



Christmas in Crediton Committee Minutes
Tuesday 10th January 2017 at 2.00 pm
at Council Chamber, Market Street, Crediton

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Present: Dan Webb (Deputy Committee Chairman) (part meeting), Liz Brookes-Hocking, Peter Hamilton, David Oliver, Rosemary Stephenson, Alan Quick and Clare Dalley

42. To receive and accept apologies.

It was **resolved** to receive and accept apologies from Frank Letch. (Proposed by Cllr Webb)

43. Declarations of Interest

None declared.

44. Christmas in Crediton Committee Minutes – To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Christmas in Crediton meeting held on 8th November 2016. It was **resolved** to agree and sign, as a correct record, the minutes of the meeting held on 8th November 2016. (Proposed by Rosemary Stephenson)

45. To review Christmas in Crediton 2016. A copy of the feedback received had been issued with the agenda and was reviewed by members of the Committee, a copy of which is attached to these minutes as Appendix One.

46. To consider the future of Christmas in Crediton.

Clare advised members of the resolution taken by Crediton Town Council at its December meeting, which was as follows:

‘It was resolved that, following the Christmas in Crediton wash-up/debrief meeting, the Town Council would consider, at the January Council meeting, holding Christmas in Crediton on the Town Square with the Chamber of Commerce being responsible for any parade on the High Street. (Proposed by Cllr Letch)’

Clare advised that this decision had been made based on several factors including, the increased amount of time the Clerk was spending on the project, the costs associated with the road closure and the lack of financial support from local businesses. She explained that local businesses had been asked to support the project by donating £50 each towards the Christmas Lights, this included the installation of 100 High Street Christmas trees. The total amount of donations received from High Street businesses for Christmas in Crediton 2016 was £1,660 so far.

David advised that the Chamber of Commerce did not have capacity to organise the closure of the High Street and the Parade as its members do not have the time to dedicate to it. He added that they struggle to get volunteers to help with putting up and taking down the High Street trees as well as helping with the children’s fancy dress competition. He also advised that Tara, in her capacity as Chair of the Chamber, had recently attended a meeting with the Governors of QE to discuss how the school could become more involved with community projects and events in the future.

It was noted the lack of support for the event from High Street businesses is disappointing.

Rosemary advised that the Arts Centre is also struggling with capacity. The majority of organising the Parade was left to Peter, with Rosemary supporting him as and when she can. This is becoming too much for them. No-one else from the Arts Centre has volunteered to help as they are busy on other projects.

A long discussion followed regarding the future of the event. It was acknowledged that the event brings out a different demographic to other events in the town, it encourages community cohesion, bringing many of the younger members of the community together and promotes Crediton in a positive way. It was also acknowledged that the Parade is an important element of the Christmas in Crediton event.

The possibilities of finding another organisation to take over the event, or employing an event co-ordinator were discussed, with no conclusion being made.

Dan Webb left the meeting at 4.00 pm and Liz Brookes-Hocking took over chairing the meeting.

AGREED: Liz to attend the Chamber of Commerce meeting on 26th January to find out the views of the High Street businesses and why so many are not supporting the event.

ACTION: Liz to attend the Chamber of Commerce meeting on 26th January to find out the views of the High Street businesses and why so many are not supporting the event and to report back at the February Committee meeting.

AGREED: To ask Crediton Town Council to defer discussing the future of Christmas in Crediton until its February meeting, to allow members to gather more feedback and consider all options for the event.

ACTION: Clare to ask Crediton Town Council to defer discussing the future of Christmas in Crediton until its February meeting, to allow Christmas in Crediton members to gather more feedback and consider all options for the event.

47. **To review the storage arrangements of the Christmas Trees/Lights/Decorations etc...**
It was resolved to defer this item until the February meeting.
48. **To receive an update on the finances of the 2016 Christmas in Crediton project.**
Clare issued a copy of the finances, which were discussed by members. There were still several payments to be made, however, it was evident that the project had come in under budget. Clare advised members of the budget that had been allocated for 2017.
49. **To discuss plans and ideas for 2017.**
It was resolved to defer this item until the February meeting.
50. **To discuss fundraising for the 2017 Christmas in Crediton project.**
It was resolved to defer this item until the February meeting.
51. **Any other business relating to Christmas in Crediton.**
It was resolved to defer this item until the February meeting.
52. **To agree the date of the next meeting.**
It was resolved for the next meeting to be on Tuesday 14th February 2017.
53. **Close**
The meeting closed at 4.24 pm.



14th February 2017
Valentine's Day