



**Minutes of the of Credition Town Council Meeting held on  
Tuesday 22 November 2022 at 19.00 at Old Landscore School, Greenway, Credition**

**Present:** Cllrs E Brookes-Hocking, J Downes, J Harris, M Szabo, F Letch, N Letch, D Ross, Cochran, Fawssett, Chenore, Cairney and S Huxtable

**In Attendance:** R Avery - Town Clerk  
Cath Kelly – Lead Youth Worker  
August Shaw – Youth Worker  
3 youth club attendees

**2211/073 To receive a presentation on Credition Town Council Youth Work**

A presentation was received on Credition Town Council Youth highlighting the following:

- The delivery of 12 face to face hours per week, including three youth club sessions and outreach work at QE
- Working with approximately 100 young people each week
- Receiving voluntary support from adults and young people, supporting youth work team delivery (incorporating the Lead Youth Worker and three sessional Youth Workers)
- Community involvement including stalls at the Diversity Festival and the Big Green Fair
- Creating excellent links with statutory bodies such as police alongside local schools and other organisations
- Total cost of £60k per year (£1.42 per band D household per month).

The use of Stonypark was discussed, with it being confirmed that the Youth Club had used the area and would be interested in doing so in the future.

A question had been raised by a member of the public regarding what the youth service was doing to mitigate anti-social behaviour by young people in Newcombes Meadow. The police have reported that Newcombes Meadow is monitored, but there are not enough significant issues so doesn't come under a safer communities' initiative. However, there is an intention to provide activities outside the youth club, undertaking detached youth work. Activities will include further graffiti art projects to support issues with recent vandalism. Park improvements too, could help with how the park is used and it would be appropriate to seek young people views on what they would like to see there. Members of the public were urged to report any antisocial behaviour to the police using their online 101 service, for the police and other organisations to understand the issues in Newcombes Meadow. If significant levels of anti-social behaviour were reported, there would be a greater likelihood of resources being allocated to combat it.

**2211/074 Public Question Time**

A member of the public had submitted the following questions, with responses from the Town Mayor provided as follows:

- Bus shelter panels to be replaced 'soon' - What is the progress on those discussions? Will the Town Council consider alternative ways of replacing the panels?

*The response from Fernbank Advertising, who are providing the bus shelters in cooperation with DCC have confirmed the new bus shelters will be installed by the end of February, subject to available road space and weather conditions.*

- Video of violent assault at QE Academy- Will Crediton Town request the Principal of QE Academy to attend a Full Town Council to explain how the incident came to take place, to be recorded and circulated on-line, to comment on the current level of peer-on-peer bullying at QE Academy, and to say how such incidents will be prevented in future?

*A written response had been provided to the questioner on this matter with all councillors copied in and no further comments on the issue would be made.*

- Children's Homes at Newcombes - Given the high level of local concern about this development, will the Town Council invite the developers of the proposed children's homes to give a presentation to local people about the business and how it will operate, with special emphasis on the impact on local residents and the level of provision for the children whom the development will house?

*An invitation can be extended if the application is approved.*

- £234,000 grant for Newcombes Meadow - What date does the grant expire? What action has the Town Council taken to identify and progress a suitable project to benefit our community? What further discussions have taken place with Mid Devon?

*The MDDC reports no longer show the expiry date, and this information has been requested. CTC are continuing communication with MDDC officers regarding the S106 funds, with the Town Clerk having a meeting with the CEO and Chief Financial Officer in December.*

- Floral displays in town centre - Will the Town Council approach these local businesses instead in future?

*No decisions have been made regarding next year's budget. CTC always prefers local contractors, however the council must balance overall cost with value for money. The current contractor is local.*

- 'Boniface Ambassador' scheme - Has the Town Council yet considered how to implement the pledges made by Cllr Natalia Letch and Cllr Sandy Chenore to set up a Boniface Ambassador scheme for young people? When will this be discussed by the Town Council?

*This item has not been requested by either councillor to form part of a Town Council or committee agenda.*

- Parking penalties for pizza van - Will the Town Council write to Devon County Council Highways to point out that such punitive action is unhelpful, given that the pizza vans are providing a popular service for local residents and commuters?

*This issue should be directed to DCC and the local county councillor.*

- Independents for Crediton, Urban Environment Initiative - Will the Town Council recognise and commend the activity by the Independents for Crediton (IfC) group in clearing weeds and other growth from pavements, kerbs and other urban sites over the last few weeks?

*Yes, thank you for undertaking this work.*

- Concerns re public participation at council meetings - Will the Town Council recognise that members of the public are rightly angry when the council fails to engage constructively with issues raised by individual members of the public attending meetings? Will the Town Council agree that holding council meetings with seats arranged 'in the round' would alleviate the sometimes confrontational 'us and them' atmosphere generated by councillors around a table while members

of the public sit in a separate area? What will the Town Council do to encourage the greater attendance by members of the public at council meetings?

*Any member of the public who feels the issues they raise are not constructively dealt with by the council should make contact as it would welcome meetings to discuss the complaint.*

*Attending council meetings is not the only way to engage with CTC staff and elected members. The council offices are open to residents for comments and enquiries four days a week.*

*There is currently a consultation running on spending and we have active social media pages.*

**2211/075 To receive and accept apologies**

There were no apologies.

**2211/076 Declarations of Interest**

Cllrs F Letch, Cairney and Downes declared that as members of more than one authority, 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.

Cllr F Letch declared that as a committee member and CTC representative of Crediton Twinning Association, he would not take part in the discussion or vote when considering their grant application (agenda item 14).

Cllrs Szabo declared that as a committee member of the Friends of Crediton Station, he would not take part in the discussion or vote when considering their grant (agenda item 14).

**2211/077 To receive reports from County and District Councillors**

County Cllr Letch reported on the following:

- An additional £5 million has been provided to the Household Support Fund (administered by MDDC)
- Free training for young residents (19+) called 'Skills for Tomorrow'
- Children's Services are experiencing personnel changes due to resignations
- DCC is looking to create savings of £75m. This may include cuts to services and staff redundancies
- Setting up target group to consider speeding and 20mph limits in towns
- Pilot devolution scheme being considered
- Enhanced partnership between bus companies and DCC
- Devon Rail Partnership – increased rail users by 80%, with DCC allocating £5m to public transport.
- Crediton railway station sees 50k travellers per year and improved ticket sales (138% increase on pre-Covid travel figures)
- Information regarding school provision at Pedlars Pool which would be forwarded to the Town Clerk.

District Cllr Downes reported on the following:

- Judicial Review on the Lidl planning application (land allocated for housing, density and heritage space)
- J27 – MDDC Local Plan delayed to enable Eden Project to create business plan, however this is no longer happening and offering lower level of funding to review area in cooperation with another developer
- £15k offered for Shop Front Scheme in Crediton (50% costs provided for work such

as painting shop fronts)

- Levelling Up Fund – MDDC received allocation for Rural Levelling Up Scheme of £800k with plans to be submitted up to £2m. Awaiting first tranche, but details should have been made available in August
- Budget showing a £2m deficit. Significant savings are being considered, with non-statutory services cut.

District Cllr Cairney reported on the following:

- Plans for ground source heat pumps at Lords Meadow Leisure Centre approved, meaning it will financially viable and its future confirmed.

#### **2211/078 Order of Business**

There were no changes to the order of business.

#### **2211/079 Chairman's and Clerk's Announcements**

Cllr Brookes-Hocking reported that she is hoping that Christmas in Crediton can take place, though weather is not looking brilliant. She thanked councillors who had offered to help at the event.

The Town Clerk advised she would be attending a meeting with the CEO and CFO of MDDC. She would also be taking part in a participatory budgeting working group led by MDDC.

#### **2211/080 Town Council Minutes**

It was **resolved** to approve and sign the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 09 August 2022 as a correct record. (Proposed by Cllr Harris).

#### **2211/081 To receive, and to ratify the decisions therein, the minutes of the following meetings (minutes had been issued with the agenda):**

- **Christmas in Crediton Sub-Committee held on Tuesday 21 June 2022**
- It was **resolved** to receive and accept the minutes of the Christmas in Crediton Sub-Committee. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking).
- **Community and Environment Committee held on Tuesday 21 June 2022**
- It was **resolved** to receive and accept the minutes of the Community and Environment Committee. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking).
- **Planning and Town Strategy Committee held on Tuesday 05 July 2022**
- It was **resolved** to receive and accept the minutes of the Planning and Town Strategy Committee. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking).
- **Christmas in Crediton Sub-Committee held on Wednesday 06 July 2022**
- It was **resolved** to receive and accept the minutes of the Christmas in Crediton Sub-Committee. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking).
- **Council Affairs and Finance Committee held on Tuesday 12 July 2022**
- It was **resolved** to receive and accept the minutes of the Council Affairs and Finance Committee. (Proposed by Cllr Harris).
- **Christmas in Crediton Sub-Committee held on Tuesday 26 July 2022**
- It was **resolved** to receive and accept the minutes of the Christmas in Crediton Sub-Committee. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking).
- **Community and Environment Committee held on Tuesday 26 July 2022**
- It was **resolved** to receive and accept the minutes of the Community and Environment Committee. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking).

- **Planning and Town Strategy Committee held on Tuesday 06 September 2022**  
It was **resolved** to receive and accept the minutes of the Planning and Town Strategy Committee. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking).
- **Council Affairs and Finance Committee held on Tuesday 27 September 2022**  
It was **resolved** to receive and accept the minutes of the Council Affairs and Finance Committee. (Proposed by Cllr Harris).
- **Community and Environment Committee held on Tuesday 27 September 2022**  
It was **resolved** to receive and accept the minutes of the Community and Environment Committee. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking).
- **Christmas in Crediton Sub-Committee held on Tuesday 04 October 2022**  
It was **resolved** to receive and accept the minutes of the Christmas in Crediton Sub-Committee. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking).
- **Planning and Town Strategy Committee held on Tuesday 04 October 2022**  
It was **resolved** to receive and accept the minutes of the Planning and Town Strategy Committee. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking).
- **Christmas in Crediton Sub-Committee held on Tuesday 01 November 2022**  
It was **resolved** to receive and accept the minutes of the Christmas in Crediton Sub-Committee. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking).

**2211/082 To appoint members to committees and sub-committees where there are vacancies:**

- **Council Affairs and Finance Committee (1 vacancy)**  
It was resolved to appoint Cllr Fawsett. (Proposed by Cllr Cochran).
- **Climate Emergency Committee (2 vacancies)**  
It was resolved to appoint Cllr Fawsett. (Proposed by Cllr Cochran).

**2211/083 To resolve to sign the Civility and Respect Pledge**

It was **resolved** to sign the Civility and Respect Pledge. (Proposed by Cllr F Letch).

**2211/084 To receive the report regarding heating in The Bungalow, 8 North Street and to approve the recommendation therein**

It was **resolved** to approve the recommendation therein. (Proposed by Cllr Harris).

**2211/085 To receive the notes of the Crediton Cluster meeting and to consider lobbying Devon County Council for:**

- **Addressing speeding on local roads**
- **An appropriate cycleway for Crediton – Exeter that fully meets the requirements of the area**

It was **resolved** to agree that Crediton Town Council will pursue these issues. (Proposed by Cllr Cochran).

**2211/086 To approve the following grant applications, as recommended by the Grants Sub-Committee:**

- **Crediton Twinning Association - £300**  
It was **resolved** to approve the grant. (Proposed by Cllr Harris).
- **Friends of Crediton Station - £575.52**  
It was **resolved** to approve the grant. (Proposed by Cllr Harris).

**2211/087 To receive reports from Town Councillors (for information only)**

Cllr Szabo reported on the following:

- Attended the Age Concern AGM
- Attended the Tarka Line Forum, chaired by County Cllr Andrea Davis
- Devon and Cornwall Rail Partnership providing information through Royal Mail regarding train travel
  
- 50% of tickets are now purchased online, so no ticket machine will be installed at Crediton railway station as this figure is expected to rise further. Electronic signage on the platforms is due to be installed by 31 March 2023. DCC intend to install shelters on either side of the station by 31 March 2023, in line with the transfer of Joseph Lock Way. MDDC have removed an abandoned caravan from the park and ride car park.

**2211/088 To note the date of the next meeting – Tuesday 24 January 2022**

The date of the next meeting was noted. The meeting was closed at 20.19.

Signed .....

Dated.....

Chairman