<b>In Attendance:</b>	<b>Mr D Nation (part meeting)</b>
	<b>Clerk</b>	<b>Mr M Maggs</b>
	<b>CAHMS Representative</b>	<b>Mr J Jones</b>
	<b>Press</b>	<b>1</b>

### AGENDA ITEMS *(for discussion and determination)*

#### 164. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Hughes and Scarbrough (both personal).

#### 165. Declarations of Interest

Prejudicial	Councillor Harris	Minute 170b – 09/00612/ADVERT
Prejudicial	Councillor Adams	Minute 170b – 09/00612/ADVERT
Prejudicial	Councillor Nation	Minute 173
Personal	Councillor Adams	Minute 179
Code of Conduct	Councillors Wright and Nation	As members of more than one authority, declared 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.

#### 166. Public Question Time

None. A member of the Credition Area History and Museum Society was present for agenda item 10. The Chairman agreed to allow the CAHMS representative to make a statement and ask any questions during the debate on this item which would be brought forward.

Councillor Nation arrived and declared 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.

#### 167. Chairman's & Clerk's Announcements and Meeting Management

The Chairman had no announcements to make.

The Clerk had no announcements to make.

The Chairman of the Council announced that he had managed to obtain six applications for the Floral Crediton Competition. He apologised that, for personal reasons, he would need to leave the meeting early (after CCTV item).

Councillor Adams arrived.

**168. General Purposes Committee Minutes**

The minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 7 April 2009 were received and approved as a correct record.

**169. Archive Material**

The Clerk had circulated the letter received from CAHMS detailing its needs and objectives in housing the documents locally.

As a non-member of the committee and, following his declaration of a prejudicial interest in accordance with the Code of Conduct for members, Councillor Nation made a statement before leaving the meeting for the duration of the debate on this item.

Councillor Nation outlined the need for the Council's support in retaining the archive documents in Crediton.

Councillor Nation then left the meeting for this item and returned for the next.

After a short debate, it was agreed that the material would be loaned to CAHMS for a period of twelve months and reviewed on an annual basis thereafter.

**170. Town Plan Working Group**

a) *Meeting Notes*

The notes of the Town Plan Working Group meetings held on 31 March and 1 April 2009 were received and noted.

b) *Recommendations*

There were no recommendations.

**171. Planning**

a) *Planning Decisions*

Noted.

b) *Planning Applications*

Comments made in respect of planning applications considered at this meeting are appended.

The Chairman and Councillor Adams declared prejudicial interests in application 09/00612/ADVERT and left the meeting for the duration of discussion on this item.

The Vice Chairman took the chair for this item only.

c) *Planning Applications/Items for Determination week ending 5 May 2009*

*Application 09/00649/CAT*

An application, from the County Council, to fell 37 trees along the route of the concept proposals for the link road had been received and withdrawn following enquiries from the Clerk and a member. However, whilst acknowledging that this was an unfortunate error, serious concern was expressed over the implications for the public's perception on how the planning process was being conducted; it did nothing to allay people's fears over the suggested route. The Clerk to respond reflecting the Council's concern.

Agenda item when a reply had been received from DCC.

**172. Allotments**

a) *Allotment Update*

The Clerk reported that there were no significant matters to mention. Some minor issues were being resolved with the assistance of the Boniface Allotments Association and he expressed his gratitude for help during the current staffing crisis.

b) *Matters Raised By Tenants*

None.

**173. Peoples Park & Scout Memorial Gardens**

The Clerk reported that the suggestions made by members at the last meeting had been taken on board by the architect and the revised drawings had been circulated.

After a short discussion, where some members voiced considerable opposition to the enhancement proposals, it was agreed that a site meeting should be held, to include all councillors, to examine the revised proposals and report back to Council at the earliest opportunity. The Clerk again reminded members of the urgency if a submission was to be made to the Heritage Lottery Fund (deadline 31 August).

**174. Cherry Gardens**

Following a site inspection carried out on an individual basis by members, it was agreed to offer no objections to the proposals on condition that the area should be retained as open space and should not be used for development of any kind.

**175. Town Entrance Signs**

The Clerk reported that the Council's proposals for new entrance signs did not meet with the Highway Authority's standards and were consequently not approved for replacement.

It was agreed that the Council's original request should be actioned as previously discussed and, if necessary, the issue should be taken up with the County ward member in order to progress the matter as soon as possible.

**176. Town Council Newsletter**

The Clerk provided details on the legal requirement to publish an annual report by 30 June. The Annual Report was usually combined with the Council's quarterly newsletter to produce a four page edition.

The Chairman of the Council agreed to provide copy for an annual summary of events. The Clerk would provide a financial statement and summary of accounts together with the usual details on Council information. He would also provide the editing, support for publishing and the supply of photographs.

Councillor Brookes-Hocking would collate and produce the copy for appropriate articles which would concentrate on the Annual Town Meeting and other topical issues. Deadline for copy would be 6 June.

**AGENDA ITEMS** *(for discussion and recommendation)*

**177. Mayor's Surgeries**

The Chairman of the Council provided a short report on the Mayor's surgeries which had been well attended and, in his view, a great success.

Unfortunately, due to pressure of work, he would be unable to attend the next two surgeries. Councillor Wright agreed to provide cover for 11 May.

The Chairman agreed to attend at least one surgery per month and future surgery dates would be reorganised and a calendar of dates announced at the next Council meeting.

**178. St Lawrence Green Toilets**

The future provision of facilities at the St Lawrence Green site was discussed. Currently, the whole issue appeared to be in abeyance but the Council needed to decide on a course of action if MDDC decided to proceed with its policy to close the toilets once the Market Street toilets became operational.

The Clerk emphasised the importance of looking at the longer term perspective, particularly in relation to Local Government Reform. In the short term, there was no direct possibility of supporting the retention of the toilets from Council funds.

It was agreed that the Clerk should approach MDDC requesting a deferment of its decision to close the toilets pending the Council's consideration of possible options to retain the use of existing facilities as a result of any decisions made with regard to Local Government Reform.

**179. CCTV**

**PART TWO**

*In view of the sensitive and confidential nature of the business to be transacted, it was agreed, in the public interest, that the press and public be excluded and instructed to withdraw.*

The Clerk reminded members that it was not appropriate to discuss or decide on any issues relating to this item at this meeting since it had been previously decided to restrict discussion on any matters relating to CCTV to full Council.

The Chairman read out a letter received from the MDDC Director of Corporate Services following the recent meeting held between members of the CCTV Partnership and the Chairman of the Council and the Clerk.

Councillor Adams declared a personal interest and continued by expressing his disgust at the current situation. He then left the meeting and did not return.

The Chairman of the Council, as the Council's CCTV representative, provided a short report. The Clerk provided a brief summary of recent events and emphasised the importance of agreeing to the terms outlined in the letter from MDDC which provided answers to all of the issues raised by members. The CCTV representative and the Clerk had worked very hard to negotiate the best possible agreement.

Without the necessary authority to decide or recommend a suitable course of action, it was, nevertheless, acknowledged that members were satisfied that their previous concerns had been addressed and that the project should proceed in accordance with the discussion which took place on 23 April. The Council to confirm its position at the next Council meeting. In the meantime, the Clerk was asked to convey to MDDC members' acknowledged acceptance of the suggested proposals for future partnership arrangements.

The Chairman of the Council left the meeting.

#### **180. Annual Town Meeting**

Following the recent exhibition and Annual Town Meeting, Councillors Brookes-Hocking and Nation provided an update and a summary of the outcomes and responses received from members of the public.

Following a brief discussion on the, generally acknowledged, very successful Annual Town Meeting, it was agreed to recommend that Councillor Brookes-Hocking would provide a summary of public responses to proposals presented at the ATM. The Clerk would circulate this information in advance of the next meeting which would, hopefully, provide members with the opportunity discuss the issues in greater detail.

It was further agreed to recommend that agenda items would be included for the following:

- The proposed conceptual western route for the link road
- The proposed expansion of Crediton
- Responses from members of the public following the Council exhibition of material

#### **181. Parliament Street Site**

A draft letter was presented for members' approval.

It was agreed to recommend that the letter be sent to the Newcombes Housing Association outlining the Council's views and requesting the Association's support.

#### **182. Correspondence Received**

1. FIT (Fields in Trust) – details of AGM – 17 June in Kenilworth.
2. University of Gloucestershire/SLCC – Summer Seminar – 15 July – Cheltenham.
3. DCC – letter from Leader on Highway Maintenance. Clerk to email to all councillors.
4. MDDC – Parish Matters issue 7.
5. MDDC – Scrutiny Committee minutes – 20 April.
6. DAPC – Minutes of Special Meeting of County Committee held on 22 April.
7. CCA April Newsletter.
8. Involve – agenda for Mid Devon Inter Agency Forum.
9. CLAG Meeting notes and agenda for 5 May in Council Chamber.
10. DCC – P3 Scheme letter on grants and funding programme for 2009-10.
11. MDDC – agenda and supplementary document for Annual Meeting to be held on 6 May at Tiverton.
12. BAA – agenda for next meeting to be held in Council Chamber on 11 May.
13. Balfour Beatty – road closure notice for Belle Parade (3 August to 6 August inclusive) for South West Water works.

## **BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD**

### **183. CTAG Meeting**

It was reported that the air quality monitoring equipment at Exeter Road was working properly – despite suggestions at a recent CTAG meeting that it might not be operating properly.

### **184. Skatepark**

It was reported that the Skatepark would be ready for use sometime during the next couple of weeks.

### **185. Crediton Community Transport**

It was announced that the Community Transport Group had successfully negotiated the lease for the former DCC Social Services in Market Steer. It was hoped that the group would be able to provide, in addition to a shopmobilty scheme, an information point (tourism) and a community resource centre. Future Council support (financial) would need to be considered.

Meeting closed at approx. 9.45 pm.

Signed:

(J Harris, Chairman)

Date: