



**Minutes of the Meeting of Credition Town Council held on
Tuesday, 16th July 2019, at 7.00 pm, at Credition Library, Belle Parade, Credition**

Present: Cllrs Mr F Letch, Miss J Harris, Mrs H Zorlu, Mr M Szabo, Mrs E Brookes-Hocking, Mr J Downes, Mr A Wyer, Mr T Matthews, Mr J Cairney, Mrs L Martin and Mr P Vincent

In Attendance: Mrs C Dalley, Town Clerk
Devon County Councillor Mr N Way (part meeting)
Members of the public

1907/056 To receive and accept apologies

It was **resolved** to receive and accept apologies from Cllr Mr J Ross. (Proposed by Cllr Letch)

1907/057 Declarations of Interest

Cllrs Letch, Wyer, Cairney and Downes 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.

Cllr Wyer declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in agenda item 15 'To consider reimbursing Cllr Wyer £118.80 for the cost incurred in registering and successfully completing his 'Introduction to Local Council Administration' qualification' as he has a financial interest.

Cllr Letch declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in agenda item 18 'To consider paying Cllr Letch's travel expenses to attend the Liberation of Avranches celebrations, being held in Avranches on 31st July 2019' as he has a financial interest.

Cllr Szabo declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in agenda item 19 'To consider the Council paying for travel expenses and four tickets, at £20 each, for Cllr Szabo, Mr Eddie Sherwood and Mr & Mrs Jewell to attend the It's Your Neighbourhood Award ceremony, being held on Friday, 11th October 2019, in Newquay, Cornwall' as he has a financial interest.

1907/058 Public Question Time

Members of the public asked the following questions:

- Can the council please indicate how it is intending to make the shift to renewable energy production locally (only 30% is produced from renewables nationally)? Cllr Letch advised that later in the meeting the Council would be considering setting up a Sub-Committee to look at these and other issues surrounding climate change and sustainability and asked members of the public to consider how they can help the Council to achieve this.

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Cllr Vincent arrived at 7.04 pm

- Will the Town Council be making applications to Salix finance who provide loans to councils or creating crowd funders/community share offers to invest in sufficient renewable energy production for the local area? Cllr Letch once again confirmed that this is something that can be considered by a new Sub-Committee.
- Can the Town Council give us re-assurance that the proposed merger of Crediton's Doctors surgeries and plan to put them over a mile out of town will be re-examined in the light of the climate emergency declaration and mitigation for the extra journeys created will be enforced? Cllr Letch replied with an emphatic no, explaining that it is the Planning Authority, which is Mid Devon District Council that has approved the planning application for the new Doctors surgery. He added that there is already a local bus that will be going to the site and he believed Crediton Community Transport would also be playing a key role.
- The Boniface Trail has been a long-awaited safe and secure cycle-way to promote cycling and walking as an alternative to high carbon travel. Which partnerships are the Town Council looking to create to ensure the development of safe walking and cycling routes? Cllr Downes advised that the provision of a new cycleway is the responsibility of Devon County Council (DCC) and not the Town Council and that the Boniface Trail Group have been liaising with DCC on this issue.
- When will the Town Council start to promote car-free streets, car-free days, cycle to work summers etc? Cllr Letch advised this was a matter for Devon County Council as the highways authority.
- In order to get maximum added value from our green spaces, can the Town Council outline the plans that it has to minimise grass cutting, maximise wildflower habitat for pollinators and increase coverage of the town with (preferably fruiting) native and drought-resistant trees? (The Woodland Trust gives away free trees to community groups but the land is required). Cllr Letch advised that this can all be considered.
- Would the Council condemn the act of vandalism on the ancient cob wall that was carried out over the weekend and would it urge other groups such as Sustainable Crediton to distance themselves from this type of behaviour? Cllr Letch stated that the Council is against all acts of vandalism and this was echoed by fellow Councillors.
- Do the Council think it was right for Cllr Matthews to issue the letter he did to the paper this week. Cllr Letch advised that the letter written to the paper was in a personal capacity and not as a Town Councillor and that Councillors are entitled to their personal views. The decision to declare a Climate Emergency was taken by the Town Council's Town Strategy Committee and that decision stands.



- Does the Council think that Crediton becoming carbon neutral by 2030 is a joke? Cllr Letch said no. The majority of the Town Strategy Committee voted for the proposal.
- Does the Council think it might be a good idea for it to work together with Mid Devon District Council and Devon County Council to get some joined-up thinking with respect to tackling the climate emergency? Cllr Brookes-Hocking advised that the District and County Council had declared climate emergencies and the County Council is encouraging other Councils to sign the Devon Climate Declaration. Quite clearly joined-up thinking and working are going to be needed to meet our aims. She then gave an overview of the steps and policies contained within the emerging Crediton Neighbourhood Plan that will contribute to positive change within the town and help the town on its journey to becoming carbon neutral.

1907/059 Order of Business

There were no changes to the order of business.

1907/060 Chairman's and Clerk's Announcements

The Chairman had provided a report, which had been issued with agenda, of the events and meetings he had attended since the last meeting, a copy of which is attached as Appendix One.

The Clerk advised that the transfer of Newcombes Meadow toilets should be completed on Thursday 1st August 2019.

1907/061 Town Council Minutes - To approve and sign the minutes of the Extraordinary Crediton Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 3rd April 2019, the Annual Meeting of Crediton Town Council held on Tuesday, 14th May 2019 and the Extraordinary Crediton Town Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 25th June 2019 as a correct record. It was **resolved** to approve and sign the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Wednesday, 3rd April 2019. (Proposed by Cllr Harris) It was **resolved** to approve and sign the minutes of the Annual Meeting of Crediton Town Council held on Tuesday, 14th May 2019. (Proposed by Cllr Harris) It was **resolved** to approve and sign the minutes of the Extraordinary Crediton Town Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 25th June 2019 as a correct record. (Proposed by Cllr Wyer)

1907/062 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

1907/063 Police Report. A copy of the report had been issued with the agenda. Cllr Letch advised that in his capacity as the Chairman of Mid Devon District Council's Scrutiny Committee, he will shortly be meeting with the Crime Commissioner Alison Hernandez and the Chief of Devon & Cornwall Police to discuss, amongst other things, police numbers and High Street security. It was **resolved** to note the Police Report. (Proposed by Cllr Letch)

1907/064 To receive, and to ratify the decisions therein, the minutes of the following meetings:



- **Town Strategy Committee held on 21st May 2019**
It was **resolved** to receive and to ratify the decisions therein, the minutes of the Town Strategy Committee held on Tuesday, 21st May 2019. (Proposed by Cllr Letch)
- **Town Strategy Committee held on 4th June 2019**
It was **resolved** to receive and to ratify the decisions therein, the minutes of the Town Strategy Committee held on Tuesday, 4th June 2019. (Proposed by Cllr Letch)
- **Old Landscore School Sub-Committee held on 4th June 2019**
It was **resolved** to receive and to ratify the decisions therein, the minutes of the Old Landscore School Sub-Committee held on Tuesday, 4th June 2019. (Proposed by Cllr Wyer)
- **Christmas in Crediton Sub-Committee held on 11th June 2019**
It was **resolved** to receive and to ratify the decisions therein, the minutes of the Christmas in Crediton Sub-Committee held on Tuesday, 11th June 2019. (Proposed by Cllr Harris)
- **Environment Committee held on 11th June 2019**
It was **resolved** to receive and to ratify the decisions therein, the minutes of the Environment Committee held on Tuesday, 11th June 2019. (Proposed by Cllr Szabo)
- **Council Affairs Committee held on 18th June 2019**
It was **resolved** to receive and to ratify the decisions therein, the minutes of the Council Affairs Committee held on Tuesday, 18th June 2019. (Proposed by Cllr Szabo)
- **Town Strategy Committee held on 2nd July 2019**
It was **resolved** to receive and to ratify the decisions therein, the minutes of the Town Strategy Committee held on Tuesday, 2nd July 2019. (Proposed by Cllr Letch)
- **Parish Paths Sub-Committee held on 9th July 2019**
The Clerk advised this meeting did not take place as it had not been quorate.
- **Environment Committee held on 9th July 2019**
It was **resolved** to receive and to ratify the decisions therein, the minutes of the Environment Committee held on Tuesday, 9th July 2019. (Proposed by Cllr Harris)

Copies of the minutes had been issued with the agenda.

1907/065

Accounts Due for Payment and Receipts - To examine and agree the accounts due for payment, receipts, and bank transfers for the period 15th May 2019 to 16th July 2019 inclusive and to receive the bank reconciliation. The schedule of payments, receipts and bank transfers had been issued prior to the meeting. It was **resolved** to approve the payments totalling £53,227.39, receipts totalling £2,443.84, bank transfers totalling



£70.00 and accept the bank reconciliation, copies of which are attached to these minutes as Appendix Two. (Proposed by Cllr Harris)

1907/066 To receive a list of outstanding debts owed to Crediton Town Council.

The Clerk advised there were currently no outstanding debts.

1907/067 Budget Review - To review the budget for the year to date

The budget sheet had been issued prior to the meeting. It was **resolved** to note the budget sheet and the information contained therein, a copy of which is attached to these minutes as Appendix Three. (Proposed by Cllr Letch)

1907/068 To receive a report from the Council's internal control checkers, following the monthly random inspection and agree any actions. A copy of the report had been issued prior to the meeting. It was **resolved** to note the report with no further actions. (Proposed by Cllr Harris)

1907/069 To appoint members to the following Committees:

- **Council Affairs Committee**

It was **resolved** to appoint Cllr Martin to the Council Affairs Committee. (Proposed by Cllr Wyer)

- **Environment Committee**

It was **resolved** to appoint Cllrs Martin & Cairney to the Environment Committee. (Proposed by Cllr Letch)

- **Christmas in Crediton Sub-Committee**

It was **resolved** to appoint Cllr Martin to the Christmas in Crediton Sub-Committee. (Proposed by Cllr Letch)

Cllr Wyer declared a disclosable pecuniary interest and left the room.

1907/070 To consider reimbursing Cllr Wyer £118.80 for the cost incurred in registering and successfully completing his 'Introduction to Local Council Administration' qualification.

Further information had been issued with the agenda. It was **resolved** to reimburse Cllr Wyer £118.80 for the cost incurred in registering and successfully completing his 'Introduction to Local Council Administration' qualification. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

Cllr Wyer returned to the room.

County Councillor Way arrived.

1907/071 To receive a recommendation from the Town Strategy Committee for a Sub-Committee to be created, which will enable the Town Council to take a lead role in encouraging local residents to respond to the rising issues of climate change and sustainability, to name the Sub-Committee and appoint members to it. It was **resolved** as follows:

- It was **resolved** to appoint a Climate Change and Sustainability Sub-Committee. (Proposed Cllr Harris) Cllr Vincent requested that the minutes show that he voted against the proposal as he believes the Council cannot change climate change.



It was further **resolved** as follows:

- The Climate Change and Sustainability Sub-Committee will comprise 4 Members of Crediton Town Council and up to 6 members of the public including representatives of local community groups, organisations and individuals.
- The Councillors on the Sub-Committee will select those public members to serve on the Sub-Committee based on who is best placed to advise the Council in achieving its aims.
- The quorum of the Sub-Committee shall be 4 Members.
- The Sub-Committee will report directly to the Town Strategy Committee
- The Sub-Committee Clerk will be Cllr Wyer, who will be volunteering for the Council in this role.

(Proposed by Cllr Harris)

It was **resolved** for Cllrs Downes, Martin, Ross and Vincent to serve on the Climate Change and Sustainability Sub-Committee. (Proposed by Cllr Letch)

1907/072 To consider a request from the Town Council's Town Strategy Committee to allocate **£5,000 from the Town Council's general fund to an earmarked reserve fund for the maintenance of street benches in the town.** Councillors' attention had been drawn to the minutes of the Town Strategy Committee meeting held on 4th June 2019. It was **resolved** to allocate £5,000 from the Town Council's general fund to an earmarked reserve fund for the maintenance of street benches in the town. (Proposed by Cllr Wyer)

Cllr Letch declared a disclosable pecuniary interest and left the room.

1907/073 To consider paying Cllr Letch's travel expenses to attend the **Liberation of Avranches celebrations, being held in Avranches on 31st July 2019.** Further information had been issued with the agenda. It was **resolved** to pay Cllr Letch's travel expenses to attend the Liberation of Avranches celebrations, being held in Avranches on 31st July 2019 at a total cost £397.00. (Proposed by Cllr Harris)

Cllr Letch returned to the room.

Cllr Szabo declared a disclosable pecuniary interest and left the room.

1907/074 To consider the Council paying for travel expenses and four tickets, at **£20 each, for Cllr Szabo, Mr Eddie Sherwood and Mr & Mrs Jewell to attend the It's Your Neighbourhood Award ceremony, being held on Friday, 11th October 2019, in Newquay, Cornwall.** This item had been requested by Cllr Szabo. It was **resolved** to pay for travel expenses and four tickets, at £20 each, for Cllr Szabo, Mr Eddie Sherwood and Mr & Mrs Jewell to attend the It's Your Neighbourhood Award ceremony, being held on Friday, 11th October 2019, in Newquay, Cornwall. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

Cllr Szabo returned to the room.

1907/075 To resolve to grant the Clerk in consultation with Cllrs Letch and Harris designated authority to comment on planning applications during the Council's Summer recess. It was **resolved** to grant the Clerk in consultation with Cllrs Letch and Harris designated authority to comment on planning applications during the Council's Summer recess. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)



1907/076 Councillor Reports

Cllr Ross

- Had issued a report prior to the meeting, which had been circulated with the agenda and is attached as Appendix Four.

Cllr Szabo

- Reported the Britain in Bloom judges had visited CREDITON last week and were returning to judge the It's Your Neighbourhood competition entries.
- Reported on how easy it is to use the Devon County Council 'Report It' system.

Cllr Downes

- If successful Mid Devon District Council's Devon Hydroelectric and Smart Grid Project will see the creation of three hydro mills and will set a precedent.

Cllr Cairney

- Had attended a Haywards Educational Foundation meeting and a CREDITON Refugee meeting.

Cllr Vincent

- Had attended a Sustainable CREDITON meeting.

Cllr Letch

- Had accompanied Mr Jewell and judged 17 gardens as part of the 2019 Floral CREDITON competition.
- Had circulated with the agenda information regarding the work of Wessex Resolution.

County Councillor Way

- Stressed the importance of the Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Safer Together consultation. He highlighted some of the proposals and the implications on CREDITON if they go ahead.
- Is raising two questions at the upcoming Devon County Council meeting. The first relates to parking tickets being issued on bank holidays, a practice he disagrees with. The second relates to coaches having proper access to park and ride car parks.

1907/077

Correspondence and Matters To Note - To receive Council correspondence and matters to note. A list of the correspondence and matters to note had been issued with the agenda, a copy of which is attached as Appendix Five. It was **resolved** to note the correspondence and matters to note. (Proposed by Cllr Harris)

Cllr Szabo requested further information on the following:

- Matters to Note item 9 - Cllr Letch advised these works had been completed.
- Correspondence item 31 - The Clerk advised that she had liaised with Mr Darren Beer at Mid Devon District Council regarding who was responsible for the grass cutting in this area.

Cllr Brookes-Hocking requested further information on the following:

- Correspondence item 3 – Cllr Downes advised that this matter had been passed to a Planning Enforcement Officer.
- Correspondence item 12 – Cllr Letch advised that he had looked into the items raised and responded to the children.

Correspondence item 8 – Cllr Brookes-Hocking asked if the Council could find a way to be positive regarding this scheme.

Correspondence item 36 – Cllr Brookes-Hocking requested this be an item for the next Town Strategy Committee meeting.

PART TWO

1907/078 It was **resolved** under section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 that the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following items as it involves the likely disclosure of sensitive and confidential information. (Cllr Letch)

Cllr Way left the meeting.

1907/079 **To receive a recommendation from the Council Affairs Committee regarding staffing issues.** Councillors' attention was drawn to the minutes of the Council Affairs Committee meeting held on Tuesday, 18th June 2019 and the supporting information issued with the agenda. It was **resolved** as follows:

- for Lisa Blake to be employed on a permanent contract as the Council's Special Projects and Services Officer working 18 hours a week with immediate effect.
- to support Lisa in attaining her CiLCA qualification.

(Proposed by Cllr Wyer)

1907/080 **Close**
The meeting closed at 8.22 pm.

Signed
Chairman

Dated..... 17/9/19