



Minutes of the Oversight of the Democratic Services held on Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at 19:00, in The Bungalow, 8 North Street, North Street, Credition, EX17 2BT

- Present:** Cllrs Steve Huxtable, Rachel Backhouse, Guy Cochran, Giles Fawssett and Joyce Harris
- Apologies:** Cllrs Brookes-Hocking, Natalia Letch and Jim Cairney
- In Attendance:** Two members of the public
- Minute Taker:** Rachel Avery, Town Clerk

MINUTES

168 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Cllr Huxtable opened the meeting at 19.04 and members introduced themselves.

169 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Two members of the public inquired about the following:

- Whether action had been taken regarding a conflict of interest related to funding, which they had previously raised. The Town Clerk acknowledged receiving the email but had not responded
- If council meetings would continue to be held at the Boniface Centre concurrently with bell-ringing practice, to which the Chair responded that they would provide a response via email
- The Credition Heart Project grant, which would be addressed later in the meeting

170 APOLOGIES

Decision: The apologies of Cllr Cairney (work commitments), N Letch (illness) and Brookes-Hocking (holiday) were **noted**.

171 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUEST FOR DISPENSATIONS

171.1 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.

171.2 TO CONSIDER ANY DISPENSATION REQUESTS (REQUESTS SHOULD BE MADE TO THE TOWN CLERK PRIOR TO THE MEETING)

There were no dispensation requests.

172 CLIMATE EMERGENCY

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

173 ORDER OF BUSINESS

There were no changes to the order of business.

174 CHAIR'S AND CLERK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

175 COUNCIL AFFAIRS AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Decision: The minutes from the Oversight Committee meeting held on Tuesday, 14 January 2025, were approved as a correct record, noting that an IT error had named the previous title of the committee (Proposed by Cllr Backhouse)

176 FINANCE**176.1 TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE TRANSACTIONS BETWEEN 01 JANUARY 2025 AND 31 JANUARY 2025**

Decision: The transactions between 01 January 2025 and 31 January 2025 were **approved**. (Proposed by Cllr Harris)

176.2 TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE BANK RECONCILIATION TO 31 JANUARY 2025

Decision: The bank reconciliation to 31 January 2025 was **approved**. (Proposed by Cllr Harris)

176.3 TO NOTE BANK ACCOUNT BALANCES TO 31 JANUARY 2025

The bank account balances as of 31 January 2025 were **noted**.

176.4 TO NOTE THE YEAR TO DATE REPORT

The year-to-date report was **noted**.

177 GRANTS 2025/26**177.1 TO CONSIDER AND RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF LARGE GRANTS ALLOCATIONS TO FULL COUNCIL, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GRANTS SUB-COMMITTEE**

Consideration was given to the recommendations made by the Grants Sub-Committee regarding large grants allocations, totalling just over £34,500. Discussions included the need to address admin costs, wages, and salaries at the Full Council meeting.

Decision: It was **resolved to approve** the recommendation to forward the large grants allocations, totalling just over £34,500, to the Full Council for final approval. (Proposed by Cllr Harris)

177.2 TO NOTE ALLOCATION OF SMALL GRANTS

The allocation of small grants, totalling £5,700.00 were **noted**. These grants were determined based on predefined criteria to support local initiatives and projects that benefit the community.

177.3 TO CONSIDER THE GRANT APPLICATION FROM CREDITON HEART PROJECT, FOR APPROVAL BY FULL COUNCIL

The Council considered the grant application from the Crediton Heart Project. Members raised questions about the group's activities, financial status, and the legal definition of a 'natural person' in their constitution. After evaluating the merits of the application and its potential impact on the community, the Council decided to recommend a grant of £2,000.00 to the Crediton Heart Project, considering they had already received £1,000.00 for their website.

Decision: It was **resolved** to recommend a grant of £2,000.00 to the Crediton Heart Project for approval by the Full Council. (Proposed by Cllr Huxtable)

178 REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF POLICIES

Decision: It was **resolved** to adopt the Menopause Policy. (Proposed by Cllr Backhouse)

179 CHRISTMAS LIGHT INFRASTRUCTURE

The Town Clerk presented a report on the Christmas light infrastructure, highlighting issues with the current brackets and the need for additional equipment should an alternative Christmas lighting proposal be considered. The Council discussed the implications, including potential costs and the need for further investigation. It was proposed to visit other towns for ideas and to avoid hasty decisions.

Decision: It was **agreed** to continue investigating additional cross street lighting and to explore alternative.

180 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Members discussed the date and arrangements for the Annual Town Meeting. Consideration was given to holding it on Saturday 22 March 2025, to incorporate consultations on current projects and land use south of Barnfield. Despite recognising that this would not align with 1972 legislation, the Council noted that previous Saturday meetings had been well attended.

Decision: It was **agreed** to combine the Annual Town Meeting with the land use meeting on Saturday 22 March 2025.

181 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was noted to be scheduled for Tuesday, 11 March 2025.

182 PART II

Decision: It was **resolved** to **approve** the exclusion of the public and press were from the meeting under section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960. (Proposed by Cllr Huxtable)

183 COUNCIL OFFICES

The Town Clerk provided a verbal update on the Council Offices.

184 UNION ROAD TOILET BUILDING

The proposals were discussed.

Decision: It was **resolved** to make on request to be included in the proposal. (Proposed by Cllr Cochran)

185 REPORTS PACK

Signed

Dated.....