



Minutes of Credition Town Council's Policy & Forward Planning Committee, held on Tuesday, 3rd May 2016, at 6.00 pm, at the Council Offices, Market Street, Credition

Present: Cllrs Mrs L Brookes-Hocking (Committee Chairman), Mr A Wyer, Mr F Letch, Mr W Dixon, Mrs A Hughes and Cllr N Way (part meeting)

In Attendance: Mrs Clare Dalley, Town Clerk
1 member of the press

130 To receive and accept apologies
Cllr Webb gave his apologies.

131 Declarations of Interest
Cllr Letch declared that as a member 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.

132 Public Question
No members of the public were present.

133 Order of Business
There were no changes to the order of business.

134 Chairman's and Clerk's Announcements
There were no announcements.

135 Policy & Forward Planning Committee Minutes – To approve and sign the minutes of the Policy & Forward Planning Committee Meeting held on 5th April 2016.
Copies had been circulated with the agenda. Cllr Dixon proposed that minute number 104 be amended to include the wording 'and who will provide them' and 'and whether DCC had approved the road scheme' in paragraph 11. So the paragraph reads as follows:

'Cllr Dixon asked numerous questions, including the variations in the three different concepts presented at the public consultation, the definition of care units and who will provide them and what employment was going to be provided on site and whether DCC had approved the road scheme.'

It was **resolved** to amend minute 104 to include the wording 'and who will provide them' and 'and whether DCC had approved the road scheme' in paragraph 11. (Proposed by Cllr Dixon)

Cllr Way arrived at 6.09 pm and declared that as a member 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.

It was **resolved** to approve the minutes, as amended, of the Policy & Forward Planning Committee Meeting held on 5th April 2016, as a correct record and they were duly signed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking. (Proposed by Cllr Dixon)

136 Matters Arising
Cllr Wyer requested an update on minute number 104, in relation to paragraph 12 and whether a decision had been made on the school and gypsy/traveller site. Cllr Brookes-Hocking advised that she

Initials.....

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had not heard anything regarding this. Cllr Brookes-Hocking advised that she had attended a Sandford Parish Council meeting where representatives of Gleeson Developments were present. She had also walked around the Town with Ian Sorensen from Devon County Council and representatives of Gleeson Developments to consider connectivity issues.

- 137** To receive an update on the road widening scheme at Marsh Lane and the Town Council's request for the installation of a safe crossing place between the junction of Hawkins Way and the Leisure Centre. Copies of correspondence received from Mr Lewis Ward, Devon County Council, and Mr Steve Densham, Mid Devon District Council, had been issued prior to the meeting. It was resolved to note the correspondence. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)
- 138** To receive an update on the progress of the feasibility study being carried out by Devon Communities Together, regarding Crediton Town Council taking on the ownership and management of the Mid Devon District Council Market Street building, and to consider and agree any further actions required. The Clerk advised that a copy of the 'Planning For Real' draft report had been issued to all building stakeholders for them to read and comment upon. A follow-up meeting with all stakeholders has been set for Thursday 19th May 2016 from 11.00 am to 1.00 pm. It has been agreed to have a target of the end of May for the production of the draft final report. This would be a private and confidential document for Crediton Town Council because it will be a commercially sensitive document used for negotiations and contracts/licences. Once the draft final report is received it will be considered by the Town Council's Policy & Forward Planning Committee at its meeting on the 7th June 2016 and be presented to full Council on 21st June 2016.
- 139** To consider purchasing a defibrillator which will be located in the vicinity of Crediton Town Square, with money being taken from the Earmarked Tesco Community Fund and further money provided by Tesco. It was resolved to support the purchase of a defibrillator which will be located in the vicinity of Crediton Town Square, with money being taken from the earmarked Tesco Community Fund and further money provided by Tesco. (Proposed by Cllr Letch) The Clerk advised that she would approach Mid Devon District Council to ascertain whether the defibrillator could be mounted on the outside of the Council Office building.
- 140** To consider the purchase of two dog bins to be sited in the area south of Tesco and agree a course of action. Cllr Brookes-Hocking explained the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group had identified the open space land located in the vicinity of Tesco as a good area of open green amenity space within the Town, which has previously been neglected. It is extremely popular with dog walkers and consequently is being used as a dog toileting area. The Clerk explained that Tesco had recently undertaken a community litter pick in the area, which had been marred by the excessive dog poo, which had also been bagged up and left in bushes and trees, resulting in the need for it to be cut down! Tesco has advised the Clerk that it would be willing to raise funds for the Town Council to purchase dog bins in order to alleviate the current problems. The challenge at present is for the Clerk to find a contractor able to empty two dog waste bins. She had spoken to Mid Devon District Council (MDDC) however; it is undertaking a Street Cleansing Review during 2016 and is unable to provide a cost of providing the service until it is complete. MDDC also advised that it is very unlikely that it would service a bin which is not on public land/highway even after the review. She had contacted a contractor that operates in the North Devon area and the emptying of just two dog bins would not be cost efficient for them. The Clerk confirmed she is still investigating other options, including talking to local parishes to ascertain the possibility of a shared service agreement.

It was resolved for the Clerk to pursue the emptying of dog bins, and if successful, for the Clerk to negotiate with Andrew Drayton, Tesco Community Champion, regarding Tesco providing the funds to purchase and site two dogs bins, as well as obtaining the necessary consents from the land owner.

Initials *AW*

- 141 To discuss devolution issues and forward plan for how these may affect Crediton.** Further information relating to this item had been issued with the agenda. Cllr Brookes-Hocking explained that, looking forward at the next 5 years, more services will either disappear or will have to be taken on by the Town Council. These may be assets and/or services that the Town Council has not even thought of before. Clare explained that she has recently been discussing devolution with her counterparts in Cornwall and with hindsight they would have devised a 5 year plan, listing all the assets and services the town valued, and wanted to keep, and costed them out.

Members discussed devolution and Cllr Brookes-Hocking explained the two different devolution concepts, one being central government devolving power to the region such as the HOSW bid, which is not about services - it's about infrastructure delivery, development of housing, the workforce and employment. The second being the lower level of devolution with services and assets being provided by the local community because of funding cuts. Members felt strongly that Town and Parish Councils should be included in discussions with the County and District Councils regarding both devolution concepts, which currently isn't happening.

It was resolved for the Clerk to carry out a town asset and service audit in order for the Council to gain a full understanding of everything Crediton has. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking) It was further resolved for the Clerk to write and ask how Devon County Council (as one of the prospectus partners) planned to include a town like Crediton in their devolution Prospectus. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

- 142 To consider youth provision within Crediton and discuss how this can be progressed.** Cllr Brookes-Hocking reminded members that when Devon County Council cut the youth service provision the Town Council provided £4,000 emergency funding to Crediton Methodist Church to keep some form of secular youth provision available in the Town. This funding has been provided for the last two years. Following the budget cuts made by the County and District Councils, the Town Council set up the localism budget. It is important to review the youth provision in the Town to meet current needs and one requirement is for a detached youth worker.

Members discussed the need for a secular youth service held in a space which is not within a church. It was felt that currently we are not reaching the youth that we need to reach.

It was resolved as follows:

- Provide a detached youth worker in Crediton.
- Work towards obtaining an independent secular space, situated centrally within the town, to be used as a youth centre.

(Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

The Clerk was asked to investigate possible locations for a youth centre base, including Hayward's School, obtain the costings for a detached youth worker and meet with Lauren Strand, Youth Worker at Crediton Methodist Church, for a catch up on the existing service and the results of the youth survey.

- 143 To consider quotations for the purchase of Town Council display boards and agree a course of action.** Further information relating to this item had been issued with the agenda. The quotations were considered and it was resolved to purchase 2 x 6 panel display boards from Go Displays at a total cost of £244 plus VAT. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

- 144 To discuss the land located at the bottom of Red Hill Cross and to consider the Town Council registering it as its own.** The Clerk explained this area of land has been the subject of discussion at the Council's Crediton Open Space Committee, due to it being a significant area of land at one of the entrances to the town. The Council, with the assistance of local community organisations, has maintained the land for in excess of 20 years, however, it remains unregistered.

initials *AW*

- 145 The Clerk has obtained a quotation from the Town Council's Solicitors to register the land and on the basis that there is evidence, they would estimate the costs to assess the evidence, advise on it, prepare and submit the application and correspond with the Land Registry at a fee not exceeding £600 plus VAT plus the land registry fee of £130. If the application is disputed by a third party and the Council wished to continue with the application, costs would have to be estimated at that time.

Members agreed this area of land needed to be protected and so it was resolved to instruct Weller Hedley Solicitors to register the land located at the bottom of Red Hill Cross as the Town Council's at a cost not exceeding £600 plus VAT plus the land registry fee of £130, with the money being taken from the earmarked general legal & professional fees budget. (Proposed by Cllr Letch)

- 146 To consider the Town Council facilitating a discussion and consultation about health and social care within the town. It was resolved for the Town Council to facilitate a discussion and consultation about health and social care within the town. It was agreed the best way to do this would be to arrange a public/community consultation event at the Boniface Centre in October 2016, inviting all health and social care agencies and groups to exhibit, whilst giving residents the opportunity to come along and tell the Town Council what they need and want in Crediton. The Clerk agreed to work up a plan for the June Policy & Forward Planning Committee meeting. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

- 147 To receive an update on the progress of Crediton Neighbourhood Plan. A copy of the aims and objectives had been issued with the agenda. Cllr Brookes-Hocking advised that the Wellparks and Pedlarspool developments are progressing. In terms of Neighbourhood Planning, these developments have raised particular issues regarding connectivity for pedestrians and cyclists. From recent discussions with Ian Sorensen at Devon County Council it is possible to start to look at the more controversial crossing points in the Town. The work undertaken by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering group is feeding into these discussions. The opportunity is emerging to discuss strategic development with Devon County Council and to consider and discuss how all Crediton issues can be mitigated in forthcoming developments. This will look more like the traffic management plan that Crediton was offered many years ago but previously had no legs.

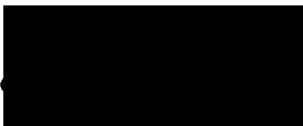
Cllr Brookes-Hocking advised that Mr Jonathan Tricker would be providing a presentation at the June Town Council meeting which will highlight some of Crediton's traffic and highways issues. Following that there will be an opportunity for the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group to have a meeting with Devon County Council to look at all the problem areas.

Cllr Way pointed out that S106 funding is limited and issues will have to be prioritised. All the issues that cannot be paid for by S106 money will need to be included in the local transport plan.

Cllr Brookes-Hocking advised that the Neighbourhood Plan Aims and Objectives had been sent to the Neighbourhood Plan Planning Adviser and the District Council. The next meeting with the Planning Adviser will be on 3rd June 2016, when it is hoped to concentrate on the policies needed for the plan.

- 148 To discuss this Committee's aims and objectives for the next six years in order for them to be considered in the development of Crediton Town Council's Strategic Plan. It was agreed for the Clerk to circulate a strategic plan update to all Town Councillors.

- 149 Close
The meeting closed at 8.20 pm

Signe 

Date: 07/06/16 (Chairman)