



Credition Town Council



Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 22 April, 2008

Present:	Councillors	Miss J Harris (Chairman) Mr W Brown Mr F Letch (GP Vice Chairman) Mr N Way Mr R Adams Mrs L Brookes-Hocking Mr P Finnegan Mr D Nation Mr R Wright
In Attendance:	Clerk Press Public	Mr M Maggs 2 4

AGENDA ITEMS

263. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Hughes (unwell) and Downes (personal commitment).

264. Declarations of Interest

Personal	Councillor Harris	Minute 271b 08/00536/FULL
Personal	Councillor Nation	Minute 271b 08/00667/LBC
Prejudicial	Councillor Way	Minute 271b 08/00667/LBC
Prejudicial	Councillor Wright	Minute 271b 08/00667/LBC
Prejudicial	Councillor Wright	Minute 272a Accounts 2783 & 2802
Prejudicial	Councillor Brown	Minute 272a Account 2802
Prejudicial	Councillor Wright	Minute 272b (4)
Personal	Councillor Wright	Minute 272b (1)
Prejudicial	Councillor Brown	Minute 272b (4)
Prejudicial	Councillor Adams	Minute 272a Account 2780
Prejudicial	Councillor Harris	Minute 280
Prejudicial	Councillor Adams	Minute 280
Personal	Councillor Adams	Minutes 285 and 289
Code of Conduct	Councillors Nation Way Wright	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.

265. Public Question Time

None. However, members of the public were present in relation to Planning Application 00536/FULL. It was agreed that representations could be made under agenda item 9 (Planning) in accordance with Standing Order 40c.

266. Chairman's Announcements

None.

Councillor Way arrived.

267. Town Council Minutes

The minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 18 March 2008 were approved and signed as a correct record.

Councillor Adams proposed an amendment to minute 262 which was not supported. He requested that his vote against the approval of the minutes be recorded.

268. Matters Arising

Minutes 238 and 261: a member questioned why Councillor Brown had failed to declare a prejudicial interest in this matter and remained to influence the decision of the Council. She asked that advice on this matter should be obtained. The Chairman reported that she and the Clerk had the matter in hand and would report in due course.

269. General Purposes Committee Minutes

a) The minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 8 April 2008 were received and noted.

Minute 109: It was reported that Councillor Adams had requested that the CAMM CCTV report be re-circulated.

b) The recommendations of the General Purposes Committee held on 8 April 2008 were approved.

270. Matters Arising

None.

271. Planning

a) *Planning Decisions*

Noted. Decisions notified by the planning authority are appended.

b) *Planning Applications*

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

c) *Items for Determination*

None.

272. Finance

a) *Schedule of Accounts*

The schedule of accounts, numbers 002780 to 002804 amounting to £11229.12 was approved.

Accounts 2780, 2783 and 2802 were taken separately in order to allow councillors who had declared prejudicial interests to leave the chamber (Councillors Adams, Brown and Wright) but continue to participate in the discussion of remaining accounts.

b) *Donation Requests*

1) *Crediton Climate Change Group (CCCG)*

It was agreed to donate a total of £350 (£225 for the Crediton Bag Project and £125 for the Smart Meter Project).

The funding would be taken from the following budgets:
£200 from Ad Hoc and £150 from Economic Development.

2) *Crediton Rural Arts and Music Project (CRAMP)*

The annual donation (£300) was confirmed.

3) *Unite Carers in Mid Devon*

It was agreed to donate £100 from the Ad Hoc budget.

4) *Crediton & District Community Transport*

The annual donation (£500) was confirmed.

Councillors Brown and Wright declared prejudicial interests and left the meeting for the duration of the discussion on this item.

5) Crediton CAB

The annual donation (£1500) was confirmed.

6) Voluntary Action in Mid Devon (Involve)

It was agreed to donate £100 from the Ad Hoc budget.

7) Home-Start Mid Devon

It was agreed to donate £100 from the Ad Hoc budget.

273. Councillor Reports

None.

274. Vacancy in the Office of Town Councillor – Co-option

The Clerk reported that only one application had been received and that the letter of application had been circulated to all councillors. It was agreed (7 votes to 1 in favour) to appoint Mrs Linda Scarbrough to fill the vacancy in Lawrence Ward.

Councillor Adams requested that his vote against be recorded following his opinion that not enough time had been allowed for candidates to come forward. This opinion was not supported.

SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS

275. DCC Concept for Unitary Local Government

Noted. Councillors would make their views known at the proposed local listening events and again at the public consultation stage.

276. Costain Funding

Deferred to next meeting due to pressure of business (General Purposes).

277. Land at Mill Street

The request from MDDC for the Council's views on selling all or part of the open space at the corner of Mill/East Street had been circulated by the Clerk.

The Chairman allowed a local resident to make representations in support of the sale. Due to the sensitivity of the issue, it was agreed to defer any further discussion to the next meeting of the General Purposes Committee to allow members an opportunity to visit the location and consult with other residents.

278. Cycle Track

Deferred to next meeting due to pressure of business (General Purposes).

279. Public Payphones

Deferred to next meeting due to pressure of business (General Purposes)

280. MDDC Off-Street Parking

Councillor Adams declared a prejudicial interest and left the meeting for part of the debate on this issue after having requested that MDDC change the name "High Street" car park to "St Saviour's Way" car park.

Councillor Harris declared a prejudicial interest and left the meeting for the duration of discussion on this issue. In the absence of the Council Vice Chairman (apologies) and Chairman of General Purposes (Code of Conduct), the Vice Chairman of the General Purposes Committee took the chair for this item.

There was some initial confusion over the purpose of the order. However, it was agreed to simply note the Mid Devon (Off Street Parking Places) Order 2008.

281. Street Naming

Deferred to next meeting due to pressure of business (General Purposes).

282. Peoples Park – Scout Memorial Gardens

It was agreed to arrange a first meeting of the proposed working group. Councillor Wright to liaise with Clerk and canvass for suitable dates.

283. Joint Strategic Review of Health & Social Care in Devon

Copies of the review had been circulated by the Clerk.

It was considered important to provide an adequate provision for the increasing elderly population of the town particularly against the background of the recent issues concerning Crediton Hospital. There was a need for re-assurance on this matter. Respite care was currently considered far from adequate whilst provision of services appeared to be diminishing.

Councillor Nation agreed to complete the questionnaire on behalf of the Council; the Clerk to provide a covering letter.

284. Town Council Website

Deferred to next meeting due to pressure of business (General Purposes).

285. CCTV

Despite the confidentiality and sensitivity of the issue, Councillor Adams insisted on holding part of the discussion in open session. The Chairman explained that the report was not ready due to pressure of other work. Councillor Adams believed that there appeared to be a "cover-up" and that little progress was being made. The Clerk requested that Councillor Adams should withdraw his comment or provide an explanation. No explanation was given and Councillor Adams failed to withdraw the comment.

The rest of the debate was deferred to a Part Two discussion at the end of meeting.

286. Correspondence Received

1. DCC - Letter and information on Local Involvement Network.
2. CCCG - Exchange of emails on Plastic Bag Free Crediton.
3. MDDC - Post Office Network Closure Programme - agenda item at next TC when details available.
4. MDDC - letter on appointment of town/parish council representatives to Standards Committee.
5. DCC - email update on Boundary Committee - DCC vision.
6. CCCG - newsletter.
7. Chamber of Commerce minutes - 2 April meeting. Agenda for 29 April meeting.
8. D&C Police - email response to Council queries on parking issues at Butt Parks.
9. Boniface Link Association - April Newsletter and minutes of 7 February meeting.
10. MDDC - summons & agenda for 23 April Council meeting.
11. NALC - letter and information on national conference at Eastbourne 20-22 May.
12. CCCG - Email exchange on Crediton Bag and request for use of Town Seal - agenda item at next GP.
13. DCC - email notification of Local Government Listening Event in Crediton on 27 May at 7.00pm.
14. I&DeA - guide for new members
15. SLCC - agenda and minutes for meeting on 23 May at Exminster.
16. MDDC - email on Grants for Projects in Mid Devon.
17. Standards Board for England - letter and Decision Notice on recent complaint to SBE. The Chairman read out the letter in full expressing her disappointment. The Clerk confirmed that he would be challenging the allegations in relation to his responsibilities.
18. CiLCA - Portfolio Guide (Quality Status criterion).
19. Fields In Trust - AGM details and Accounts.
20. Inforegio - EU Newsletter on regional policy, sustainable development and climate change.
21. MDDC - minutes of recent meetings - Scrutiny, full Licensing.
22. MDDC - Planning Charter for Parish & Town Councils, Guide for Parish & Town Councils.
23. DCC - email on provision of second town bus service. Clerk to arrange meeting with DCC and TC members (Councillors Way, Nation, Brown, Wright and Brookes-Hocking).

BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD

287. Meeting Papers

A councillor reported struggling with the volume of papers for this meeting. The Clerk agreed; it gave an indication of the volume and complexity of work that local councils are now expected to carry out.

288. QECC

The Chairman reported that the QECC Principal had offered to speak to the Council at any time if any issues arose requiring explanation.

PART TWO ITEMS

That in view of the sensitive and confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable, in the public interest, that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw.

289. CCTV

The Clerk reported that he had completed approximately one third of his report. No further progress had been made by the contractor in resolving current issues.

No one from the Council had attended the recent meeting at Lords Meadow.

It was generally considered that the situation had reached crisis point. The expectations from the Chamber of Commerce conflicted with what the Council was capable of achieving. Crediton was in a very low crime area and it was difficult to justify further public expense.

It was agreed that there was an urgent need for more information and training. The Clerk reminded councillors that he had, last year, repeatedly offered to organise training, provide further information and help set up a partnership to manage the system but his suggestions had been rejected.

It was felt that the Council's original decision, in principle, did not cover the degree of responsibility now being demanded. It was further agreed to arrange a meeting to discuss staffing issues.

Meeting closed at approximately 10.30 pm.

Signed:

(F Letch, Chairman)

Date: