



Credition Town Council



Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 16 May, 2006

Present:

Councillors	Mr R Edwards (Chairman)
	Miss J Harris
	Mrs W Brown
	Mr N Way
	Mr D Nation
	Mr R Adams
	Mrs E Brown
	Mr J Downes
	Mr C Haydon
	Mrs J Pitts
	Mr P Taylor

In Attendance:

Clerk	Mr M Maggs
Public	1
Press	

1. Welcomes and Introductions

The Chairman opened the meeting, made introductions and welcomed all present.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor Letch (personal commitment).

3. Chairman's Report

The Chairman presented a brief report; a full version would be published with the next Town Council Annual Report/Newsletter.

The Town Council benefited from experienced staff and councillors.

He explained that Town and Parish Councils were the elected bodies closest to the people and were in the strongest position to influence decisions made at a higher level. Close co-operation existed between all tiers of local government (TC/MDDC/DCC) but particularly with the District Council. However, he felt that the town had been badly let down by DCC over much needed infrastructure improvements.

The completion of the Town Square and the Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme was having a significant impact on the appearance and well-being of the town. A new town committee was being set up to help promote and advise on the future use of the Town Square.

Issues relating to parking and the Air Quality Monitoring Area were continuing with direct Town Council involvement.

The restoration of Upper Deck was nearing completion following a successful Heritage Lottery Grant application.

Further investment was being made in staff and new technology providing a more professional and effective approach to local government administration. To this end, and in order to continue to serve the people of Credition, the Town Council must remain forward looking.

4. Open Questions from Electors

None.

5. Presentations

Chairman Creedy Area Community Safety Partnership

The Chairman explained that he chaired both the Area CSP and CAMM and proposed to speak on a common activity – CCTV.

He considered Crediton to be a delightful and safe place to live with a low level of crime; the main problems occurring on Friday and Saturday nights – largely fuelled by alcohol. The CSP has acknowledged this to be the single biggest crime problem that could be tackled by the installation of CCTV.

The one existing unit in the High Street has proved to be a significant deterrent, however, legal requirements have moved on necessitating the use of more up-to-date technology. Severe limitations exist with the High Street camera. There is a need to increase the coverage.

Proposals for a new, linked, four-camera system with extended coverage would provide a better and more robust deterrent. Recordings would be digital, of a high quality and centrally controlled/monitored.

Sufficient funding to lease the system had been identified for the first year. Funding for future years would form part of ongoing discussions and, it was hoped, that the Town Council would be able to provide some support.

Following questions from Town Councillors the Chairman continued to provide further details on costs, the technical specifications of the proposed system and aspects relating to civil liberties.

Community Safety Partnership Officer

The newly appointed CSP Officer explained her duties and provided a brief history of CSP work in Mid Devon. The current CSP Strategy covers the period up to 2008 and was completed in consultation with the public and government agencies (local and national).

There appeared to be a greater perception of crime despite extremely low crime figures. There were, on average, two burglaries each week in Mid Devon and these were often the result of not taking proper precautions.

Anti-social behaviour was an important theme in the strategy. Attempts to address individual problems had met with some success. Monthly meetings were being held with the Youth Offending Team with the view to putting preventative measures into place. Problems with alcohol and drugs were also being addressed. The action group had identified three issues to address – anti-social behaviour, youth problems and the fear of crime.

Forms for reporting problems had been circulated and, following initial difficulties, all reports were now being logged and sent to the appropriate authorities.

Town and Villages Co-ordinator (Crediton Area Marketing and Management)

The Co-ordinator explained that CAMM was a unit of the Chamber of Commerce and the role of co-ordinator was created to help support businesses in the town and the surrounding area.

The aims, this year, were to canvass for better parking facilities, to contribute towards the AQMA programme, to support the installation of CCTV and to continue with the town wide floral and Christmas displays.

Businesses in the town had faced a very difficult time due to the extended road works and work on the creation of the new Town Square. Prospects for the future looked equally difficult with ever increasing competition from large chains/supermarkets and use of the internet. However, the co-ordinator remained confident that with the recent investment and improvements to the High Street/Town Square more people would be

encouraged to shop locally. Car parking remained a crucial aspect of any continuing improvements.

The Chairman of the Council thanked the three speakers for their interesting and stimulating presentations. He emphasised the importance of having a vibrant and dynamic business community coupled with a safe and friendly environment.

Meeting closed at 7:45pm.

Signed:

(R C Edwards –Chairman)

Date: