



# Credition Town Council



Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 28 July 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 N Way**  
**Mr B Wright**  
**Mrs A Hughes**  
**Mr R Adams**

**In Attendance:**

**Clerk**  
**Press**  
**Public**

**Mr M Ashley**  
**2**  
**39 (Incl. Mr W Dixon; Credition  
Traffic Action Group)**

## AGENDA ITEMS

**49. Apologies**

None.

**50. Declarations of Interest**

Prejudicial	Councillor Downes	Minute 57 b2: Credition Arts Centre Donation request.
Personal	Councillor Hughes	Minute 54: Exeter Road Link Road
Personal	Councillor Wright	Minute 60: High Street parking Enforcement.
Personal	Councillor Nation	Minute 60: High Street parking Enforcement.
Prejudicial	Councillor Harris	Minute 60: High Street parking Enforcement.
Personal	Councillor Way	Minute 58: Town Plan
Personal	Councillor Way	Minute 54: Exeter Road Link Road
Personal	Councillor Way	Minute 60: High Street parking Enforcement.
Personal	Councillor Adams	Minute 60: High Street parking Enforcement.
Prejudicial	Councillor Brown	Minute 62: Tesco Community Project
Code of Conduct	Councillors Downes, Way, 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.

**51. Public Question Time**

A large number of questions were asked of Councillors, primarily concerned with proposals for a relief route for Exeter Road and a Link road to Lord's Meadows. Additional questions concerned various impacts of the opening of the new Tesco store, concerns about Four Mills Lane and planning issues in general were asked.

**52. Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman announced that he had been asked by a member of the public if the Council were planning any events for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2013. He also informed the Council that he would be attending the Avranches liberation anniversary celebrations and would take with him 2 poppy wreaths to lay.

**53. Town Council and General Purposes Committee Minutes**

It was reported that, due to severe staff shortages, June's Town Council and July's General Purposes Committee meeting minutes were not ready. It was agreed to convene an extraordinary meeting to receive these in the August recess.

**54. Exeter Road Link Road**

It was agreed to bring this item forward due to the large number of the public present concerned with this issue. The very strong feelings amongst residents in favour of the Valley route and strongly against the western, hillside route were noted. After much debate concerning the Council's options for action, but also the legal necessity that Councillors do not pre-judge the consultation, it was agreed that the Chairman write to the Devon County Council Officers suggested by Councillor Way, highlighting the strong feelings held by residents and making strenuous representation that all three, that is both of the hillside and the valley, routes be considered as part of the consultation.

**55. 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 28 July 2009*

None.

**56. Recess Arrangements & Delegation**

It was agreed to continue with the normal recess arrangements for planning matters where decisions were delegated to the Clerk in consultation with members and the Chairman.

**57. Finance**

a) *Schedule of Accounts*

It was reported that the Schedule of Accounts was not ready due to staff shortages. It was agreed to delegate powers to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman and to e-mail the Schedule to Councillors.

b) *Donation Requests*

1. Connect Mid Devon

The request for a donation from the Connect Charity was considered and it was agreed not to make a donation in, accordance with Council policy, on the grounds that the service provided covers more than just the local area.

2. Crediton Arts Centre

Councillor Downes declared a prejudicial interest and left the meeting for the duration of debate on this item. The Clerk left the meeting to get supplementary information requested by Councillors. The item was deferred.

c) *Annual Governance Statement for the audit of the financial year ended 31 March 2009*

The item was deferred as the Clerk was not present.

**58. The Town Plan & The Future Expansion of Crediton**

*The Clerk re-entered the meeting.*

The need to complete the Council's Town Plan process was emphasised, although it was noted that the deferral of approving some the amendments to the plan had been because clarification was required from the report author, Councillor Brookes-Hocking, rather than any specific objections to the proposals. It was agreed that the remaining proposed amendments be considered at September's Town Council meeting. The issue of the proposed relocation of Queen Elizabeth Community College to single school site was briefly discussed and it was agreed that Councillor Brookes-Hocking would contact the School Principle to find out how the Council can support their bid and then write to the County Council portfolio holder. Additionally, it was noted that Mid Devon District Council's proposed Local Development Framework would be presented for adoption to the Planning Committee on 19 August 2009 and to full Council on 2 September 2009, although it was suggested that the issue would probably go to a Public Enquiry. It was also suggested that the Town plan was an ongoing process and that it be reviewed annually, possible at each October Town Council meeting.

*Councillors Finnegan and Wright left the meeting*

**59. Councillor Reports**

Councillor Way .reported that the Tarka Line passenger numbers had increased by 60% on 2003 and that improvements to the line were proposed by the Operator including improving the lighting at Crediton Station and replacing rolling stock.

**SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS**

**60. Devon County Councils On-Street Metered Parking Enforcement Report on Devon Town Centres**

Councillor Harris declared a prejudicial interest, made a short representation that any on street pay parking in the town centre would be detrimental to the High Street as a whole and left the Chamber for the duration of debate on this item.

It was reported that metered on street parking had been proposed for 19 out of 28 towns in Devon that do not already have it. Members were overall opposed to the proposal, noting that the new, edge of town superstore would have free parking and emphasized the negative impact this proposal would have on the town center. It was considered that the proposal for free parking for 20 minutes was inadequate to alleviate the detrimental effects on the town centre of this proposal.

**61. Bramble Lane Bus Shelter**

It was reported that a number of residents had suggested installing a bus shelter at the Bramble Lane bus stop near Willow Walk. Potential problems with possible anti-social behaviour were raised concerning the provision of a shelter, although it was suggested that not providing seating may alleviate this. It was noted that the funding would come from the County Council's Area Operating Budget and it was agreed that the Councillor Way contact the County Council to request considering this proposal for inclusion in the planning programme.

**62. Tesco Community Projects Funding**

The following suggestions were made for a suitable project to recommend to Tesco for project funding:

- a. A second "Teen Shelter" in the town, in addition to that in the Barnfield play area.
- b. Development of the landscaping on the corner of Queen Elizabeth Drive, around the Town entrance sign and planter to include additional tree planting.
- c. Councillor Brown declared a prejudicial interest and left the meeting for the duration of debate on this item.  
Support for the Volunteer and Resource Centre.
- d. Renovation of the Scout Memorial Garden in Peoples' Park.

### **63. Correspondence Received**

1. Devon County Council – Letter – Hedge & Chain-link Fencing Public footpath 12
2. Lloyds TSB – Letter – Cancellation of cheque to supplier as not received in post
3. Graham Pearcey – Letter – Link Road Objection Western Route
4. Bow IT Solutions – Letter – IT Support for computers
5. Drs M Waanders – Letter – Thank you for wonderful Friendship/Festival weekend
6. Smiths Gore – Letter – Link road Downes Estate
7. Mid Devon Council – Letter – Extension of saved Local Plan Policies
8. Shane Broad – Email – Representation on planning applications
9. Citizens Advice Bureau – Letter – Invite to appoint a representative to become a member (*future agenda item*)
10. Cridton Disability Bus Transport Group – Invite – Annual General Meeting 28 July 2009
11. Paul & Daphne Cartwright – Letter – Link Road Objection Western Route
12. Able Community Care – Letter – Possible information for our newsletter
13. Macmillan Cancer Support – Letter/poster – Fun day Ugbrooke Park, 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2009
14. Audit Commission – letter – Reminder to submit Annual Audit Report of 2009
15. Cridton & District Community Transport Co Ltd – Poster – Open afternoon 31<sup>st</sup> July 2009
16. Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 – Road Closure – Park Road, 3<sup>rd</sup> Aug – 7<sup>th</sup> Aug 2009

### **Business Brought Forward**

#### **64. Mid Devon District Council Services Survey to Town and Parish Councils**

It was emphasised that this needed to be completed by the Assistant Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman.

#### **65. Town Council Annual Report and Newsletter**

It was confirmed that the report had been published but that the full print run had not yet been received. It was requested that confirmation be sought for the availability of copies of the report for August's Farmers' Market.

#### **66. Mobile Phone Mast at Queen Elizabeth Community College**

It was reported that the mobile phone at the Lower School site may have been deactivated and that reception within the town had been negatively affected.

#### **67. Allotments Tenancy Agreements**

It was reported by the Clerk that the proposed amendments to the Allotment Tenancy agreements would be presented at September's General Purposes Committee and this would leave time for the invoices and agreements to be dispatched by the end of the month.

### **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*

#### **68. Devon District Council's Chairman's Reception, Nomination of Volunteers to Attend**

Nominations for invitees to attend the reception were suggested.

*Councillor Way left the meeting*

### **Business Brought Forward**

**69. CCTV**

Members were updated on the current situation with the regards to the CCTV project.

**70. Town Council Staffing Situation**

The Chairman updated Councillors on the current situation and future requirements with regard to the present staffing position.

**71. Finance**

Deferred from item 57c. The Annual Governance Statement in the Audit Return for the year ending 31 March 2009 was approved.

Meeting closed at approximately 10:28 p.m.

Signed:

(F Letch, Chairman)

Date: