



Credition Town Council



Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 19 May 2009

Present:

Councillors

Mr F Letch (Chairman)
Mr W Brown
Mr J Downes
Miss J Harris
Mrs L Brookes-Hocking
Mr P Finnegan
Mr D Nation
Mr R Adams (part meeting)
Mr N Way (part meeting)

In Attendance:

Clerk
Press

Mr M Ashley
2

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors A Hughes, L Scarborough, R Wright and N Way (Personal Reasons).

2. Declarations of Interest

| | | |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|--|
| Prejudicial | Councillor Nation | Minute 10: Finance |
| Personal | Councillor Adams | Minute 25: CCTV |
| Prejudicial | Councillor Adams | Minute 15: Parking Order |
| Personal | Councillor Way | Minute 14: Western Road Bus Stops Minute 15: Parking Order Bus Stop & Minute 20: Exeter Rd Link Rd. |
| Code of Conduct | Councillors Downes, Way 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. |

3. Public Question Time

None.

4. Chairman's Announcements

The Clerk warned members that with the current staffing shortages it may not be possible to keep the Clerk's office open throughout public opening hours. Signs would be posted for the public.

5. Town Council Minutes

The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 21 April 2009 were received and approved as a correct record.

6. Matters Arising

Minute 291: Councillor Bookes-Hocking reminded the Assistant Clerk that Queen Elizabeth Community College would like to collect 150 to 200 copies of the Town Guide for a school project.

7. General Purposes Committee Minutes

a) *Minutes*

The minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 5 May 2009 were received and noted with the following correction:

Minute 179: CCTV. Councillor Adams requested that "disgust at" be substituted for "views on".

b) *Recommendations*

The recommendations of the Committee were approved as minuted.

8. Matters Arising

None

9. 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 18 May 2009*

None.

10. Finance

a) *Schedule of Accounts*

Councillor Nation declared a Prejudicial Interest and declared his intention not to vote. There was no debate on the item, therefore Councillor Nation remained in the Meeting

The schedule of accounts, numbers 002948 to 002972 amounting to £10,587.14 was approved.

b) *The internal auditor's report for the year ended 31 March 2008.*

The Auditors report for the Year ended 31 March 2009 was received and noted. No further action was required.

c) *The Council's Final Accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2009.*

The final accounts for year ended 31 March 2008 were received and approved.

d) *The Annual Return, Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement*

The Annual Return, Statement of Accounts were approved subject to provision that continuing checks for errors led to no changes

The Annual Governance Statement for the financial year ended 31 March 2009 was deferred.

e) *Donation requests.*

There were no donation requests.

11. Licensing

The License Application for Lower Parks Farm, Fordton, Crediton was approved, it was noted that this was a business supplying local products sold locally and supporting local businesses.

12. Annual Town Meeting Report

It was agreed to defer this item to the next Town Council meeting.

13. Councillor Reports

None

SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS

14. Western Road Bus Stops

It was agreed to defer this item until the arrival of its sponsor, Councillor Way.

- 15. Crediton Parking Order and Waiting Restrictions**
It was agreed to defer this item until the arrival of the County Council Member, Councillor Way.
Councillor Brown left the meeting
- 16. Schools Admission Policy**
Members had no comments to make on the Admission Policy.
- 17. BelleParade Cycle Path**
It was agreed to defer this item until the arrival of the County Council Member Councillor Way.
- 18. Footpath Extension at Newcombes Meadow**
Councillor Brown re-entered the meeting
Councillor Downes proposed writing to Mid Devon District Council to recommend that the footpath around Newcombes Meadow be extended to include the South East corner, linking the Church Street entrance to the North – South path running across the park. This was agreed by members.
- 19. Agenda Papers**
With the absence of the Town Clerk, this item was deferred until his return to work. Members highlighted the difficult position the Council was in given the current staffing situation.
- 20. Exeter Road Link Road Proposal**
Councillors expressed severe concerns over the manner of the Highway Authority consulted on the route of the proposed Link Road and feared the western, over the hill route would be the only one on the table once the consultation proper commenced. It was also noted that feeling in the town was running very strongly against this most recently proposed option.
It was agreed that the Town Council needed to take a view on the routes under consideration but that the Council needed to have the full consultation proposal before making a formal decision. It was also agreed to contact English Heritage to gather their views on the impact of the western route upon the historic, eastern end of Crediton and invite them to the Council to discuss those views.
Members re-emphasised the need for a relief road not only for the Lords Meadows industrial estate, but also for the eastern end of town generally, especially with the size of proposed new developments in this area of town. The issue was also of air quality along Exeter Road and the east of town
Councillor Downes expressed his fears that the future of Crediton over the next twenty years looked bleak and the eastern part of town could be a complete mess with a link road that is essentially a dead end to Lords Meadows, but with several hundred new homes and businesses not being served by any relief road, worsening an already intolerable problem. He emphasised that the town had been promised a relief road at least as far back as 1969 that would have served as a by-pass for Exeter Road and a route to the proposed Peddlar's Pool development.
Councillors re-iterated that the original Vally Route still provided the optimum solution for traffic relief in Crediton even if it was finally deemed not practicable.
- 21. Western Road Bus Stops.**
Members were informed that the bus stops near to Boniface Road would be installed, although there were sight line issues with one location. Additionally it was reported that the stop at Chiddingbrooke Surgery would be marked out as a bus stop bay to tackle the school run cars parking in it and the bus thus blocking traffic by having to double park.
- 22. Traffic Order & Waiting Restricts.**
Councillor Adams declared a Prejudicial Interest and left the meeting for the duration of the debate.
Members discussed a number of modifications to the proposed Traffic Parking Order and it was agreed to forward these to the County Council Engineer.

23. Belle Parade Cycle Lane

A cycle path on the south side of Belle Parade from Church Street to the entrance Newcombes Meadow was proposed. It was noted that the contra flow cycle lane was within traffic flow preferences for the UK. It was agreed to contact the Highway Authority and request this be implemented.

24. Expansion of CREDITON

Members emphasised the necessity for the Council to have a plan going forward so that the Council can influence the development of the town, not just respond to the plans of others. It was agreed to raise this as an agenda item at July's General Purposes Committee.

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

25. CCTV

Despite widely differing views still held by varying members, agreement was reached on the next step in the project. The requirement for full reporting feedback from operators was emphasised.

26. Correspondence Received

1. Annoyomous – Letter re: High Street Sign removed from wall.
2. R Nicholls – Letter Fourth Option for CREDITON Industrial Link Road.
3. Lesley Smith – Letter Boundary review for Devon.
4. Dan Clark – Email Road closure Moorlake to Uton, 13th August to 18th August
5. Lapford Open Gardens 2009.
6. Liberal Democrats – News Release Revisted Tesco Plans for CREDITON approved.
7. Devon Primary Care Trust – Letter May 2009 Meeting.
8. CREDITON Fairtrade Partnership – Minutes of March 2009 meeting.
9. Involve – Agenda For meeting 20th May 2009
10. Mid Devon District Council – Letter annual meeting 6 May 2009
11. Black Rock – Investment Statement
12. CREDITON climate Action – Leaflets renewable heat and energy
13. Mid Devon District Council – Annual Council Meeting Minutes held on 29th April 2009
14. NALC – Direct Information Service issue 708 – 5may 2009
15. Melanie Chiswell – Email Tesco Development
16. Highway Maintenance in Devon – Leaflets Farming & Roadside Hedges
17. Post Office Task Force – Final Report Devon and Torbay
DAPC – Newsletter May/Jun 2009

BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD

27. Newcombes Meadows

Problems were reported with cyclists in the park. It was agreed that the Clerk would raise with the issue with the District Council.

Meeting closed at approximately 9.45pm.

Signed:

(F Letch, Chairman)

Date: