



## Minutes of the of Credition Town Council Meeting held on Tuesday 31 January 2023 at 18.45 at Old Landscore School, Greenway, Credition

<b>Present:</b>	Cllrs E Brookes-Hocking, J Harris, M Szabo, F Letch, G Cochran, G Fawssett, J Cairney and S Huxtable
<b>Apologies:</b>	Cllr D Ross
<b>Absent:</b>	Cllrs J Downes, N Letch and Chenore
<b>In Attendance:</b>	R Avery - Town Clerk 1 member of the public

### 2301/101 Public Question Time

A member of the public asked if members would like to reflect on the decision to raise the precept given only three members voted in favour of the increase. They pointed out that several town councillors are co-opted and nobody has consulted with constituents. What mandate do councillors realistically feel they have to impose the 17% increase?

Cllr Brookes-Hocking advised that she cannot answer for members' feelings. Even if councilors are elected unopposed, they are elected, and any vote taken with a majority of one is a carried vote. There have been several consultations over the past few years, including a survey prior to Christmas regarding the value of services and if the precept should be increased. There was a 3-2 majority in agreement to increase the precept. She highlighted that she had held surgeries at the Farmers Market, and nobody had disagreed to an increase to protect services. All meetings are open to the public, council offices are open every day with the Town Clerk and staff always willing to answer questions. There are lots of opportunities for members of the public to partake in consultation. The town council feels it is necessary to keep Credition in good state, both physically and emotionally, and encourage community interaction. If the member of the public would like to discuss this further, it was suggested that they make an appointment with the Town Clerk.

Cllr Cairney stated that if the council doesn't provide services for young people, an increase in antisocial behaviour and vandalism is likely. Whilst he understands the comments made, it is integral to invest in people and the future and the town council cannot be shortsighted when setting the precept.

### 2301/102 To receive and accept apologies

It was **resolved** to approve apologies from Cllr Ross. (Proposed by Cllr Harris).

### 2301/103 Declarations of Interest

Cllrs F Letch and Cairney 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.

- 2301/104 To receive reports from County and District Councillors**  
There were no reports.
- 2301/105 Order of Business**  
There were no changes to the order of business.
- 2301/106 Chairman’s and Clerk’s Announcements**  
There were no announcements.
- 2301/107 Town Council Minutes**  
It was **resolved** to approve and sign the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 24 January 2023 as a correct record. (Proposed by Cllr Harris).
- 2301/108 To Budget 2023/24:**
- **To ratify the decisions made by Full Council on Tuesday 24 January 2023 regarding the budget, level of reserves and precept for the next financial year**  
It was **resolved** to ratify the decisions made by Full Council on Tuesday 24 January 2023 regarding the budget, level of reserves and precept for the next financial year. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking).
- 2301/109 To note the date of the next meeting – Tuesday 14 March 2023 at 19.00**  
The date of the next meeting was **noted**.

Signed .....  
Chairman

Dated.....