



Credition Town Council



Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Tuesday 12 June 2012

Present:	Councillors	Miss J Harris (Chairman) Mr F Letch Mrs L Conyngham Mr B Dixon Mr M Szabo Mr R Adams (part meeting)
In Attendance:	Clerk Allotments Representative	Mr M Maggs Ms P Tearle

AGENDA ITEMS *(for discussion and determination)*

1. Election of Chairman & Vice Chairman

a) Chairman

Nominations were requested and a vote took place. Councillor J Harris was elected Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee for the municipal year 2012-2013.

b) Vice Chairman

Nominations were requested and a vote took place. Councillor M Szabo was elected Vice Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee for the municipal year 2012-2013.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received & accepted from Councillors Connell (ill health), Leighton Plom (personal) and Brookes-Hocking (personal). Councillor Way, though not a member of this committee, had also tendered his apologies.

Councillor Adams arrived.

3. Declarations of Interest

No declarations were made.

4. Meeting Management

It was agreed that, depending on the nature of the debate and the information presented, some items would need to be deferred to a Part Two discussion.

5. Public Question Time

There were no public questions.

6. Chairman's & Clerk's Announcements

There were no announcements.

7. Finance and General Purposes Committee Minutes

The minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 15 May 2012 were received and approved as a correct record

8. Matters Arising

Minute 191b: meetings were being arranged for July and August.

9. Credition Support Fund

a) Meeting Notes

The notes of the Awards & Distribution Panel meeting held on 16 May were received and noted.

b) *Update*

The Clerk updated members. The notes of the meeting detailed the current status of the fund.

10. Allotments

a) *Update*

The Clerk reported that there had been no significant changes since the last meeting. There had been some movement on the current waiting list.

A complaint had been received about the thorn tree on the northern boundary of the Barnfield site. The Clerk had contacted the Council's groundsman and remedial action would be taken. It was agreed that only the lower branches would be removed, sufficient to allow free passage.

b) *Barnfield Hedge*

Potential problems associated with the proposal to plant a hedge along the northern boundary were raised by several members. However, a decision had been made at the previous meeting to support the Allotment Association's proposal. Consequently, it was agreed to finally endorse this decision and allow the association to continue with its plans.

c) *Boniface Allotments Association*

The association's representative provided a short report following an inspection carried out by BAA committee members. A copy of the report would be sent to the Clerk for circulation.

As part of the annual Floral Crediton Competition, the allotment judging would take place on 25 June and members were encouraged to attend. The BAA would circulate details a little nearer the time. The Clerk to inform members.

d) *Matters Raised by Tenants*

None.

The Allotment Association representative left the meeting.

11. Planning

a) *Planning Decisions*

Noted. Decisions notified by the planning authority are appended.

b) *Planning Applications*

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

c) *Planning Applications/Items for Determination week ending 12 June 2012*

None.

d) *Draft Statement of Community Involvement*

The MDDC draft revised Statement of Community Involvement was received and noted.

12. Finance

a) *Schedule of Accounts*

The Schedule of Accounts, numbers 3486 to 3495 totalling £2745.98 was approved.

b) *Donation Requests*

There were no donation requests.

13. Localising Support for Council Tax

The consultation paper from the Department for Communities and Local Government was received and noted. There was a general feeling of great confusion over the complexity of the issues raised. It was also felt that the briefing paper provided by the National Association of Local Councils was also confusing and of little practical assistance. However, it was sufficiently understood that the potential impact on the Council's finances, in future years, could be considerable. The Clerk advised caution and suggested that an officer from the precepting authority (MDDC) attends an appropriate future meeting to provide greater clarity and, perhaps more importantly, provide an explanation on how MDDC intend to implement the legislation.

14. Newcombes Meadow Toilet & Railings

A member presented a verbal report on the condition of Newcombes Meadow toilets and railings. Both needed repair and painting. It was pointed out that this area is the most likely to be used by visitors and should be maintained accordingly. The Clerk to write to MDDC.

15. Public Seating

It was reported that a volunteer had offered to assist with the repair and painting of two neglected public seats at Blagdon and Bramble Lane (both the responsibility of the Town Council). It was agreed to accept the generous offer and to provide all the necessary materials. Funds to be provided out of the Council's Street Furniture allocation. Councillor Szabo to liaise with the volunteer and progress.

The status of the seat removed from the Scout Memorial Gardens was raised. The Council had agreed that the seat should be relocated to an appropriate location at Crediton Hospital. The County Council had agreed to store and install. The Clerk to follow up with county officers.

16. Armed Forces Week

Armed Forces Day had been arranged for 30 June and all local authorities had been encouraged to mark the event by flying (where appropriate) the Armed Forces Day flag in the run up to the day. A flag flying ceremony had been arranged by MDDC at Tiverton for 25 June and it was decided that the Town Council should hold a similar even since purchasing a flag last year. The Clerk to make arrangements with the Royal British Legion, the press and members.

17. Jubilee Events

The Chairman and the Vice Chairman of the Council had issued a joint report which the Clerk had circulated to all members. The report detailed the events that took place over the Jubilee weekend. The Council Chairman took the opportunity to thank all those people who helped and took part. He had contacted most people separately to offer his and the Council's appreciation.

It was proposed and agreed that the Council should formally record its thanks for the efforts of all those people involved, this year, in organising the Jubilee events and assisting with the work of the Crediton Support Fund (for the victims of the Buller Square fire). The efforts provided an excellent example of community work at its best.

The Chairman reminded members that it had been previously agreed that funds from the Jubilee event would be donated to those organisation which provided most assistance. The Clerk would provide a closing financial statement for the event as soon as all invoices had been received.

18. Floral Crediton Competition

The Clerk provided an update on the current status of entries (20 and increasing on a daily basis). Four further entries were submitted by a member on behalf of residents.

It was reported that judging would take place during the first week of July.

19. MDDC Play Areas

The letter of consultation and questionnaire on MDDC play areas was received and noted. It was generally felt that all play areas were of equal value and importance and should be maintained. Members resented the inference that these areas could be lost to the community based on a few basic value judgements. Members felt that MDDC should carry out a full survey itself and not rely on the Town Council to provide the information requested. The Clerk to inform MDDC.

20. Pay Back Scheme

A member outlined a scheme which would utilise the time and efforts of offenders to rectify problems associated with anti-social behaviour. It was suggested that the best means of progressing this proposal would be through the Community Safety Partnership which was better resourced and in a stronger position to implement the scheme at a local level. The Clerk would inform the Community Safety Officer and the matter would be progressed through the Council's representatives at the first available meeting of the partnership.

21. Paths for Communities

The Clerk had identified a potentially valuable source of national funding (up to £150,000) to assist with the development of better public footpaths. He had suggested that this funding could provide initial support for the proposed Crediton to Exeter foot/cycle path. Councillor Conyngham had approached Sustrans which had agreed to meet members and assist with the development of a proposal and submission of an application. It was further suggested that the first stage could be to enhance and develop the section between Lords Meadow and Shobrooke. It was agreed to investigate the feasibility of carry out this work in cooperation with Sustrans and the County Council. Councillor Conyngham to progress as quickly as possible and report to an appropriate future meeting.

22. Correspondence Received

Correspondence

1. Judith Nichols (CAB) – letter of thanks for presentation and continuing support for CAB.
2. Mary Nation (CAHMS) – letter of thanks for annual donation to History Society.
3. Tower Captain – email – ringing for other civic occasions.
4. LGPS – Joint Statement on new pension proposals.

Information

1. QECC briefing paper (Confidential)- as outlined at previous TC meeting and circulated to members. Future agenda item at appropriate Policy & Forward Planning Working Group.
2. Hospiscare – update on Pine Lodge and invitation to attend open day – 21 July.
3. Community Safety Partnership – letter and poster on domestic violence.

Business Brought Forward

23. Exeter Road Pavement

Several members were concerned that the pavement from the Shell Garage to Downes was virtually impassable due to the overgrowth of vegetation and weeds. The Clerk explained that the matter had been reported to DCC Highways many times and that the latest information indicated that it would be attended to during the next week. However, the Clerk felt that this should appear on a regular maintenance schedule since the matter needed to be raised every year. He would progress with DCC.

24. Weed Control

In order to help prevent the recurrence of the above problem and help maintain the town in good order, it was suggested that the members look at the feasibility of obtaining funding from both principal authorities to employ a local person who might be able to address the problem properly. Agenda item at next meeting. Councillor Dixon to investigate and report.

25. Bandstand Electrics

Following use of the Bandstand power supply during the Jubilee event, it was suggested that the supply should be modified to accommodate increased use. Agenda item at next meeting. Councillor Adams to investigate and report.

The meeting closed at approximately 8.30pm

Signed:

(J Harris, Chairman)

Date:

Crediton Town Council

PLANNING DECISIONS AND APPLICATIONS FOR THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING 12 JUNE 2012

Planning Decisions – as notified by the Planning Authority:

DECISION	Type – Decision
	Reference: 12/00480/CAT Works to Trees in a Conservation Area
	Address: Penton House Old Tiverton Road Crediton Devon EX17 1EF
	Description: Notification of intention to reduce branches to one Sycamore tree within a Conservation Area
	Decision: No Objection
Web link: 12/00480/CAT	

DECISION	Type – Decision
	Reference: 12/00492/FULL Full planning application
	Address: 25 Barnfield Crediton Devon EX17 3HU
	Description: Erection of extension
	Decision: Grant permission
Web link: 12/00492/FULL	

DECISION

Type – Decision

Reference: **12/00602/CAT** Works to Trees in a Conservation Area
Address: Claremont Searle Street Crediton Devon EX17 2DB
Description: Notification of intention to fell 1 Laurel tree within the Conservation Area
Decision: **No Objection**

Web link: [12/00602/CAT](#)

DECISION

Type – Decision

Reference: **12/00499/FULL** Full planning application
Address: 2 Coxs Close High Street Crediton Devon EX17 3AG
Description: Change of use from dwelling (C3) to osteopath's clinic (D1) and installation of stepped access
Decision: **Grant permission**

Web link: [12/00499/FULL](#)

DECISION

Type – Decision

Reference: **12/00528/FULL** Full planning application
Address: 45 Avranches Avenue Crediton Devon EX17 2HB
Description: Erection of two storey and first floor extensions and conversion of existing garage to habitable room
Decision: **Withdrawn**

Web link: [12/00528/FULL](#)

Planning Applications

The Council considered the following applications:

APPLICATION	<p>Type – Application</p> <p>Reference: 12/00614/FULL Full planning application, registered 23/05/2012 Address: Devon & Cornwall Constabulary Police Station Churchill Drive Crediton Devon EX17 2EF Description: Erection of 4 dwellings and a Police unit after demolition of existing Police Station</p> <p>Web link: 12/00614/FULL</p> <p>APPROVE</p>
APPLICATION	<p>Type – Application</p> <p>Reference: 12/00655/FULL Full planning application, registered 14/05/2012 Address: Land to The Rear of 25 High Street Crediton Devon EX17 3AH Description: Erection of 3 dwellings following demolition of existing buildings</p> <p>Web link: 12/00655/FULL</p> <p>NO OBJECTION</p>
APPLICATION	<p>Type – Application</p> <p>Reference: 12/00712/LBC Listed Building Consent, registered 18/05/2012 Address: 25 High Street Crediton Devon EX17 3AH Description: Listed Building Consent for demolition of courtyard buildings</p> <p>Web link: 12/00712/LBC</p> <p>NO OBJECTION</p>

Type – Application

Reference: **12/00747/FULL** Full planning application, registered 01/06/2012

Address: 11 Meadow Gardens Crediton Devon EX17 1EJ

Description: Erection of two-storey extension

Web link: [12/00747/FULL](#)

NO OBJECTION

Crediton Town Council

**SCHEDULE OF ACCOUNTS
SUBMITTED TO A MEETING OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
12 June 2012**

Cheque Number		Ref.	Comment		Amount
3486	Hoopers Services	4467	People's Park Maintenance	OSA 1906 S10	273.00
3487	Mrs J MacPherson	4468	Administration Support	LGA 1972 S111	21.00
3488	Phillips Print & Stationery	4469	Floral Crediton Competition Printing	LGA 1972 S111	
3489	Councillor Letch	4470	Jubilee Costs & Supplies	LGA 1972 S111	23.33
		4478	Jubilee Costs & Supplies	LGA 1972 S111	24.50
					47.83
3490	Touchwood Signs	4471	Jubilee Banners	LGA 1972 S111	156.00
3491	Triple C Café	4472	Catering - Mayor's Reception	LGA 1972 S111	500.00
		4473	Catering - Civic Service	LGA 1972 S111	200.00
3492	MDDC	4474	IT Monthly Support	LGA 1972 S111	216.00
3493	Plantscape	4475	Provision of 7 Flower Towers	LGA 1972 S111	1,176.00
3494	Vaughtons	4476	Jubilee Medals (5)	LGA 1972 S111	32.80
3495	Adam Blake Property Maintenance	4477	Peoples Park Step Repair	OSA 1906 S10	20.85
		4477	Tolleys Planter Repair	LGA 1972 S111	102.50
					123.35
Total					2,745.98

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**BANK BALANCES SUBMITTED TO A MEETING OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
12 June 2012
(As @ 24May 2012)**

Lloyds Current	716.12
Precept Reserve	68,830.08
Reserves	42,556.74
Petty Cash	24.76
Income Petty Cash	11.15
Total	112,138.85

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**ASSETS & COMMITMENTS SUBMITTED TO A MEETING OF THE
FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
12 June 2011
(As @ 24 May 2012)**

Bank & Cash Holdings	112,138.85
VAT	13,380.85
Creditors (Suppliers & Liabilities)	-12,251.21
Debtors (Customers)	1,522.20
Total	114,790.69