



**Minutes of the of Credition Town Council Meeting held on
Tuesday 18 July 2023 at 19.00 at Old Landscore School, Greenway, Credition**

Present: Cllrs E Brookes-Hocking, J Harris, J Downes, J Cairney, N Letch, F Letch,
G Cochran, G Fawssett, S Huxtable, P Perriman and R Backhouse

Apologies: Cllr G Stone

In Attendance: Rachel Avery - Town Clerk
2 members of the public

2307/020 Public Question Time:

- **To receive questions from members of the public relevant to the work of the council**

The following comments were made:

- It was requested that meetings be held in a different location
- there has been a decrease in the amount of road sweeping.

2307/021 County and District Councillor Reports:

- **To receive reports from County and District Councillors pertaining to issues affecting Credition**

County Cllr F Letch:

- Drove around the area with the Neighbourhood Highway Officer this week, raising the issue of temporary traffic lights in the High Street It is hoped that the road will be open again by the end of this week
- Cabinet passed a decision to stop mobile library services saving £217k annually, with the Liberal Democrats recommending that savings should be ringfenced for library services. Credition Library has an at-home service
- He had attend the first meeting of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Commission and would ask for permission to share information for circulation.

District Cllr J Cairney:

- Cycle path to Exeter being considered as a joint project with DCC, with the main obstacle being Cowley Bridge due to the river.

District Cllr G Cochran:

- In response to the issue raised by a member of the public, he would request MDDC for information regarding street sweeping along the High Street.

District Cllr J Downes:

- Reported that tomorrow's Full Council meeting will be the first at MDDC since the elections
- The McDonalds planning application will be considered on 27 September by MDDC's Planning Committee

District Cllr F Letch:

- Taken possession of 7 electric vehicles plus installation of two charging points in both Crediton car parks.

2307/022 Apologies:

- **To receive and accept Town Councillor apologies**

It was **resolved** to approve the apologies of Cllr Stone. (Proposed by Cllr F Letch).

2307/023 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations:

- **To receive declarations of personal interest and disclosable pecuniary interests (DPI's) in respect of items on this agenda**

Cllrs Cairney, Downes, F Letch and N Letch declared that as members of more than one authority, any views or opinions expressed at this meeting would be provisional and would not prejudice any views expressed at a meeting of another authority.

- **To consider any dispensation requests**

There were no dispensation requests.

2307/024 Order of Business:

- **At the discretion of the Chair, to adjust, as necessary, the order of agenda items to accommodate visiting members, officers or members of the public**

There were no changes to the order of business.

2307/025 Chair's and Clerk's Announcements:

- **To receive any announcements which the Chair and Town Clerk may wish to make**

The Town Clerk reminded members of the 'New Councillor' training on Thursday 21 September.

2307/026 Town Council Minutes:

- **To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 02 May and Tuesday 16 May 2023, as a correct record (minutes had been issued with the agenda)**

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

2307/027 Town Council Committee and Sub-Committee Minutes:

- **To receive and to ratify the decision therein, the minutes of the following meetings documents had been issued with the agenda. Christmas in Crediton Sub-Committee held on Tuesday 07 February 2023**

It was **resolved** to receive and ratify the minutes of the Christmas in Crediton Sub-Committee meeting. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking).

Council Affairs and Finance Committee held on Tuesday 25 April 2023

It was **resolved** to receive and ratify the minutes of the Council Affairs and Finance Committee meeting. (Proposed by Cllr Harris).

Community and Environment Committee held on Tuesday 25 April 2023

It was **resolved** to receive and ratify the minutes of the Community and Environment Committee meeting. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking).

Christmas in Crediton Sub-Committee held on Tuesday 02 May 2023

It was **resolved** to receive and ratify the minutes of the Christmas in Crediton Sub-Committee meeting. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking).

Planning and Town Strategy Committee held on Tuesday 02 May 2023

It was **resolved** to receive and ratify the minutes of the Planning and Town Strategy Committee meeting. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking).

Council Affairs and Finance Committee held on Tuesday 23 May 2023

It was **resolved** to receive and ratify the minutes of the Council Affairs and Finance Committee meeting. (Proposed by Cllr Huxtable).

Planning and Town Strategy Committee held on Tuesday 06 June 2023

It was **resolved** to receive and ratify the minutes of the Planning and Town Strategy Committee meeting. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking).

Council Affairs and Finance Committee held on Tuesday 13 June 2023

It was **resolved** to receive and ratify the minutes of the Council Affairs and Finance Committee meeting. (Proposed by Cllr Huxtable).

2307/028 To receive a verbal statement from Cllr Huxtable regarding Member participation

As part of work on the Strategic Plan, he has considered his role as a member of the town council. On that basis, as a professional organisation with the Civility and Respect pledge and Quality Gold status, he asked what he can do to make the role more enjoyable, interesting and give more back to the community.

He advised that all members should prepare fully for all meetings; reports take time to write and take up a huge amount of energy, effort and time and asked that members respect the author by reading and advise if there are any typos or issues prior to the meeting.

He had viewed statistics of meeting papers, which show number of views, number of documents and the average views. Although SharePoint may not be accurate, some policies had received as little as 3 views.

He thought about how he can plan time and how to make things better for the staff. Staff are social and there to help but popping in to see them adds to their time when they are working on projects. It is not what officers can do for members, but more what members can do for officers.

Cllr Fawssett suggested that new iPads have allowed for easier viewing and members will be more engaged.

Cllr Cairney agreed with the statement but stated that he was dyslexic.

Cllr Huxtable stated that figures were not provided to name and shame members. It was **noted** that any members requiring extra support should contact the Town Clerk.

2307/029 Town Council Committees:

- **To note the vacancy on the Planning and Town Strategy Committee and to receive and approve any nominations for the position**

It was **noted** that there were no nominations, and the vacancy would remain.

2307/030 Financial Regulations:

- **To review and adopt the Financial Regulations document**

It was **resolved** to approve the Financial Regulations, however the highlighted paragraphs will be amended and reconsidered at the September meeting. (Proposed by Cllr Harris).

2307/031 Christmas Lights:

- **To approve the replacement of the catenary wire assemblies at a cost of £960.00 using the Christmas Light Renewals/Repairs Earmarked Reserve**

It was **resolved** to approve the payment. (Proposed by Cllr F Letch).

2307/032 Town Council Communications:

- **To receive an update regarding the creation of a Communications Strategy**

A staff workshop had been held in August, to include the newly appointed Projects and Events Officer.

The workshop will form the basis of the Communications Strategy.

- **To discuss the implementation of Town Council surgeries and agree any further steps**

Consideration was given to the surgeries. It was noted that Cllrs F Letch and Cochran undertake county and district councillor surgeries.

Cllr Brookes-Hocking stated that whilst surgeries are useful, the Farmers Market is not always suitable as no gazebo is allowed and many visitors are not local residents. She stated that staff are talented and excellent at communicating, and strategies for contacting people in different ways should be considered. She stated that she is happy to consult when needed but doesn't find regular surgeries particularly useful.

Cllr Cairney recognised the work of Cllrs F Letch and Cochran.

Cllr Huxtable asked how issues get reported back to officers which is what is needed. It was **noted** that Cllr Brookes-Hocking has provided information to staff as needed to deal with issues.

- **To receive and approve the quotation for additional meeting recording software quote had been issued with the agenda**

It was **resolved** to approve the quotation to purchase items individually. (Proposed by Cllr Harris).

2307/033 Newcombes Meadow:

- **To receive the report by Cllr Fawssett regarding Ark in the Park and to consider the recommendations therein copy of email had been issued with the agenda.**

Cllr Fawssett stated that social space contrast between the Town Square and Newcombes Meadow; residential and business. Types of people change depending on time of day. The town is fortunate to have the Town Square. He stated that Newcombes Meadow, with the exception of the Bowling Club and play areas, is not an easy space as it doesn't have easy access to some parts nor the businesses around it. Whilst he has proposed the idea of a community building, he feels that it won't work. He stated that the S106 funds must be used before they are lost and should be spent on a toilet block near the paddling pool.

The Old Lansdown School building is the obvious community space that has not yet been developed.

Cllr Downes stated that whilst the toilet is essential, a toilet block could cause anti-social behaviour. It was noted that this would be considered as part of the project. Cllr Harris stated that security would be necessary. Cllr Backhouse asked if the council could consider the needs of the age group whose needs are not being met.

Cllr N Letch stated that the park works for events but will not be used in the same way as the Town Square.

The Town Clerk advised of the consultation being undertaken regarding the Lords Meadow skate park.

Cllr F Letch stated that the bandstand is beautiful, but it is not used. It could be developed and should be considered.

Cllr Brookes-Hocking stated that S106 funds belong to MDDC and will support officers making applications for the money. There are other proposals put forward for S106 funds, including the cantilever swing and replacement of goal posts. Improvements will be made to the park. Consultation will be required relating to the toilet block and CTC must be mindful of genuine anti-social behaviour concerns.

It was **resolved** to accept the recommendation to continue to liaise with Mid Devon District Council (MDDC) to investigate how to best improve Newcombes Meadow, not earmarking a budget of £5000 from unallocated reserves for future use once full investigation and consultation has been undertaken work with MDDC to install a much-needed toilet block next to the paddling pool.

2307/034 Town Councillor Reports:

- **To receive reports from individual town councillors relating to their representation on external bodies**

Cllr Perriman had attended an Oke Rail Committee meeting, where the extension of the line from Tavistock to Bere Alston was discussed, alongside the extension of line from Okehampton to Tavistock and the reopening of the line to Bude. There is a wish to re-open stations between Crediton and Okehampton, but this could reduce the hourly service so is not likely to happen in the near future. Cllr Cairney stated that opening Tavistock could create a secondary rail line.

Cllr Cochran had spoken to the Chair and Treasurer of the Chamber of Commerce and requested to join a meeting.

Cllr Brookes-Hocking reported on the cycle way (A377 Action Group). Engineers have two options which will be consulted on the autumn by Devon County Council.

She also reminded members of the DALC AGM on Wednesday 27 September.

2307/035 Date of next meeting:

- **To note that the date of the next meeting will be Tuesday 19 September 2023 at 19.00**

The date of the next meeting was **noted**. The meeting was closed at 20.57.

PART II

2307/036 Part II:

- **To resolve that under section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following items as it involves the likely disclosure of sensitive and confidential information**

It was **resolved** to move to Part Two. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking).

2307/037 Council Offices:

- **To receive the report on the Council Offices and to approve the recommendations therein (document will be issued with the agenda)**

The **report** was received and it was resolved to approve the recommendation therein.

Signed

Dated.....