



Crediton Town Council



Minutes of the Meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on 7 April 2009

Present:

Councillors Miss J Harris (Chairman)
Mr W Brown (part meeting)
Mrs A Hughes
Mr F Letch
Mr P Finnegan
Mrs L Brookes-Hocking
Mrs L Scarbrough
Mr R Wright (Vice Chairman)
Mr R Adams

In Attendance:

Councillors Mr D Nation
Clerk Mr M Maggs
Press 1

AGENDA ITEMS (for discussion and determination)

141. Apologies

None. Councillor Brown would arrive later.

142. Declarations of Interest

Prejudicial	Councillor Harris	Minute 148b (Planning Application 0485/ADVERT)
Prejudicial	Councillor Adams	Minute 148b (Planning Application 0485/ADVERT)
Code of Conduct	Councillors Wright and Nation	As members of more than one authority, declared 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.

143. Public Question Time

None.

144. Chairman's & Clerk's Announcements and Meeting Management

The Chairman had no announcements to make.

The Clerk provided a very brief update on the current staffing crisis. The Assistant Town Clerk was not due to return to work for many weeks. The newly appointed Admin Assistant was settling in well and her previous work for the Council was proving a great advantage.

The date for the external audit (District Audit) had been received – 22 June 2009. It would be necessary for the end of year accounts and audit process, including the internal audit (13 May), to be completed in time for the Council to approve the accounts at its meeting on 19 May.

145. General Purposes Committee Minutes

The minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 10 March 2009 were received and approved as a correct record.

146. Floral Crediton Working Group

a) *Meeting Notes*

The notes of the Floral Crediton Working Group meeting held on 18 March 2009 were received and noted.

b) *Recommendations*

The recommendations of the Working Group were approved.

147. Town Plan Working Group

a) *Meeting Notes*

The notes of the Town Plan Working Group meeting held on 4 March 2009 were received and noted.

The Chairman of the group provided a verbal update following the meeting held on 1 April; she would prepare the meeting notes in preparation for the next Council meeting. She would also prepare a rota of councillors for the Council stall at the next produce market.

Councillor Brown arrived.

b) *Recommendations*

The recommendations of the Working Group meeting held on 4 March were approved.

148. Planning

a) *Planning Decisions*

None received.

b) *Planning Applications*

Comments made in respect of planning applications considered at this meeting are appended.

The Chairman declared a prejudicial interest in application 0485/ADVERT and left the meeting for the duration of the debate on this item. The Vice Chairman took the chair for this item only.

Councillor Adams declared a prejudicial interest in application 0485/ADVERT and left the meeting for the duration of the debate on this item.

c) *Planning Applications/Items for Determination week ending 7 April 2009*

None.

d) *Planning Seminar*

Members who attended the seminar provided reports. It was generally acknowledged that the seminar was valuable and resulted in members having a clearer understanding of how the current planning system worked. However, concerns were expressed over the proposals for the Pedlarspool site. Many residents from Upton Hellions attended the meeting to lodge their objections.

LDF proposals were likely to go to the Planning Committee in July or August and Council (MDDC) in September. The date for representations had passed but any views could still be made to ward members for discussion at committee stage.

It was agreed to discover the extent to which the planning brief system could be used to consider developments in advance of specific applications coming forward and to ascertain what was likely to happen to the unallocated (undetermined) part of the site.

149. Allotments

a) *Allotment Update*

The Clerk informed members that there was currently nothing to report as no administrative work could be done due to staff shortages. The waiting list (and help with new tenancies) was being managed by the Boniface Allotments Association. The Clerk thanked the association for their support. Fortunately, the billing dates had

been changed to September this year, negating the need for a large allotment mailing with the consequent accounting to take place this month.

Councillor Adams reported that the water supply had been turned on at Barnfield and Exhibition Road sites.

b) *Matters Raised By Tenants*

The Clerk reported that a tenant appeared to have been working the wrong allotment; the allotment association was attempting to resolve the confusion.

150. Peoples Park & Scout Memorial Gardens

The consultant's plans had been circulated. Larger scale drawings were made available by the Clerk.

The Chairman of the working group outlined the plans and suggested that only option A be supported.

Members were divided over their support for various aspects of the proposals and for the need for public consultation on all three options.

The Chairman of the Council repeated his views that there would be no point in preparing three options if they were not made available for public consultation.

A proposal not to support options B and C was not carried.

A proposal to request an alteration to option A to accommodate wheelchair access at a more suitable location was carried. It was additionally agreed that the consultant be asked to establish and account for the levels and that the current HLF funding scheme (Parks for People initiative) be pursued.

151. Archive Material

The Clerk reported that he had been contacted by MDDC and asked if the Council would be interested in receiving archive material relating to the Crediton Improvement Act. He had agreed to receive the documents on behalf of the Council. Consequently, he had asked the Crediton Area History and Museum Society to assist in cataloguing the documents which they had very kindly done (circulated to members). There was now a need to decide on the long-term storage of the material and members were asked to consider the options placed before them by the Clerk.

It was agreed to contact the Devon Records Office for guidance and act upon their advice. The Chairman of the Council agreed to make the necessary enquiries and take appropriate action.

152. Town Guide

It was reported that the guide had been distributed at the local produce market and at some locations in the town (library, council offices).

It was agreed that councillors would assist with the distribution and Councillor Brookes-Hocking would co-ordinate the work in line with the list of locations previously agreed.

It was further agreed that no additional inserts would be used (other than the current Festival flyer).

Councillor Brookes-Hocking asked for assistance with the distribution of the flyer for the Annual Town Meeting.

AGENDA ITEMS (for discussion and recommendation)

153. Structural Review of Devon

The revised draft documents had been made available by the Clerk.

It was agreed to reiterate the Council's previous comments. However, the revised document provided the Council with an additional opportunity to comment on the financial viability of the suggested options.

It was agreed to defer any further discussion to the next meeting (Council – 21 April) in order to allow members more time to examine the proposals in greater detail.

154. Four Mills Lane/Exeter Road

Following an informal meeting with local residents, a member reported that several issues had been raised:

- Speed of traffic using Four Mills Lane
- Overhanging foliage
- Condition of floral planters in Exeter Road (adjacent to Norrington House)
- Lack of adequate street cleaning
- Pedestrian safety whilst crossing Exeter Road

It was agreed that ward members (MDDC) would pursue recent planning consents with a view to providing improvements. The longer-term solution might involve the closure of Four Mills Lane with the exception of emergency vehicles, as discussed in previous years. However, the Town Council at the time did not support this option.

Ward members would also investigate, with officers, the need to improve grounds maintenance and street cleansing.

155. Correspondence Received

1. CCD/DAPC – details on drop-in surgery for parish planning – 24 April - Cullompton. Councillor Brookes-Hocking recommended attendance. Members to contact Clerk.
2. MDDC – Planning Guidance for Gypsy & Traveller Site Applications.
3. East & Mid Devon Community Safety Partnership – AGM – 29 April at Honiton.
4. CAB – details on Mid Devon new on-line advice service.
5. CCA – March Newsletter.
6. ICO (Information Commissioner's Office) – reminder and information on FOI and DP legislation need to provide up to date publication scheme.
7. Devon Link Steering Group – ballot paper for election of candidates.
8. MDDC – Mid Devon Talk – Spring Newsletter.
9. DCC – letter on LGPS Annual Return. Clerk actioned.
10. CAB – letter on merger and renaming of Mid Devon CAB to Torridge, Mid Devon and Bude CAB.
11. Involve – March Newsletter – details of funding and training opportunities for the volunteer and public sectors. Passed to Council Chairman for information.
12. Clerk – exchange of emails with MDDC/DCC on High Street vets parking bay.
13. Councillor Hughes/Clerk – exchange of emails with MDDC on Exeter Road issues.
14. Clerk – exchange of emails with CCTV Group chairman on CCTV progress meeting.
15. MDDC – email detailing expression of interest in purchase of land adjacent Cherry Gardens. Agenda item at next meeting
16. MDDC – request to fly flag for Armed Forces Day. Agenda item at next meeting.

BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD

156. Bus Stop Signs and Timetables

The Clerk reported that new (additional) time table displays had appeared at two bus stops in the town. No consultation or forewarning had been given. Agenda item at next meeting.

157. Annual Town Meeting

Members were reminded that the Annual Town Meeting would take place on Tuesday 28 April at 7.00pm in the Boniface Centre with an exhibition of consultation material during the day on Monday 27 and Tuesday 28 April.

158. Westernlea

Rats had been reported at a location in Westernlea. The matter had been reported to the Clerk who had contacted MDDC Environmental Health.

159. Community Transport

It was reported that progress was being made with proposals to relocate the Crediton Community Transport offices to Market Street to include a shopmobility scheme and a community resource centre.

160. Old Town Hall

The possibility of the Crediton Area History and Museum Society taking over the OTH as a museum was briefly mentioned. Agenda item at next meeting when, it was hoped, further information would be available.

161. Peoples Park

A member reported dissatisfaction with the use of herbicide on edging at Peoples Park.

162. St Lawrence Green

It was reported that litter was becoming a problem at St Lawrence Green. The issue only occurred after the midday school lunch break. The Clerk to report to QECC.

163. Exeter Road

A problem was reported with black bin bags being left outside Culver Court, Exeter Road. The MDDC ward member agreed to investigate.

Meeting closed at approx. 9.45 pm.

Signed:

(J Harris, Chairman)

Date:

PLANNING DECISIONS AND APPLICATIONS FOR GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING 7 APRIL 2009

Planning Decisions

None received.

Planning Applications

The Committee considered the following applications:

APPLICATION	Type - Application					
	Number	Applicant	Agent	Location	Proposal	Officer
	09/00381/FULL (25/03/09)	Mr A Snell 21 Threshers Crediton EX17 3NS	Mr B Marlow Drawing Office 16a Fore Street Topsham EX3 0HF	21 Threshers Crediton Devon EX17 3NS	Erection of single storey extension to form garage	Mr Daniel Rance
NO OBJECTIONS						

APPLICATION	Type - Application					
	Number	Applicant	Agent	Location	Proposal	Officer
	09/00414/FULL (25/03/09)	Mr S Cook 32 Beech Park Crediton EX17 1HW	Mr W Badger Corner House Searle St Crediton Devon EX17 2DB	32 Beech Park Crediton Devon EX17 1HW	Erection of first floor extension over existing garage	Mr Daniel Rance
NO OBJECTIONS						

APPLICATION	Type - Application					
	Number	Applicant	Agent	Location	Proposal	Officer
	09/00435/FULL (01/04/09)	Midas Homes Ltd Homeside House Silverhills Road Newton Abbot TQ12 5YZ	GJR Architects Ltd Silverdown House 5 Silverdown Park Fair Oak Close Clyst Honiton Exeter EX5 2UX	Land at NGR 283 714 99715 Exeter Road Crediton Devon	Erection of 8 dwelling with parking facilities	Mr Keith Garside
NO OBJECTIONS – on condition that the Planning Authority is satisfied that the pedestrian/cycle link between Boniface Rise and Four Mills Lane is not prejudiced by this proposal.						
APPLICATION	Type - Application					
	Number	Applicant	Agent	Location	Proposal	Officer
	09/00485/ADVERT (01/04/09)	Suite 33 South Court The Courtyard Bradley Stoke Bristol BS32 4NH	Mewes & Davis Architects 6 Derriford Business Park Derriford Plymouth Devon PL6 5DQ	Land at NGR 284604 99408 Tesco Exeter Road Crediton Devon	Advertisement Consent for the erection of 2 development boards and a hoarding board	Mr Keith Garside
NO OBJECTIONS – on condition that the boards are removed immediately upon the opening of the store.						