



Minutes of Crediton Town Council's Policy & Forward Planning Committee, held on Tuesday, 8th September 2015, at 6.00 pm, at the Council Offices, Market Street, Crediton

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

In Attendance: Mrs Clare Dalley, Town Clerk
Mr Lewis Ward, Devon County Council
1 member of the press

29 To receive and accept apologies
There were no apologies.

30 Declarations of Interest
None declared.

31 Order of Business
It was **resolved** to change the order of business and bring agenda item 8 forward to be taken after Matters Arising. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

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

33 Policy & Forward Planning Committee Minutes – To approve and sign the minutes of the Policy & Forward Planning Committee Meeting held on 7th July 2015.

Copies had been circulated with the agenda. It was **resolved** to approve the minutes of the Policy & Forward Planning Committee Meeting held on 7th July 2015, as a correct record and they were duly signed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking. (Proposed by Cllr Letch)

34 Matters Arising
Minute number 24 - Cllr Wyer requested an update. The Clerk advised that work should be commencing on 7th September and be finished by 11th September, weather permitting. It was agreed that, once the loading bay works had been completed, Mr Mel Stride MP should be contacted for a photograph, as without his help the change would not have happened.

35 To consider the road widening scheme at Marsh Lane and the need for a safe crossing place between the junction of Hawkins Way and the Leisure Centre.

Mr Lewis Ward, Transport Planning Officer at Devon County Council was present to discuss the matter and he was welcomed to the meeting by Cllr Brookes-Hocking.

Mr Ward circulated a plan of the road widening scheme together with a plan of the local area. He explained that Marsh Lane is significantly narrower than the new Link Road and originally there had been an aspiration to widen the rest of Marsh Lane. This is no longer possible due to the land required being in private ownership, except for a section situated outside Kirton Kayaks, who are prepared to allow some of the land to be given up to widening the road.

The funding for the scheme will be from a Section 106 agreement linked to the Wellparks Development.

Initials 

Cllr Webb arrived 6.09 pm.

Mr Ward confirmed that he was aware of the aspiration for a safe crossing place between the junction of Hawkins Way and the Leisure Centre and understood the reasons for wanting this. He also confirmed that Devon County Council could incorporate a crossing into the road widening scheme, although due to government guidance and depending on the type of crossing, it may be difficult to physically fit a crossing in at the desired location. The least onerous solution would be a Zebra Crossing, however, this needs to be five meters from a side road. Councillors challenged this requirement and Mr Ward advised that Devon County Council are able to depart from the government guidance but there would need to be a strong and justifiable case to do so and the decision to do this would have to be taken at a senior level.

In order for Devon County Council to consider installing a safe crossing point it needs to understand the current situation, such as number of collisions, demand for the crossing, level of traffic and its speed etc. To do this a video survey needs to be commissioned through DCC suppliers. This process will take approximately two months and September and October are good months for the survey to be conducted. If this survey shows that an intervention is required then DCC can proceed with designing a safe crossing point, this may involve looking at the design of junctions nearby.

Councillors felt it was imperative that Devon County Council is made aware of the local factors including:

- pedestrian desire lines and dropped kerbs which invite crossing;
- the opening of the Link Road has created a road safety issue at this location for pedestrians and in particular children;
- the widening of Marsh Lane will speed up traffic and therefore exacerbate an already dangerous situation.
- it is recognised that at the moment traffic is slowed down by the protruding kerb situated outside Kirton Kyaks, however, this kerb is also considered a hazard as it is very easy for traffic to clip/catch the kerb (which could lead to a vehicle losing control) and large vehicles have to cross the central white line to avoid it.
- the Council believes that installation of a safe crossing point is more important than the road widening scheme.

Mr Ward advised that there would be no funding for a crossing point without the road widening scheme due to the terms and condition of the 106 agreement.

After lengthy discussion it was agreed that Mr Ward would:

- review the design of the road widening scheme so the risk of vehicles striking the kerb is reduced but not so significantly that it speeds up the traffic;
- arrange for the required video surveillance of the area to take place during September and October;
- commence design work on a safe crossing point for the area.

Due to the redesign and additional work it was agreed by all present that the scheme would be delayed and rather than being presented at the October Devon County Council HATOC meeting it would be presented at the February meeting.

Mr Ward also confirmed that he was happy to provide the Town Council will all the data from the video surveillance at a further meeting before the end of the year. The Clerk was asked to arrange this once the information was available. It was **resolved** for the minutes of this meeting to be forwarded to Mr Ward. (Proposed by Cllr Dixon)

Initials: 

36 To receive an update from Cllr Webb following his meeting(s) with residents at Courtis Gardens and agree a course of action.

Cllr Webb had passed on the Committee's comments to the resident at Courtis Gardens. She had advised that she would talk to fellow residents and make contact with Cllr Webb in due course.

37 To discuss the cycle way at Belle Parade.

The Clerk advised that she had spoken with Mr Mike Jones, DCC and that he had agreed to conduct a site visit with members. The Clerk confirmed she would arrange this.

38 To explore road safety issues and access at Threshers.

The Clerk advised that she had spoken with Mr Mike Jones, DCC and that he had agreed to conduct a site visit with members. The Clerk confirmed she would arrange this.

39 To discuss issues brought to the attention of the Town Council by the town's PCSO Rebecca Tanner (Information relating to this item had been issued with the agenda):

- **parking and obstruction issues at Park Street/Union Terrace**

The e-mail received from PCSO Rebecca Tanner was considered. The Clerk advised that a resident had rang that morning explaining that cars park on the pavement causing an obstruction and at the time of ringing 2 cars parked on the pavement had blocked the refuse collection lorry, consequently the rubbish bins had not been collected. The resident pointed out the potential safety issue if this had been a fire engine for example. It was **resolved** to note this and the Clerk was asked to log incidents and any serious obstructions. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking) It was further **resolved** for a site visit to be conducted and to knock on residents doors to gain their opinions on the issues in the Street as well as consult with the Police. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

In the meantime, the Clerk was asked to consult with Anne Hood at DCC to establish the timescale for the Crediton Traffic Regulation Order, in case Park Street and Union Terrace needed to be included.

- **crossroads at George Hill and St Martins Lane**

It was **resolved** for a site visit to be conducted and to consult further with the Police. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

- **parking in Waresfoot Drive at the top of the junction**

Members confirmed this issue will be addressed in the Traffic Regulation Order.

40 To discuss 20mph zoning and 20mph speed limit areas within the town.

This item has been requested by Cllr Way. Cllr Way advised members that he was unhappy with Devon County Council's current policy on 20mph speed limits. Currently, requests for 20mph roads are being refused on the grounds of cost and enforcement. He believes all side roads in Crediton should be 20 mph.

He advised members that Newton Abbott Councillors are in the process of asking Devon County Council to review their speed limit policies.

Cllr Way and Downes left the meeting at 7.23 pm

41 To receive an update on Crediton Neighbourhood Plan.

Cllr Brookes-Hocking confirmed the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group is still ploughing on with the plan. They are currently waiting to hear from Locality as to whether their application for further grant

funding has been successful. There is a huge amount of work to do, even with the help of a planning consultant. The next meeting is on Thursday 9th September, when they will be looking at the work that needs to be done over the next 2 months, including a review of the objectives and preparing the vision statement.

It has been agreed with the planning consultant to keep the Neighbourhood Plan simple and focused on key issues for Crediton.

42 Close

The meeting closed at 7.30 pm.

Signed.

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of the Chairman.

Date: 01/12/15 (Chairman)

Initials
CBH