



Credition Town Council



Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 16 December 2008

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Present: | Councillors | Mr F Letch (Chairman) |
| | | Mr W Brown |
| | | Mr J Downes |
| | | Miss J Harris |
| | | Mrs A Hughes |
| | | Mr P Finnegan |
| | | Mr D Nation |
| In Attendance: | Clerk | Mr M Ashley |
| | Press | 1 |
| | Public | 1 |
| | Polish Community Rep. | Mrs A Mucha |
| | | |

AGENDA ITEMS

160. Presentation by a member of the Polish community

Councillor Hughes introduced Mrs A Mucha as a representative of the local Polish community, who gave the Council a brief presentation on the difficulties faced by foreign, particularly Polish, immigrants to the area. Of especial note was the need for a liaison person within the Town's Polish community and for a "welcome pack" to provide newcomers with basic information. Councillors expressed the possibility of an arrangement being associated with the proposed "hub" project.

Members of The Public departed

161. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Adams and Scarbrough (personal commitments) and Councillor Way (non-member, illness).

162. Declarations of Interest

| | | |
|-----------------|--|--|
| Personal | Councillor Hughes | Minute 160 |
| Personal | Councillor Wright | Minute 176 |
| Personal | Councillor Brown | Minute 176 |
| Personal | Councillor Downes | Minute 176 |
| Prejudicial | Councillor Harris | Minute 169c, Superstore Application |
| Code of Conduct | Councillors Downes, Nation and 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. |

163. Public Question Time

None

164. Chairman's & Clerk's Announcements

The Chairman took the opportunity to thank Mr Tim Hall of the Crediton Gazette on his departure from the paper.

165. Town Council Minutes

The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 18 November 2008 were received and approved as a correct record.

166. Matters Arising

None

167. General Purposes Committee Minutes

- a) The minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 2 December 2008 were received and noted.
- b) The recommendations of the General Purposes Committee held on 2 December 2008 were approved.

168. Matters Arising

Minute 115: Progress on this issue was reported by the Assistant Clerk.

Minute 120: It was reported that one individual had borne the costs of the Christmas Tree and lights at St Lawrence Green. However, it was noted that the Town's Chamber of Commerce, (Camm), co-ordinates and funds the St Lawrence Green Lights, with a contribution from the Council. *Agenda Item for budget.*

169. 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) *Planning Applications/Items for Determination week ending 16 December 2008*

i. *Premises Licence Application; The Club, Searle Street Crediton, EX17 2AT*

No objections to the licence application, although concerns were raised over the outside area that would be set aside for smokers given the close proximity of neighbouring residences and the lack of any garden or similar outside space.

ii. *Wellparks Superstore Application Update:*

Councillor Harris declared a prejudicial interest and left the meeting for the duration of debate on this item.

It was reported that District Council Officers have stated that as the modifications to the application are minor, being concerned with the carbon footprint of the site, the application does not have to be resubmitted to the District Council Planning Committee. Ward members had already asked that the District Council to ensure that the application is resubmitted to committee. It was agreed that the contractor should be invited to present at a public meeting of the Council.

iii. *The Use of Grid References in Planning Applications.*

E-mails between the District Council Planning Department and a ward member were tabled to update councillors on this, previously raised, issue.

d) *Preferred Options For The Mid Devon Development Plan*

Very strong concerns were expressed over the lack of infrastructure provision for the potentially massive development to the North East of town, Development Area B, Pedlar's Pool. It was felt that it is completely unacceptable to introduce a development of such a size whilst the traffic situation in Exeter Road remains unsolved. It was also noted that even in the event of the completion of a link road, to relieve Exeter Road congestion, without a link from the Eastern end of Common Marsh Lane to the Tiverton Road, near to Creedy Bridge, all the traffic for this development will be filtered through Commercial Road and it's junction with Exhibition Road, which is already a major bottleneck.

It was resolved by the members to recommend that in the event of development of area B a link road from Common Marsh Lane to Exhibition Road/the Tiverton Road is absolutely essential, in addition to any link road between Exeter Road and Lords Meadow. It was additionally agreed that no development of Areas A or B should be permitted before the Superstore development area near to the Station, off the South side of Exeter Road, has been fully utilised.

On the issue of the Exeter Road – Lords Meadows proposed Link Road the newly proposed "Brown Route", (Landowners option) was considered and members objected strongly to this route as it takes heavy traffic too near to existing, and proposed, residential areas with all the resultant air and noise pollution. The issue of the severance of agricultural land was not considered a strong enough argument for deviating from the Highways Authority's proposed, black, route.

170. Finance

Schedule of Accounts

The schedule of accounts, numbers 002891 to 002902 amounting to £10,698.62 was approved.

It was suggested that the Devon County Council charge of £30, (cheque no.002898), should have actually been £15 for a Council of this size. The Assistant Clerk was requested to confirm this fee prior to payment.

171. Councillor Reports

None

SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS

172. Town Council Communications

- a) Copies of the Winter 2008 newsletter were tabled. It was noted that this issue was printed on recycled paper and that the cost was only £4 per 300 copies cheaper than the previously used glossy paper. Members were informed that the cost of distributing the newsletter to all town residences would be included for the forthcoming Finance Committee meeting. It was agreed that the newsletters continue to be printed on recycled paper.
- b) The Council was informed that the Town Guide would be arriving in Mid January 2009 in approximately 30 boxes. It was noted that there is not enough room in the Town Clerk's office to store this quantity of material. Members were asked to consider how to launch the guide, preferably with some panache. It was also noted that flyers for the Crediton Festival 2009 would be inserted in 1,000 copies.
- c) It was reported to members that work was progressing with the Town Council website but that the work would probably not be completed until early in the New Year, rather than before Christmas. The Council Chairman considered that the re-launch should be publicised with some style.
- d) The Council Chairman reported to members that he would be instituting regular Town Mayor's surgeries and that the local Police Beat Manager was interested in

attending as well. It was proposed that these would be held on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month starting in January 2009. The Chairman was commended for undertaking these surgeries.

173. Communities in Control Consultation

Members raised no issues on this consultation document.

174. Information Commissioner – Council Publication Scheme

It was agreed that the model publication scheme, as prepared and approved by the Information Commissioner, be adopted and the Clerk was authorised to prepare the necessary documentation.

175. District Council Issues

Members raised several concerns over the issues of street cleanliness and maintenance of the street scene within the Town. It was reported that the street sweeping schedule had still not been provided, despite having been requested last Summer. A ward member for the District Council reported that he is still pursuing this. It was felt that the poor condition of street cleanliness had several contributing factors, namely; the frequent removal of the street sweeper from his duties to assist with refuse collection, the disposal of the “Green Machine” pavement sweeper and the necessity for the street sweeper to empty all the dog litter bins himself. It was noted that the poor standard of cleanliness was proving difficult, and potentially hazardous, for some in view of the accumulation of leaves on paths and in the gutters and drains in current freezing weather conditions.

The poor condition and lack of maintenance of the Town Square, especially the CEDEC surface, and the footpath on Exeter Road, adjacent to the old Wood’s premises, was also raised by Councillors. It was considered especially lamentable in view of the large sums of money expended on upgrading these areas only for them to be left to decay.

Members agreed that the Town Council Chairman should write to the District Council’s Chief Executive outlining the Council’s concerns and to copy this letter to the appropriate Portfolio Holder at the District Council.

Further debate was deferred to Part 2 due to the confidential nature of the topic.

176. Crediton Information Centre

- a) An update on both the Community Transport Group’s and the Community Café, (hub) group’s proposals for an information point or centre in the town was received.
- b) Members agreed to invite representatives of the two groups to attend a Council meeting to present their proposals. Councillor Brown requested that his abstention from the vote be noted. It was also noted that both groups are working around the 20 January 2009 Council meeting as the likely date.

177. Enhanced Town Bus Service

Due to the short notice re-instatement of the No. 50 Stagecoach route around Westernlea, the proposed new bus timetable would need amending. It was therefore agreed to defer this item to the next Town Council meeting.

178. Highway Issues

The inaccessibility of the footpath at the bottom of Jockey Hill, at it’s junction with Blagdon, to wheelchair and disabled pedestrian users due to the cobble stoned surface was debated. It was further noted that the entire area around the roundabout was exceedingly hazardous to all pedestrians, but especially those of limited mobility. It was agreed that the Town Council should support the removal of the cobblestones at the bottom of Jockey Hill to facilitate increased access to the island crossing, although it was noted that the replacement measures should have minimal negative visual impact.

It was further agreed to ask the County Council to revisit the issue of pedestrian safety at the traffic islands around the mini-roundabout at this location.

179. CCTV

In view of the sensitive and confidential nature of the business to be transacted, it was agreed to defer to a Part Two item at the end of the meeting.

180. Correspondence Received

1. Brian & Trish Glover – Thank You Letter: Blythswood Care Shoe Boxes Appeal.
2. Scope Supporter Services – Letter: House to House Collection Dates; 6-26 Apr.'09 & 5-25 Apr.'10.
3. Creedy Local Action Group, MDCSP – Minutes; Meeting of 13 Nov.'08.
4. Crediton Festival 2009 Co-Ordinating Committee – Minutes: Meeting of 1 Dec.'08.
5. Margret Haydon – e-mail: Thank You Note for the Council's Poppy Appeal Wreath & Donation.
6. Homes & Communities Agency – e-mail/Newsletter: Launch of Agency.
7. Rural Services Community – Letter: Invitation for the Council to Become A Member.
8. DCC – Newsletter; Input; Dec.'08
9. Royal British Legion – Letter: Timing & Venue of 2 Minutes Remembrance Silence.
10. Cllr A.Hughes – Letter: Donation request for Connect Charity. Future Agenda Item
11. Crediton Hamlets Parish Council – Letter: Financial Assistance with Upkeep of War Memorial.
12. Town Clerk, Crediton Town Council – Form 6.37: Insolvency Claim; Crediton Information Centre.
13. Devon Link – Newsletter: Dec.'08.
14. MDDC – Letter: Scrutiny Meeting; 8 Dec.'08 & Council Meeting 10 Dec.'08.
15. Community Café & Resource Centre Group – Meeting Notes: First Group Meeting; 1 Dec.'08
16. DAPC – Minutes: County Committee Meeting of 8 Dec.'08.
17. DAPC – e-mail: Deferral of Boundary Committee Report to The Secretary of State to 13 Feb.'09.
18. Cllr. D.Nation – e-mail: Parliament Street Proposal, Town Plan Working Group. *
19. MDDC – Summons: Council Meeting; 19 Dec.'08.
20. Community Café Project – e-mail: Project Update,
21. Mr H.Fernbank – e-mail: St Lawrence Green Toilets & Crediton Information Centre.
22. DCC – Letter: Implications of Recent Financial Turmoil on Employer Pension Contributions.
23. Crediton Bowling Club – Letter: Request for Club & Newcombs Meadow Signs on Union Road & Belle Parade; Request Passed to MDDC.

***Confidential**

BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD

181. Speed humps Blagdon & Belle Parade

Councillor Downes requested a future agenda item on this issue.

182. Pothole Reported – Park Street

Councillor Hughes reported the pothole and stated that it was filling up with leaves and rubbish that was then freezing in the current weather to create a greater hazard. The pothole will be reported to the District Council local office.

183. War Memorial

It was noted that the Remembrance wreaths were still at the War Memorial. It was believed that they were usually taken down by this point.

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.

184. District Council Issues (*Deferred from Minute 175*)

Concerns over future staffing and service levels were debated.

185. CCTV (*Deferred from Minute 179*)

a) *Update*

Members discussed the current CCTV situation.

b) *Action*

The forthcoming Creedy Local Action Group's, and the subsequent CCTV Partnership meetings of 21 January 2009 were noted. It was agreed that The Town Council Chairman attend on behalf of the Council.

Meeting closed at 21:26 pm.

Signed:

(F Letch, Chairman)

Date:

PLANNING DECISIONS AND APPLICATIONS FOR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING 16/12/08

Planning Decisions – as notified by the Planning Authority:

| DECISION | Type - Application Granted | | | | | |
|----------|-------------------------------|--|---|--|---|--------------------|
| | Number | Applicant | Agent | Location | Proposal | Officer |
| | 08/01658/OUT (10/09/2008) | CIR Development Ltd 19 Highacres Loders Bridport Dorset DT6 3UJ | Randell Burton Architects Ltd The Studio 7 William Street Tiverton EX16 6BJ | Land and Buildings at NGR 283409 100132 (Rear of Clouds) Barnfield Crediton Devon | Outline for the erection of 1 dwelling | Mr Keith Garside |
| DECISION | Type - Application Withdrawn | | | | | |
| | Number | Applicant | Agent | Location | Proposal | Officer |
| | 08/01629/FULL (22/10/2008) | Mr Frost Flat 2 Howards Court Dean Street Crediton EX17 3EP | Mr P Mills Anglian Windows Ltd Unit 2 Heron Road Sowton Ind Estate Exeter EX2 7LL | 2 Howards Court Dean Street Crediton EX17 3EP | Installation of PVCu replacement windows | Mr Delwyn Matthews |

Planning Applications

| APPLICATION | Type - Application | | | | | |
|-------------|------------------------------|---|-------|---|---|------------------|
| | Number | Applicant | Agent | Location | Proposal | Officer |
| | 08/02009/LBC (10/12/2008) | Mr Michael Barbour Wrighton Pharmacy Silver Street Wrighton Bristol Somerset BS40 5QE | | Crediton Pharmacy 19 High Street Crediton Devon EX17 3AH | Listed Building Consent for the installation of new signage | Miss Tina Maryan |
| | Approved - | | | | | |

Type - Application

| Number | Applicant | Agent | Location | Proposal | Officer |
|------------------------------|---|--------------|---|--|---------------------|
| 08/02054/CAC (10/12/2008) | Mr S Dennis C/o Mr K Mortimer Upper Park 2 Searle Street Crediton EX17 2AT | | Peverell 11 Searle Street Crediton Devon EX17 2AT | Retrospective Conservation Area Consent for the demolition of garden wall | Miss Tina Maryan |

No Objections -