



Credition Town Council



Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 20 October 2009

Present:

Councillors

Mr F Letch (Chairman)
Mr W Brown
Mr J Downes
Miss J Harris
Mrs L Brookes-Hocking
(Part Meeting)
Mr D Nation (Part Meeting)
Mr N Way
Mrs A Hughes
Mr R Adams (Part Meeting)
Mr R Wright

In Attendance:

Clerk
Press
Public

Mr M Ashley
2
None

AGENDA ITEMS

97. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor P Finnegan for personal reasons.
Councillor Brookes-Hocking entered the meeting.

98. Declarations of Interest

Personal	Councillor Way	Minute 111: Link Road
Personal	Councillor Wright	Minute 103b: Planning Application 09/01236/FULL
Personal	Councillor Wright	Minute 112: Pelican Crossing
Prejudicial	Councillor Harris	Minute 103b : Planning Application 09/01471/FULL
Personal	Councillor Letch	Minute 104a: Cheque 003014
Prejudicial	Councillor Brown	Minute 117 : Tesco Community Project
Prejudicial	Councillor Downes	Minute 117 : 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.

99. Public Question Time

None.

100. Chairman's and Clerk's Announcements

The Chairman announced that Dokkum are going to send 1,100 bulbs, arriving Thursday 22 October. The Chairman also reminded members of the Remembrance events taking place in the town, commencing with the dedication of the Remembrance Garden at the Church on Saturday 24 October, the Remembrance Service on Sunday 8

November and the minute's silence and District Council Wreath laying ceremony on Wednesday 11 November 2009.

Councillor Nation entered the meeting.

101. Town Council Committee Minutes

The minutes of the Town Council Annual General Meeting held on 22 September 2009 were received and approved as a correct record with the following correction:

Minute 83f: Replace "Devon County Council Chairman" with "Devon County Council Deputy Chairman".

102. Matters Arising

None.

103. Planning

a) *Planning Decisions*

Noted. Decisions notified by the planning authority are appended.

Councillor Adams entered the meeting.

b) *Planning Applications*

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

Councillor Harris declared a prejudicial interest in application 09/01471/FULL and left the chamber for the duration of debate on this item.

c) *Planning Applications/Items for Determination week ending 20 October 2009*

The Grant of Conditional Planning Permission, DCC/2915/2009, for a Multi Use Games Area at Queen Elizabeth Community College was tabled.

d) *Non Material Amendments to Planning Applications*

The Planning Authority's report & draft protocol on non-material amendments to planning applications was received and noted. It was also noted that Central Government guidance would be issued at some point concerning non-material amendments to planning applications, which would entail a review of the District Council's policy to ensure compliance with national policy. The Assistant Clerk was requested to organise a briefing from a Planning Department Officer concerning the implications of the policy once reviewed in the light of Central Government guidance.

104. Finance

a) *Schedule of Accounts*

The schedule of accounts, numbers 003014 to 003026 amounting to £6,687.17 was approved.

b) *Donation Requests*

None.

105. Allotments

a) *Clerks Report*

It was reported that there were currently three vacancies that had been passed to the Allotment Association to fill. Councillor Adams agreed to the Assistant Clerk's request that the water to the allotments be shut off for the winter frosts.

b) *Tenants Invoice And Information Pack*

The tenants' invoice and information pack was received & noted.

c) *Tenants Issues*

None reported.

d) *Boniface Allotment Association Annual Recharges*

The Association's annual recharges breakdown were tabled, referring to the Financial Schedule, Cheque 003026.

106. Mid Devon District Council's Local Development Framework

It was agreed to defer this item until the next General Purposes Committee, after Councillors had had an opportunity to attend the Local Development Framework exhibition on Thursday 22 October 2009. It was also agreed that the District Council be asked to leave the exhibition material in the Council Chamber for use at the Town Council's display at the next Farmers' Market on 7 November.

Members were also updated on the current situation with regard to potential development of the area to the South East of the town, between the railway and the present Barnfield housing developments, and it was reported that, whilst progress was still being made on access issues, this would be too late to form part of the LDF, but may get included at a possible enquiry stage.

107. Administration And Personnel

It was confirmed that the Clerk's Office Laptop PC had been ordered but not yet delivered. It was agreed to defer remaining items on this topic to Part Two.

108. Councillor Vacancy

The notice of Co-Option to fill the Casual Vacancy that has arisen in the Town Council was received. Councillors were informed that it was hoped to select the Co-Opted candidate at November's Town Council Meeting. The cut off date for applications is the 6 November 2009. One application had been received to date but some other interest had been expressed.

109. Newsletter

The Autumn Newsletter was tabled and a cut off date of 14 December was set for articles for January's newsletter. Members expressed their appreciation for Councillor Brookes-Hocking's efforts in producing the newsletter. A breakdown of the costs of the designing and templating of the newsletter was requested.

110. Councillor Reports

- a) Councillor Brookes-Hocking reported on the main points arising from the DAPC AGM.
- b) Councillor Nation reported that the last Crediton Hospital Campaign Group meeting had been held. Continuing concerns were expressed over the vulnerability of wards to closures at the hospital due to reduced bed occupancy rates over August. This will require continued monitoring.
- c) Councillor Way updated members on the progress of the provision of a cycle path to Exeter. It was reported that the County Council has appointed consultants to take forward the Sustrans initial proposals, although it was noted that the Exeter end around Cowley Bridge was the problematic area.

SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS

111. Exeter Road Link Road

A lengthy and robust debate was held, during which the long term desirability and benefit to Crediton of the Valley Route was stressed; the achievability on a cost basis of the different options were considered and the negative impact emphasised of the western, hillside route on the historic, eastern end of town in terms of noise and pollution for the residences along Exeter Road. Members agreed by four votes to two that the Town Council strongly opposed the western, hillside route and strongly supported the Valley Route as the best long term solution for a link road to Lord's Meadow Industrial Estate and the North East of the town.

112. Refurbishment of the High Street Pelican Crossing

The request from the County Council Highways Surveyor to finish the footpath around the pelican crossing between North Street and Market Street on the High Street was considered sympathetically. It was agreed to support the request of the Highways Surveyor but the Council also requested that the surface colour be a lighter shade than the usual dark grey or black, such as the buff colour of some of the non-slip surfacing seen at other locations.

113. Cycle Parking In Crediton

Councillor Adams Declared a Prejudicial Interest and Left the meeting for the duration of debate on this item.

Councillors were informed that the County Council would be sympathetic to the provision of more bicycle parking within the town. It was also noted that secure bicycle

parking at the station would encourage more combined cycle and train usage. It was suggested that the Friends of Crediton Station be contacted to assist in moving this forward with the rail company.

Within the town it was felt that it was important to have bicycle parking near to the bus stops for the Exeter buses to connect readily with those services. It was agreed that the three priority locations, (in descending order), were in the vicinity of:

- 1) Landscore Stores & St Lawrence Green close to the bus stop.
- 2) Triple C Café, close to the bus stop.
- 3) The alleyway between Adams Home Hardware and Boots, leading to Stanbury Court.

114. Four Mills Lane

Councillors expressed their dismay at the letter Councillor Hughes had received from Devon County council concerning traffic and speed limits in Four Mills Lane. It was agreed to contact the County Council to request the reasons for refusing to consider a 20 mph speed limit and that this is reconsidered. It was also emphasised that the access plan for the Tesco superstore included improving access and safety for pedestrians and cyclists to the store site and that they should be held to these conditions. Councillor Brown agreed to draft a response to forward to the Assistant Town Clerk

115. Footpath 24

There was some disagreement over the location, rural or urban, and suitability of the path for the material it was resurfaced in. It was therefore agreed to defer this item to permit Councillors time to visit the site for themselves.

Councillor Wright left the meeting.

116. Communications Masts On The Tarka Line

The community efforts to ensure the masts were sympathetically resited was acknowledged as benefiting all residents affected.

117. Tesco Community Project

Councillors Brown and Downes declared prejudicial interest in the Crediton Area Community Transport Group, however, there was no discussion upon any topic related to the group and neither left the chamber.

After consideration of the suitability, probable costs and achievability within the time frame it was agreed to recommend to Tesco that a teen shelter be selected as the Community Project. Siting of the shelter needs to be carefully considered and requires consultation with the Police, the Youth Service and possibly the Queen Elizabeth Community College Council.

118. Town Square Booking Procedure

It was reported that it had been difficult to obtain details of recent bookings of the Square that had caused complaints to be made to the District Council as the booking details were deemed to be confidential. Councillor Nation agreed to investigate this booking further at District Council level.

119. Correspondence Received

- 1) MDDC – e-mail: Request for meeting with South West Housing Association/Town Council re. residential development of the Tesco site. (*See Item 32*)
- 2) DCC – Notification; Road Closure; Alexandra Road; 28 October 2009.
- 3) DCC – Notification: new speed limit and town signs, A377, Exeter to Barnstaple.
- 4) Evans Newsagents – Letter: Noise complaint to MDDC re. the Ship Hotel.
- 5) Devon Army Cadet Force – Letter: Newsletter & leaflet.
- 6) BlackRock – Statement: people's Park Charity Fund; interest notification.
- 7) Involve Mid Devon – Annual Report: Reference & Administration Details; 2008-09
- 8) Crediton Climate Action – Letter: Climate Change Action Day; 24 October 2009.
- 9) MDDC – Letter: Budget Consultation request.
- 10) Tarka Rail Association – Newsletter: Autumn 2009.

- 11) Save the Children – Invitation: charity Christmas Card morning; CCrediton Town Hall; 31 October 2009.
- 12) Mrs J.Tucker – Complaint: Noise Complaint to MDDC re. Town Square.
- 13) DCC – Notification: Speed Limit Alterations; Exeter Road Tesco site.
- 14) MDDC – Newsletter: Mid Devon Talk; Autumn 2009.
- 15) Community Safety Partnership – e-mail & Letter: Poster Competition; “Domestic Abuse”.
- 16) MDDC – e-mail: New Community Planning Support Officer; Agnieszka Szpinda.
- 17) Community Safety Partnership – Minutes & Action Plan: Meeting of 22 September 2009.
- 18) DCC – Invitation: Developing Community Assets Seminar, Ivybridge; Thurs. 19 November 2009. *(Details to Cllr Brookes-Hocking)*
- 19) Tiverton Tourist Information – Letter – Invite to attend meeting
- 20) MDDC – Letter – Additional dates for Planning Training
- 21) LCR – Newsletter – Autumn 2009
- 22) MDDC – Letter & Leaflet – Handy guide for residents
- 23) NALC – Employment briefing Letter – 2009/2010 National Final Salary Award for Local Council Clerks
- 24) DAPC – Newsletter & Letter- Empowering people, DAPC AGM 2009 main points
- 25) Homestart – Annual report – 2008/2009 & Invitation to Become a member. *(Future Agenda Item)*
- 26) MDDC – Letter – Consultation with BT on the potential adoption of certain public payphones, loss of phone service
- 27) DCC – Letter – 30mph Limit at Fordton bridge
- 28) Senior council for Devon – Newsletter September 2009
- 29) The East & Mid Devon Community Safety Partnership – Letter: Domestic Violence & Abuse Awareness Week; 23 Nov.’09.
- 30) DAPC – Agenda: Meeting of Larger Councils Sub-Committee 22 Oct.’09 & Minutes of meeting 11 Jun.’09. *(Cllr Brookes-Hocking will attend)*
- 31) DCC – Letter: SW Love Food Hate Waste Campaign information.
- 32) MDDC – e-mail: Postponement of SW Housing Association presentation to Council.
- 33) Central Devon Conservative Community Action Team – Leaflet: Project information. *(Cllr Letch to Investigate further)*
- 34) EDF – Letter: Payment thanks & invitation to Direct Debit. *(Future Agenda Item)*

Business Brought Forward

120. Christmas Lights Grants

Concern was expressed that additional grants for Christmas Lighting would go to the body incurring the costs, not to an intermediary. It was confirmed that this grant could not be diverted from Christmas lighting.

121. Newcombes Meadow Play Area

The large number of Queen Elizabeth Community College students using the playground area as a meeting place was highlighted. Councillor Downes agreed to raise this with Councillor Wright as an issue for the Community Safety Partnership.

122. Childrens’ Playhouse Slide; Newcombes Meadows Playground.

It was reported that this structure was covered in graffiti. Councillor Nation agreed to report this at District Council level.

123. Morrisons Supermarket

The Chairman updated Councillors on his communications with the Mill Street Morrisons Supermarket on home deliveries, seating benches and overnight parking.

124. Christmas Free Parking

It was reported that the Operations Manager at the District Council was still considering options for pre-Christmas town centre free parking. Councillor Wright informed members

that he had proposed one month's free parking in the run up to Christmas, but that this was unlikely to be agreed.

125. Crediton Garden Club

Councillor Letch reported that he had received positive feedback on this proposal and that he hoped to get a club started by early Spring. It was emphasised that the club would be a stand alone organisation, although it would hopefully have Council support.

126. Companion Bus Passes

Councillor Way requested this be a future agenda item.

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

127. Administration And Personnel

a) The Chairman updated members on the situation with regards to the Town Clerk's return to work.

The Assistant Clerk left the meeting.

b) The Chairman updated members on the situation with regards to Assistant Town Clerk.

Meeting closed at approximately 22:03.

Signed:

(F Letch, Chairman)

Date: