



Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Tuesday, November 19, 2024 at 19:30, in the Boniface Centre, Church Lane, Credition, EX17 2AH.

Present:	Cllrs Guy Cochran, Liz Brookes-Hocking, Giles Fawssett, Steve Huxtable, Frank Letch, Natalia Letch, Rachel Backhouse, Paul Perriman, John Downes and Jim Cairney
Apologies:	Cllr Joyce Harris
Absent:	Cllr Georgina Stone
In Attendance:	One member of the public
Minute Taker:	Rachel Avery, Town Clerk

MINUTES

2024/061 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A member of the public made the following comments:

- concerns about the transfer of responsibilities from county and district councils to the town council with no additional funding
- the significant increase in the precept over the years
- the lack of regular reports in the Credition Courier.

2024/062 APOLOGIES

Cllr Cochran opened the meeting and members introduced themselves.

Decision: It was **resolved** to approve the apologies of Cllrs Harris. (Proposed by Cllr Cochran)

2024/063 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

2024/063.1 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS (DPI'S) IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA

There were no declarations of interests.

2024/063.2 TO CONSIDER ANY DISPENSATION REQUESTS (REQUESTS SHOULD BE MADE TO THE TOWN CLERK PRIOR TO THE MEETING)

There were no dispensation requests.

2024/064 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

County Cllr F Letch had provided a written report, which forms part of the minutes.

District Cllr Cairney reported that the Southwest was becoming a major destination for retirees, which was accelerating the ageing demographic and putting pressure on housing. He also mentioned an initiative to encourage taxi drivers to switch to

electric cars, though there were concerns about the lack of charging points in rural areas.

District Cllr Downes had provided a written report but reported on a possible new recycling initiative (for disposable nappies), aimed at making the district the most efficient in the country, though there were questions about the feasibility and costs involved.

2024/065 ORDER OF BUSINESS

There were no changes to the order of business

2024/066 CHAIR'S AND CLERK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements

2024/067 TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Decision: It was **resolved** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 17 September 2024. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

2024/068 TOWN COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES

Decision: It was **resolved** to approve the minutes of the Youth Sub-Committee on 27 July 2024. (Proposed by Cllr Backhouse)

Decision: It was **resolved** to approve the minutes of the Community Committee on 03 September 2024. (Proposed by Cllr Huxtable)

Decision: It was **resolved** to approve the minutes of the Oversight Committee on Tuesday 10 September 2024. (Proposed by Cllr Huxtable)

Decision: It was **resolved** to approve the minutes of the Community Committee held on Tuesday 01 October 2024. (Proposed by Cllr Cochran)

Decision: It was **resolved** to approve the minutes of the Oversight Committee held on Tuesday 15 October. (Proposed by Cllr Huxtable)

Decision: It was **resolved** to approve the minutes of the Oversight Committee held on 24 October 2024. (Proposed by Cllr Huxtable)

2024/069 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

DALC - Cllr Brookes-Hocking advised that the DALC Annual Report is available and

Boniface Link - In Cllr Harris' absence, Cllr Huxtable had attended the last meeting which was informative. A talk, by Tony Gale, will take place in January.

Age Concern - Cllr Cairney advised of the financial pressures due to a lack of grants.

Chamber of Commerce - Cllr Cochran had attended a meeting, but there was currently nothing to report.

2024/070 ENABLING REMOTE ATTENDANCE AND PROXY VOTING AT LOCAL AUTHORITY MEETINGS

The council received the report and accompanying information regarding the consultation by HM Government on allowing remote and hybrid attendance at local authority meetings. Cllr Cochran emphasised the importance of all members filling out the consultation form, which had been sent out twice due to initial issues with the link. Members were encouraged to submit their responses via the government website and to provide their opinions.

Decision: It was **resolved** to delegate the responsibility of responding to the Oversight Committee. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

2024/071 COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Decision: It was **resolved** to approve the following appointments:
Cllr N Letch to the Oversight Committee (Proposed by Cllr Cochran)
Cllr Huxtable to the Youth Sub-Committee. (Proposed by Cllr Cairney)

2024/072 MDDC ASSETS

2024/072.1 TO RECEIVE A VERBAL UPDATE FROM THE TOWN CLERK REGARDING THE PADDLING POOL AND OTHER MDDC ASSETS

The Town Clerk provided an update on the meeting with Mid Devon District Council (MDDC) regarding the paddling pool and other assets. CTC was asked to consider providing a contribution towards the running costs of the paddling pool, estimated at £12,000.00 per year. Cllr Cochran recommended paying on invoice to ensure transparency and accountability. There was a discussion about the importance of the paddling pool to the community, balanced with the need for detailed cost breakdowns.

2024/072.2 TO RESOLVE TO DELEGATE DECISION-MAKING RESPONSIBILITY TO CLLRS COCHRAN, HUXTABLE AND BROOKES-HOCKING REGARDING THE PADDLING POOL

Decision: It was **resolved** to delegate decision-making responsibility to Cllrs Cochran, Huxtable, and Brookes-Hocking, with the authority to approve spending up to £20,000 for the paddling pool's annual costs from earmarked reserves. (Proposed By Cllr Cairney) (9 in favour, Cllr Backhouse abstained)

2024/073 PULSE HUB INSTALLATIONS

General enthusiasm was expressed for the project and it was agreed to engage with the company to explore potential locations in the town, including the High Street, Town Square, car parks, leisure centre, and railway station.

Decision: It was **resolved** to approve that the Town Clerk continue investigating the installations.

2024/074 EARMARKED RESERVES**2024/074.1 TO APPROVE TO SPEND £430.00 FROM UPPER DECK EARMARKED RESERVES TO PAINT THE HANDRAIL, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**

Decision: It was **resolved** to approve the expenditure of £430.00 from Upper Deck Earmarked Reserves to paint the handrail, as recommended by the Community Committee. (Proposed by Cllr F Letch)

2024/074.2 TO RECEIVE THE REPORT REGARDING ADDITIONS TO EARMARKED RESERVES AND TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATIONS THEREIN

Decision: It was **resolved** to approve the recommendations in the report regarding additions to Earmarked Reserves, which included increases for the Council Building Plan, CCTV, Local Authority Services, and Old Landscore School. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

2024/074.3 TO RECEIVE THE REPORT REGARDING MERGING OF EARMARKED RESERVES AND TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATIONS THEREIN

Decision: It was **resolved** to approve the merging of several legacy earmarked reserves into a single footpaths reserve for better budget management. (Proposed by Cllr Cochran)

2024/075 INTERIM INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT

The interim internal audit report was noted, with recommendations to be considered at the December Oversight Committee meeting. The Town Clerk highlighted that the report contained numerous recommendations, many of which were minor adjustments that could be quickly implemented.

2024/076 DEVON COUNTYWIDE LOCAL CYCLING AND WALKING INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN (LCWIP) PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The council received documentation regarding Devon County Council's consultation on the Devon Countywide Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP). Some members advocated for a multi-use path close to the main road (A377), citing potential to serve commuter cyclists and reduce traffic congestion. Others suggested that a quieter lanes route might be more suitable for leisure use and safety, particularly for families and less experienced cyclists. Councillor Fawsett highlighted the practical challenges and financial constraints, suggesting that the council should push for the most beneficial route for the community, even if it is more expensive and complex, which is the direct A277 route. The discussion also touched on the long-term benefits of the project, including health, safety, and environmental impacts. Ultimately, the council decided to support the route adjacent to the A377.

Decision: It was **resolved** to support the route adjacent to the A377 for the cycling and walking infrastructure, recognising its importance for commuter cyclists and its potential to attract funding and support from higher authorities. (Proposed by Brookes Hocking) (9 in favour, Cllr N Letch voted against)

2024/077 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was noted as Tuesday, January 21, 2025.

2024/078 PART II

Decision: It was **resolved** to move into Part II under section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, excluding the public and press. (Proposed by Cllr Cochran)

2024/079 UNION ROAD TOILETS

Decision: It was **resolved** to approve the recommendation in the report. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

Decision: It was **resolved** to approve the additional proposal. (Proposed by Cllr Huxtable)

2024/080 COUNCIL OFFICES

Decision: it was resolved to approve the recommendation in the report. (Proposed by Cllr Cochran) (9 in favour, Cllr Backhouse abstained)

2024/081 REPORTS PACK

Signed

Dated.....