



Credition Town Council



Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 20 June, 2006

Councillors:

Mr R Edwards (Chairman)
Miss J Harris
Mr W Brown
Mr N Way (part meeting)
Mr R Adams (part meeting)
Mrs E Brown
Mr C Haydon
Mrs J Pitts
Mr P Taylor

In Attendance:

Clerk

Mr M Maggs
Press

23. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Letch, Nation and Downes (personal commitments).

24. Declarations of Interest

Prejudicial	Councillor Adams	Minute 32a – account 2469
Prejudicial	Councillor Pitts	Minute 32a – account 2470
Prejudicial	Councillor Edwards	Minute 32a – account 2470
Personal	Councillor Way	Minute 35
Personal	Councillor Adams	Minute 35
Personal	Councillor Taylor	Minute 35
Prejudicial	Councillor Pitts	Minute 35
Personal	Councillor Harris	Minute 35
Code of Conduct	Councillor Haydon Councillor Way	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.

25. Public Question Time

None.

26. Chairman’s Announcements

The Chairman announced that the next Police Liaison meeting scheduled for 21 June had been postponed due to overriding Police commitments.

27. Town Council Minutes

- a) The minutes of the Annual Town Meeting (Parish Meeting) held on 16 May 2006 were noted. Attendance list should read “Councillor Mr W Brown”.
- b) The minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Town Council held on 16 May 2006 were approved and signed as a correct record with the following amendments:
Attendance list: should read “Councillor Mr W Brown”.
Minute 5: Replace “Mayor’s Escort” with “Mayoress”.

- c) The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 16 May 2006 were approved and signed as a correct record with the following amendment:
Attendance list: should read "Councillor Mr W Brown".

28. Matters Arising

Councillor Adams arrived.

- a) Annual Town Meeting
None.
- b) Town Council Annual General Meeting
None.
- c) Town Council Ordinary Meeting
Minute 6 (Minute 271{Minute 254}): The Chairman updated members following the recent meeting. The Clerk would circulate the notes with the next General Purposes Committee papers.
Minute 6 (Minute 282): Clerk to chase MDDC.
Minute 10b: The Chairman explained that he and the Clerk had been unable to gain a response but he (Chairman) would try once more. Agenda item at next Town Council meeting.

29. General Purposes Committee Minutes

- a) The minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 6 June 2006 were approved and signed as a correct record with the following amendments:
Minute 7b: Planning Application 06/00902/FULL should have the same comment as Application 06/00903/LBC – "NO OBJECTION - Subject to the planning authority being of the opinion that the proposal is sustainable and does not constitute over development."
Minute 10: Add "It was recommended that payment be made to cover costs incurred."
Minute 11: Replace "the powers....." with "....., at this juncture, the Council did not want to take on these powers."
- b) The recommendations of the General Purposes Committee were approved.

30. Matters Arising

- Minute 6b:* it was reported that the issue of signage had been deferred to the next General Purposes Committee meeting.
Minute 7b: the Clerk and ward member to pursue with Planning Authority – objecting to enforcement officer's response.
Minute 8: it was reported that all the plants at the Exeter Road entrance had been replaced due to damage caused by rabbits.
Minute 20: the matter had been reported to the operator.
Minute 21: no further progress had been made. The Clerk to pursue with MDDC.

31. Planning

- a) *Planning Decisions*
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 for week ending 16 May 2006*
Two applications received too late for inclusion.
Other items for determination:
MDDC Core Strategy
The Chairman read out an email from Councillor Nation explaining that the MDDC Planning Committee held on 14 June agreed to include in the Core Strategy a ban on developments in excess of 6 houses in Crediton until the town's traffic and air quality problems had been resolved. This decision would need ratification at full Council. Following a brief discussion it was agreed that the Town Council should write to the Planning Authority and request that pressure is placed on the appropriate authorities

to ensure that a link road and traffic relief measures for Crediton are put into place in advance of any further significant developments. The Clerk to action.

MDDC Full Committee Site Meeting – 21 June at 1115

Councillors W Brown and E Brown agreed to attend on behalf of the Town Council. An MDDC ward member would also attend.

32. Finance

a) *Schedules of Accounts*

Councillors Adams, Pitts and Edwards declared a prejudicial interest and left the chamber for accounts 2469 (Adams) and 2470 (Pitts and Edwards) respectively. The Vice-Chairman took the Chair for the duration of the debate on account 2470.

The schedule of accounts, numbers 002460 to 002481 amounting to £6175.27 was approved.

b) *Internal Auditors Report*

The Internal Auditor's Report for the Year Ending 31 March 2006 was received and noted. The audit had been completed successfully. No unforeseen problems had been highlighted in the Report. The Risk Assessment demonstrated that proper and thorough procedures had been adopted by the Council resulting a low financial risk.

The Clerk and Assistant Town Clerk were given a formal vote of thanks for their efforts. The Clerk explained that the process was becoming increasingly difficult each year but hoped that new financial management systems, in the current year, would ease the burden on staff time - with the minimum of investment.

c) *Accounts for Year Ending 31 March 2006*

The Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2006 were approved.

d) *Annual Return and Statement of Assurance*

The Chairman proceeded to certify the Annual Return/Statement of Assurance to District Audit, which had been previously certified by the Responsible Finance Officer (Clerk).

The External Audit (District Audit) would take place on 3 July 2006.

e) *Donation Requests*

Crediton & District Netball League

Concerns were expressed about setting a precedent and the Clerk was asked to refer the request to the MDDC Grants and Funding Officer for further advice and support.

f) *Other Donation Requests*

An outstanding request had not been progressed, see Minute 28c (*Minute 10b*) above.

AGENDA ITEMS

33. Police Matters

Councillor Way arrived.

a) A letter had been circulated to councillors and its contents were noted. The Chairman suggested that the letter was self explanatory. The Clerk emphasised the importance of ensuring that all available powers should be granted to Community Support Officers; the next Police Liaison meeting would present the best opportunity of expressing the Town Council's views. This was agreed. It was further agreed that Councillor Haydon's offer to convey the Council's position on neighbourhood policing to a meeting with the Assistant Chief Constable be accepted. It was generally acknowledged that there was a greater need for additional police resources later at night and weekends.

b) Noted.

The release, to the press, of both letters was approved.

34. **Royal Mail Collection Times**

The letter from Postwatch had been circulated to councillors. It was agreed that a further letter be sent insisting on the re-instatement of collection times in line with the guidelines for a commercial town centre. The Clerk to action.

35. **Air Quality Monitoring Area**

Councillor Pitts declared a prejudicial interest and left the chamber for the duration of the debate on this item. Councillors Way, Adams, Taylor and Harris declared a personal interest.

a) Following some discussion the Council agreed detailed comments on the Steering Group's proposals, as follows (the Town Council's representative and the Clerk to liaise on the final submission to MDDC): -

- **Loading-bay timings:** agree the change to 0800-1130, loading only; then 1130-1800, 45-min limit parking. (Except as in 2, 4 & 6, below).
- **New loading-bay west of Market Street** (at 128/129 High St): object. Would be greatly under-used, unnecessarily removing shoppers' parking spaces.
- **No waiting 31-35 High Street** (opposite Town Hall and 'Corner House'): agree as being necessary for traffic flow, subject to deletion of new loading bay in 2 above. Otherwise would be an excessive loss of on-street parking.
- **Loading-bay at Tesco/Wetherspoon's** (36/37 High St): loading restriction must start at 0700 (as now), not 0800 as proposed. Agree loading-only to 1800, then 1800-0700 unrestricted.
- **Taxi space** (37 High St): agree proposed retention.
- **New loading-bay, St Lawrence Green south side:** little need for this. Would prefer 45-min waiting 0800-1800 if possible.
- **New bus bay, St Lawrence Green north side:** strongly object. This entails loss of part of a fairly small, historic and attractive public open space. Buses cause little problem here most of the time. The adverse effect of this intrusion would be out of all proportion to any Air Quality benefits that might be achieved.
- **New bus bay, Union Road near War Memorial:** agree. But contrary to SWW's assertions, one councillor had clear memories of the relevant land having been a reservoir, which could make road widening difficult. If the bus bay goes ahead, the stone wall must be rebuilt behind the footway and (new) bus shelter, the design of which must be in keeping with the adjacent listed structure.
- **20-mph limit in High Street:** object, would make little difference to actual situation, but would add to street-signage clutter.

b) No response to be made.

36. **Devon Association of Parish Councils**

The Chairman reported on the recent meeting of the Larger Councils Sub Committee. He suggested that the Council might consider having an agenda item on Spatial Strategy. He would come forward with some suggestions.

37. **DCC Consultation of Local Government White Paper**

The Chairman provided a brief overview and emphasised the need to discuss the implications for this Council.

The Clerk outlined some of the opportunities and provided examples of increased partnership arrangements.

It was agreed that the Clerk would reply detailing possible options for shared responsibilities and expressing the Council's interest in setting up a dialogue which would include a request for an officer to brief a Council working group. A draft letter would be presented to the next Town Council meeting for approval.

38. **Peoples Park Road**

The Clerk had circulated a copy of a letter from a resident of Peoples Park Road expressing concern over the speed of traffic and associated parking problems.

The Council had discussed the issue many times and empathised with the local resident. The Council had made its views clear to the Highway Authority by requesting a 20mph speed limit which had been given a medium level of priority.

The Clerk was asked to pass the resident's letter to the Highway Authority with a reminder of the Council's views. The Clerk to provide the resident with the Council's response.

39. Town Seal

The Chairman read out the request for the use of the Town Seal.

Permission was not granted. The Clerk was requested to invite the organisation to attend a future meeting in order to provide further information on the organisation itself and the proposed use of the Seal.

40. Devon Local Transport Plan 2006-2011

The draft letter, written by the Chairman, had been tabled. The letter was approved with one minor amendment. The Clerk was asked to send the letter to all previous recipients. The letter would also be published on the Town Council website with supporting information.

41. Highway Maintenance Work

The request for the Council's views on proposed maintenance work at Jockey Hill/Forches Cross was discussed. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the Highway Authority confirming the Council's approval but requesting that work is not commenced until the completion of resurfacing works at the Town Square. The work should be carried out during school holidays or half-term.

The Council agreed to request that the town signage be moved further down Jockey Hill to avoid any additional distraction at a difficult junction. The new sign should comply with existing town entrance signage but it was felt unnecessary to mention the twinning arrangements (only Boniface details to be included).

The Clerk was also requested to remind the Highway Authority about previous requests to repair/restore the existing finger post.

42. General Purposes Committee

The Chairman and Clerk described the need to increase the efficiency of meetings. It was particularly important to maintain a balance between the two main monthly meetings with the Council retaining control of policy, procedure and finance and the General Purposes Committee having greater control over most day to day issues.

It was agreed that the General Purposes Committee, in addition to existing delegations, be given delegated responsibilities over all items relating to Property and Amenities. The Committee would be constrained to working within the budget allocations set by the Council. The Clerk would prepare draft revised Standing Orders to reflect the changes.

43. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

1. Devon Town Forum – invitation to attend free seminar on Project Development & Funding – Exeter 27 June.
2. HM Revenue & Customs – letter confirming acceptance of TC resolution on gratuities.
3. DPFA – notice of AGM – 7 July – Upton Pyne. Clerk to send apologies.
4. Mid Devon PCT – reply to TC letter on parking charges at Crediton Hospital and lack of consultation. Agenda item at next meeting; letter to be circulated.
5. Carli Laskey – letter on conversion of part playground into car park at Haywards School. Not TC responsibility. Clerk to check on planning permission.
6. DCC – Temporary Prohibition of Through Traffic – Hookway Lane – 19 to 23 June inclusive.
7. DCC - Parish Paths Partnership – details on Summer Workshops and Questionnaire.
8. DAPC - details on Planning Training (Introduction) – 14 September, Exeter. Councillor Downes to attend.
- access details for DAPC website.
9. Mr Cyril Chudley – letter requesting information on Strategic Action Plan. Clerk to reply – included in planning matters.

BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD

44. Broad Close

A letter and petition had been received. Agenda item at next meeting (GP).

45. Overhanging Vegetation

A report form was submitted by a Councillor on overgrown vegetation at Exhibition Road/Blagdon. The Clerk to action.

46. Inspection Cover

A damaged inspection cover in Charlotte Street was reported. The Clerk to action.

PART TWO

47. Administration

The Chairman provided an update - no further progress.

Meeting closed at 10.05pm.

Signed:

(R Edwards – Chairman)

Date: