



**Minutes of the Community Committee held on Tuesday, February 4, 2025,  
at 19:00 at The Bungalow, 8 North Street, EX17 2BT.**

**Present:** Cllrs Liz Brookes-Hocking, Joyce Harris, Steve Huxtable, Giles Fawssett, Guy Cochran, Natalia Letch, Paul Perriman and Jim Cairney (part meeting)

**In Attendance:** Cllr Frank Letch (part meeting)

**Minute Taker:** Emma Anderson

## MINUTES

### 143 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The meeting was opened at 19:00 by the Chair, who welcomed everyone. Each member introduced themselves briefly.

### 144 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no members of the public present.

### 145 APOLOGIES

**Decision:** It was **resolved** to receive and accept apologies from Cllr Cairney, as he would be late arriving. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

### 146 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

None.

### 147 CLIMATE EMERGENCY

It was noted that all decisions would be made with the climate emergency at the forefront of decision and policy making.

### 148 ORDER OF BUSINESS

There were no changes.

### 149 CHAIR'S AND CLERK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

### 150 COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Cllr Cochran noted a technical issue that had prevented his attendance in January, and it was agreed that he should not be marked as absent. The minutes were then proposed as a correct record and approved.

**Decision:** It was **resolved** to approve the minutes of the Community Committee meeting held on 07 January 2025. (Proposed by Cllr Harris)

## 151 MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

The committee reviewed several planning applications from Mid Devon District Council:

25/00069/CAT | Notification of intention to remove lateral branch on the eastern stem of 1 Ash tree (T2) and reduce the height of the western stem by 1.5m and the sides of its south and west aspects by 1.5m within the Conservation Area | Blagdon House Blagdon Crediton Devon EX17 1EH

**Decision:** It was **resolved** to recommend NO OBJECTION, subject to the Tree Officer's recommendations. (Proposed by Cllr Harris)

24/00840/FULL | Erection of a building for machinery and equipment storage | Hooper Services (South West) Ltd Crediton Devon EX17 3DH

**Decision:** It was **resolved** to make the following comments:

- The landscaping plan should completely screen the activities and buildings on the site, with substantial tree planting along the existing tree lines which surround the site on two sides. Good screening along the front of the site is necessary, with hedging to take carbon and trees to give height, providing a screen between the site and upper residential windows.
- Further clarification is requested as to whether water butts will be used as the plans do not include guttering/pipework. Is there a plan in place as to where the excess water will go if the water butts are full.

(Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

25/00079/CAT | Notification of intention to fell 1 Fir Tree within the Conservation Area | 8 Courtis Gardens Crediton Devon EX17 3BQ

**Decision:** It was **resolved** to recommend NO OBJECTION, subject to the Tree Officer's recommendations, with a condition included to plant a replacement tree. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

24/01827/FULL | Change of use of an existing building from cutting shed (industrial timber cutting saws) to cafe to include solar panels on the South West facing roof and installation of two electric car charger machines | Eakers DIY Marsh Lane Lords Meadow Industrial Estate Crediton Devon EX17 1ES

**Decision:** It was **resolved** to recommend NO OBJECTION and note that the Town Council welcomes the addition of solar panels on a commercial building. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

25/00114/CAT | Notification of intention to fell 1 Beech and 1 Bay tree in a Conservation Area | The Beeches Old Tiverton Road Crediton Devon EX17 1EF

**Decision:** It was **resolved** to recommend NO OBJECTION, subject to the Tree Officer's recommendations, with a condition included to plant replacement trees. (Proposed by Cllr Huxtable)

**Task:** Submit planning comments to Mid Devon District Council. @Emily Armitage

**152 MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL PLANNING DECISIONS:**

The committee noted the planning decisions made by Mid Devon District Council.

**153 DCC (TRAFFIC REGULATION) AMENDMENT ORDER**

The committee agreed to support the proposal, with a suggestion to include additional restrictions that would prevent any stopping/unloading, to ensure vehicles cannot park next to the pedestrian crossing.

**Decision:** It was **resolved** to support the proposed traffic order to introduce No Waiting At Any Time on a specified length of Jockey Hill, whilst also recommending the implementation of additional restrictions that would prevent any stopping/unloading. (Proposed by Cllr Cochran)

**Task:** Submit comments to Devon County Council. @Emily Armitage

**154 CREDITON URBAN TASKFORCE [CUT!]**

The next action day was scheduled for Saturday, 8th February, and the plan was to work on Union Terrace. The committee expressed gratitude to the volunteers for their efforts.

**155 BARNFIELD ALLOTMENTS**

The committee reviewed a report on a water leak at the Barnfield allotment site. Two plumbers had inspected the site, but the leak remained unresolved. Cllr Perriman suggested using water dowsing to identify the leak. It was agreed to investigate this and report back at the next meeting.

**Task:** Investigate the use of water dowsing to detect the water leak at Barnfield Allotments. @Emily Armitage

**156 GRASS VERGE CUTTING CONTRACT**

The committee reviewed the quotations for the grass verge cutting contract for 2025-2026. The committee agreed to review the funding arrangement with Devon County Council towards cutting the verges.

**Decision:** It was **resolved** to instruct Contractor A for the grass verge cutting contract for 2025-2026. (Proposed by Cllr Cochran)

**Task:** Award the grass verge cutting contract to Contractor A. @Emma Anderson

**Task:** Investigate funding for grass verge cutting and discuss with Devon County Council @Steve Huxtable, Emma Anderson

**157 FLORAL WATERING CONTRACT**

*Cllrs Cairney & F Letch entered the meeting at 19.52*

**Decision:** It was **resolved** to instruct Contractor A for the watering of floral displays in 2025. (Proposed by Cllr Cochran)

**Task:** Award the grass verge cutting contract to Contractor A. @Emma Anderson

**158 BONIFACE TRAIL**

Councillor Brookes-Hocking provided an update on the Boniface Trail. A meeting is scheduled to take place with Devon County Council to review the consultation results. A further update was anticipated for the March meeting.

**159 PEOPLES PARK****159.1 TO DISCUSS FUTURE TREE PLANTING IN PEOPLES PARK AND AGREE A COURSE OF ACTION (CLLR FAWSETT)**

Cllr Fawssett led the discussion on future tree planting in Peoples Park highlighting the importance of planting new trees, particularly as he and Peter Please (volunteer co-ordinator for the Peoples Park wildlife area) had obtained several for free. The committee supported the planting of trees in Peoples Park and requested that Cllr Fawssett liaise with the Deputy Clerk prior to planting and report back at future meetings to update members.

**Decision:** The committee supported Cllr Fawssett planting additional trees in Peoples Park free of charge, with the support of local experts and members of the community.

**159.2 TO DISCUSS INSTALLING A CLAY TOTEM POLE AND TILE MURAL CREATED BY CREDITON YOUTH SERVICE IN PEOPLES PARK AND AGREE A COURSE OF ACTION**

The Deputy Clerk advised that a clay totem pole and tile mural had been created by Crediton Youth Service as part of the Summer Arts Festival with Crediton Arts Centre & The Heart Project. The installation is still in the early planning stage, but Crediton Youth Service would like to obtain permission from the Committee to install the totem pole and tile mural in Peoples Park, near the Scout Memorial Garden. The committee expressed support for the project, recognising its potential to enhance the park and engage the community. The next stage involves investigating requirements surrounding planning permission for public art installation.

**Decision:** The committee approved the installation of the clay totem pole and tile mural in Peoples Park

**Task:** Investigate planning permission required for the installation of the clay totem pole and tile mural. @Emma Anderson

**160 WAR MEMORIAL**

The Deputy Clerk advised that a response was still awaited from Mid Devon District Council regarding Listed Building Consent and whether securing a new piece of stone to the memorial would be permitted. A further update would be provided at the next meeting.

**Task:** Continue investigations into engraving additional names on the War Memorial. @Emma Anderson

**161 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday, 4 March 2025.

**162 PART II**

**Decision:** It was **resolved** to move into Part II of the meeting under section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, excluding the public and press due to the likely disclosure of sensitive and confidential information. (Proposed by Cllr Harris)

**163 LAND SOUTH OF BARNFIELD**

The committee reviewed the proposal documents with no further amendments at this stage. The next steps were discussed which involve a public consultation as well as engaging with the District and County Council.

The meeting closed at 20.30.

**164 REPORTS PACK**

Signed .....

Dated.....