



**Minutes of the Full Council of the Democratic Services held on Tuesday, January 21, 2025 at 19:00 - 20:00 in the Boniface Centre, Credition.**

<b>Present:</b>	Cllrs Guy Cochran, Liz Brookes-Hocking, Steve Huxtable, Natalia Letch, Frank Letch, Rachel Backhouse, Paul Perriman, Joyce Harris and John Downes
<b>Apologies:</b>	Cllr Jim Cairney
<b>Absent:</b>	Cllr Giles Fawssett
<b>In Attendance:</b>	3 members of the public
<b>Minute Taker:</b>	Rachel Avery, Town Clerk

## MINUTES

### 2025/082 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Cllr Cochran opened the meeting at 19.00 and members introduced themselves.

### 2025/083 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Three members of the public inquired about the following:

- Whether the town council approves of Cllr Fawssett's decision to not attend council meetings  
It was explained that there is no legal requirement to attend committee meetings, other than to attend one meeting of the council during a six-month period
- What could be done about the lack of youth provision in Credition  
Members discussed the concern with the member of public, highlighting that regular real term cuts to the Devon County Council budget had led to the reduction or loss of services, including youth provision. As Chair of the Youth Sub-Committee, Cllr Backhouse highlighted that more funding would be useful but that the town council has a budget for the delivery of youth service and is immensely proud of staff in delivering youth work to Credition, attempting to offer a range of opportunities and working with other groups and organisations.

### 2025/084 APOLOGIES

**Decision:** The apologies of Cllr Cairney (holiday) were noted.

### 2025/085 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

#### 2025/085.1 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS (DPI'S) IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA

There were no declarations of interest.

**2025/085.2 TO CONSIDER ANY DISPENSATION REQUESTS (REQUESTS SHOULD BE MADE TO THE TOWN CLERK PRIOR TO THE MEETING)**

There were no dispensation requests.

**2025/086 ORDER OF BUSINESS**

There were no changes to the order of business.

**2025/087 CHAIR'S AND CLERK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

**2025/088 TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES**

**Decision:** The minutes of the meeting held on 19 November 2024, were **approved** as a correct record. (Proposed by Cllr F Letch)

**2025/089 TOWN COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES**

**Decision:** It was **resolved to ratify** the minutes of the Community Committee meeting held on 05 November 2024. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

**Decision:** It was **resolved to ratify** the minutes of the Oversight Committee meeting on 12 November 2024. (Proposed by Cllr Huxtable)

**Decision:** It was **resolved to ratify** the minutes of the Community Committee meeting held on Tuesday 10 September 2024. (Proposed by Cllr Huxtable)

**Decision:** It was **resolved to ratify** the minutes of the Community Committee meeting held on Tuesday 03 December 2024. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

**Decision:** It was **resolved to ratify** the minutes of the Oversight Committee meeting held on Tuesday 10 December 2024. (Proposed by Cllr Huxtable)

**Decision:** It was **resolved to ratify** the minutes of the Oversight Committee meeting held on Tuesday 17 December 2024. (Proposed by Cllr Huxtable)

**2025/090 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES**

**Crediton Twinning Association:** Councillor Huxtable reported that the Crediton Twinning Association would hold its AGM on Monday, 17th February, incorporating a bring and share supper.

**Boniface Link:** Councillor Harris mentioned an upcoming talk by the Boniface Link Association on Thursday, 23rd January by Tony Gale.

**DALC:** Cllr Brookes-Hocking advised that a meeting of Larger Councils would take place regarding devolution.

**2025/091 NEWCOMBES MEADOW PADDLING POOL**

The Town Clerk provided a verbal report on the Newcombes Meadow Paddling Pool. The decision to consider financial support to Mid Devon District Council with the running costs had been delegated to three committee chairs, but detailed costings had not been provided. The Section 151 officer had indicated higher than expected costs and suggested a temporary solution, with the running costs estimated at £12,000.00. Members expressed frustration at the lack of detailed information and discussed potential resolutions, including negotiating the transfer of the asset and exploring Section 106 funds.

**Decision:** It was **resolved** to continue pressing for detailed costings and to explore further options.

**2025/092 BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2025/26****2025/092.1 TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE 2025/26 BUDGET, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

Members reviewed and considered the proposed budget for 2025/26.

**Decision:** It was **resolved to approve** the 2025/26 budget as recommended by the Oversight Committee. (Proposed by Cllr Cochran)

**2025/092.2 TO APPROVE THE 2025/26 PRECEPT, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

Members reviewed and considered the 2025/26 precept.

**Decision:** It was **resolved to approve** the 2025/26 precept total of £510,750.00, an increase of 4.975% on 2024/25, as recommended by the Oversight Committee. (Proposed by Cochran)

Councillor F Letch commended the efforts of officers and committee members in preparing the budget.

**2025/093 GRANT APPLICATION 2024/25**

Members considered a grant application from Crediton Methodist Church requesting £200.00 from earmarked reserves for warm spaces.

**Decision:** It was **resolved to approve** £200.00 from the existing grant budget to Crediton Methodist Church. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

**2025/094 ENGLISH DEVOLUTION WHITE PAPER**

Members **noted** the English Devolution White Paper. The discussion highlighted the rapid pace at which the devolution process was moving and raised concerns about the lack of engagement with town and parish councils, which are closest to the communities affected by the changes. The district councils have been negotiating with the county to determine the best outcomes for residents, but there is a feeling that more consultation with the town and parish council sector is needed.

**2025/095 STRENGTHENING THE STANDARDS AND CONDUCT FRAMEWORK FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN ENGLAND**

**Decision:** It was **resolved** to delegate responsibility to the Town Clerk to collate individual responses to the consultation to provide and send a corporate response. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

**2025/096 PALESTINIAN FLAG FLYING****2025/096.1 TO NOTE THE DECISION MADE BY MDDC REGARDING THE FLYING OF THE PALESTINIAN FLAG**

The information was **noted**.

**2025/096.2 TO CONSIDER FLYING THE PALESTINIAN FLAG, FOLLOWING A REQUEST FROM A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC, AND TO AGREE ANY FURTHER ACTION**

Members considered a request from a member of the public to fly the Palestinian flag. The debate touched on the controversial nature of the issue and the potential for polarisation within the community. The decision was made to fly the United Nations flag for six weeks as a symbolic gesture to support civilians in conflict, rather than taking a political stance. The council agreed to draft a press release to accompany the flag, explaining the rationale behind the decision. The vote resulted in a majority in favour, with two councillors requesting their opposition be recorded.

**Decision:** It was **resolved** to fly the United Nations flag for six weeks as a symbolic gesture to support civilians in conflict. (Proposed by Cllr Backhouse, Cllrs F Letch and Huxtable voted against)

**2025/097 CLIMATE AND NATURE BILL**

Members considered a request from a member of the public to write to Mel Stride MP, endorsing the Climate and Nature Bill. The proposal was supported by the Community Committee and brought to the full council for ratification. The importance of the bill was **noted**. and agreed to support the request. The motion was seconded and passed with no objections, ensuring the council's endorsement of the bill.

**Decision:** It was **resolved** to endorse the Climate and Nature Bill and write to Mel Stride MP to express the support of the town council. (Proposed by Cllr Cochran, Cllr Perriman abstained)

**2025/098 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was noted as Tuesday, March 18, 2025.

**2025/099 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)

**2025/100 COUNCIL OFFICES**

The Town Clerk provided a verbal update.

**2025/101 REPORTS PACK**

Signed .....

Dated.....