

Training courses had been organised for 6 and 22 November (Code of Conduct and Planning respectively) and he again encouraged attendance. Councillors to contact the Clerk for details.

There would be a Crediton Traffic Action Group meeting on 22 October which everyone was welcome to attend.

The Clerk had no announcements to make.

The Chairman suggested that, in consideration to the two members of the Tree Group, item 19 should be advanced for discussion. This was agreed.

111. Town Council Minutes

The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 16 September 2008 were received and approved as a correct record with the following amendment:

Minute 90a: for clarification, last sentence to read:

“Although there was disappointment over the loss of respite facilities following the closure of beds in Boniface Ward, it was reported that the provision of day clinics had commenced.”

112. Matters Arising

Minute 88d: the Clerk reported that the Planning Authority had been contacted and that he was waiting for a reply.

Minute 90c: Councillor Nation asked why the Skatepark project had not appeared under current agenda item 10. The Clerk replied that he had not received any papers, details or a specific request. However, the Chairman suggested that the Council should debate whether to discuss the matter under the appropriate item (10b).

Minute 98: an update was provided on feedback from the Access Group. A full report would be made at the next meeting.

113. General Purposes Committee Minutes

a) The minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 7 October 2008 were received and noted. Councillor Brown agreed to contact the Assistant Town Clerk to clarify the minuting of his attendance (for next Committee meeting).

b) The recommendations of the General Purposes Committee held on 7 October 2008 were approved.

Councillor Nation requested that Committee recommendations be highlighted.

114. Matters Arising

Minute 80: it was reported that there had been no change.

115. 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 21 October 2008*
None.

116. Finance

a) *Schedule of Accounts*

The schedule of accounts, numbers 002859 to 002874 amounting to £9,167.90 was approved following queries on accounts 2860 and 2863:

Account 2860:

A member considered the payment excessive. A proposal requesting the Clerk to raise the matter with the contractor was defeated.

Account 2863:

A member queried the payment. The Clerk had previously reported that DCC had agreed to cover the venue and refreshment costs of the hub meeting with parish councils. DCC had been recharged (invoiced) for the full amount.

b) *Donation Requests*

i) *Crediton Arts Centre*

A brief presentation was made by two members of the Crediton Arts Centre promoting a town event in association with the national "Big Draw" project. Full supporting documentation and budget details had been circulated to councillors. It was agreed to provide £500 from the Youth Donations allocation.

ii) *Skatepark Project*

Whilst not a specific agenda item, it was agreed to include discussion on this item due to the urgent requirement for funding and to ensure the successful progression of the project.

The status of the Council's commitments and the current state of reserves was unknown. The Clerk expressed his misgivings about committing the Council to a major investment before the Council's financial situation had been confirmed. However, he suggested that if the Council agreed to prioritise the projects it wished to support, sufficient funding could be diverted, if necessary, from other projects with "earmarked" funding.

It was consequently agreed that the Crediton Skatepark Project should be given priority over the other projects identified by the Council for progression (in particular, the Scout Memorial Garden and Hearing Loop System projects). It was agreed that £5000 be donated to the Skatepark Project. The Clerk to inform MDDC and review the Council's financial commitments for presentation at a suitable future Council meeting (Finance Committee).

iii) *Remembrance Service Sheets*

It was agreed to provide up to £50 to assist with the reprinting costs of service sheets for the Annual Civic Remembrance Service.

c) *Financial Crisis*

In the light of current economic circumstances, the Clerk had considered it appropriate to provide the Council with an opportunity to review its banking and investment policy taking into account the latest advice from NALC and the Government. He had provided members with a copy of the Council's Banking and Investment Strategy. All of the Council's investments were held in a national bank recently secured by central government funding and rated "AA" by Standard and Poor's Investment Services (*The obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation is very strong*). The Council's policy requires a minimum "A" or above rating.

Consequently, it was agreed that no changes needed to be made to the Council's policy or its investments. However, it was further agreed to review the situation at a later date when the District Council's current scrutiny review on investments had been completed.

117. Councillor Reports

a) *Hospital Campaign Group*

A short report was provided following the first meeting to be held in the Boniface Ward of Crediton Hospital. There was a clear indication that the provision of day clinics was proceeding. Progress was being made and a further report would be provided following the next meeting.

b) *Crediton Children's Centre*

A positive report was made on the recently created Children's Centre. The Council's representative was impressed and encouraged by the progress made so far.

SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS

118. Crediton Tree Group

The Chairman outlined the proposal received from the Tree Group (Climate Change Group) for the planting of trees on specifically identified areas of land.

With the Chairman's consent a member of the Tree Group presented the proposal and answered questions from members.

It was agreed that the Council should support the Tree Group's initiative by passing the proposal to the appropriate authorities (MDDC & DCC). It was further agreed that Tree Group representatives should be invited to future meetings of the Town Plan Working Group when issues relating to the environment are discussed.

119. Communications Working Group & Newsletter

Councillor Way arrived and declared that as a member of more than one authority, any views or opinions expressed at this meeting would be provisional and would not prejudice any views expressed at a meeting of another authority.

Councillor Brown suggested that email addresses for all councillors be included in future newsletters. The Clerk explained that there might be a possibility of creating public email addresses for all councillors using the Council's own domain registration. This would provide a uniform and consistent point of contact for all councillors, matching the current practice adopted by principal authorities. It was agreed that all councillors should be canvassed on the use of their private email addresses in public documents.

a) *DCC Response*

It was reported that two comments made in the Council's email to DCC had not been answered. It was agreed that the Clerk should repeat the Council's request for a response on these issues.

The importance of reinstating the service to Chiddenbrook was emphasised.

b) *Enhanced Town Bus Service*

To avoid a lengthy discussion on what was a complex issue of timetabling, it was agreed that the original five members who attended the previous meeting with DCC should meet to discuss the revised proposals, make recommendations and formulate a response for the Council's approval.

c) *Bus Terminus*

The Chairman and the County ward member reviewed the reasons for discussion and provided up to date information.

In view of the difficulties and potential problems caused by locating a bus terminus at Queen Elizabeth Drive, it was agreed to take no further action on this suggestion.

120. Crediton Town Plan

Members of the Town Plan Working Group presented the outline plan and asked the Council for its approval.

A point was raised that issues covered in paragraphs 2 and 3 were already controlled by the Planning Authority's Local Development Framework. Working Group members reinforced the argument for a Town Council policy that influenced and fed into the LDF, emphasising the need to develop the Council's own policies and attitudes towards future planning. The fact that the Town Council had a clearer policy would influence the decisions made at MDDC.

The section on Social Policy was not available but, it was agreed, it would be presented for discussion at the next General Purposes Committee meeting for debate by delegation.

The Council approved the outline plan commending and thanking members of the Working Group for their efforts. The next meeting of the Working Group would carry out a further review and consider consulting more widely with the local community before presenting any additional recommendations. It was the Working Group's intention to present the plan at the next Annual Town Meeting for full public debate.

121. Town Centre Development (Car Parking)

A member of the Town Plan Working Group presented the proposal (to allocate part of the Economic Development Budget towards seeking a valuation of the development land in Parliament Street) and asked for the Council's approval to proceed.

The importance of having a well prepared and costed plan was made by several members. Without this, it would be difficult to obtain external funding for a large and potentially expensive project.

Several members voiced concern over the use of scarce Council financial resources in trying to establish the worth and feasibility of a proposal with perceived limited value. However, it was generally accepted and agreed that the current situation was considered sufficiently important to merit a small investment of £500 towards seeking a full valuation. The Clerk to make the necessary arrangements.

122. Town Guide

A member of the Communications Working Group presented the revised (draft) Town Guide for the Council's consideration and approval. One final draft would be made available before publication.

The Council approved the draft guide, requesting the Working Group and Clerk to proceed.

Councillor Wright left the meeting.

123. Public Toilets

Ward members (MDDC) reported on the recent meeting with the MDDC Operations Manager, the MDDC Portfolio Holder, the Chairman and Clerk.

The meeting's main purpose was to ask MDDC to reconsider its decision to close the St Lawrence Green toilets once the Market Street toilets were opened for use.

MDDC were prepared to consider options. Essentially, a decision would need to be made whether to retain 3 or 4 toilets (St Lawrence Green, Old Town Hall Partnership, Market Street and Newcombes Meadow toilets).

MDDC would require a contribution and partnership arrangement in order to maintain a at least a minimum of 3 toilets.

After some discussion, it was agreed that the Town Plan Working Group should convene to discuss the issue and make a recommendation to full Council. It was further agreed to appoint Councillor Hughes as an additional member of the working group. It was hoped that the working group would be able to provide an indication of potential commitment in preparation for the Finance Committee meeting.

124. Crediton Link Road Consultation

a) Update

The County ward member provided an update on the current situation following the recent public exhibition. There was a general consensus of opinion that the exhibition had been successfully managed, presented and attended.

Professional advice indicated that the hillside route was easier and cheaper and would also be better used in comparison with the valley route (based on traffic modelling criteria). Experience based on knowledge of similar hill gradients appeared to discount the concerns raised by individuals and some community groups.

b) Council Response

After a short discussion it was unanimously agreed to support the hillside option as the Council's preferred route for the proposed link road.

125. Peoples Park Pathway

The sponsoring member had needed to leave the meeting, consequently, the matter was deferred to the next General Purposes Committee.

126. CCTV

In view of the sensitive and confidential nature of the business to be transacted, it was agreed, in the public interest, that the press and public be excluded and instructed to withdraw. Deferred to a Part Two Item at the end of the meeting.

127. Correspondence Received

1. MDDC – letter and copy of Handy Guide for Residents.
2. MDDC – letter from Monitoring Officer on next Code of Conduct Training session – Zeal Monachorum – 6 November (circulated).
3. Sue Read – Courier – suggestions for floral planters – agenda item at next GP.
4. Unison – update on pay negotiations.
5. MDDC – Agenda and papers for Council meeting – 22 October.
6. RBL – details on Annual Remembrance arrangements – Clerk to circulate to councillors.

7. MDCSP – minutes of Creedy LAG meeting 11 September and copy of updated action plan.
8. SLCC – membership survey, International Experience Programme and minutes of branch secretaries meeting held on 20 September.
9. DCC – letter and invitation to attend launch of Country Mile Project (circulated).
10. Crediton Climate Change – newsletter (circulated).
11. DAPC – agenda, minutes and papers for LCSC meeting on 30 October in Exeter. Chairman and, possibly, Clerk to attend.
12. DCC – temporary prohibition of through traffic. Possible agenda item at next meeting.
13. Section of Westwood Road 29 to 30 October inclusive
14. Peoples Park Road 3 to 7 November inclusive
15. DCC – LGPS employees guide on pension scheme.
16. DCC – response to draft proposal for unitary local government (circulated).
17. MDDC – Community Safety Partnership – letter to Fordton residents (tabled).

BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD

128. Closure of Crediton Information Centre

Agenda item at next meeting.

129. Butt Parks

The Clerk to report state of pavements and overhanging hedges to appropriate authority.

130. Annual Remembrance Service

Members were again reminded of the forthcoming Remembrance Services and the need to let the Clerk know attendance details for the Civic Service.

131. Street Cleaning

Councillor Nation (MDDC ward member) agreed to obtain a copy of the current street cleaning schedule for the town.

PART TWO

132. CCTV (Deferred from Minute 126)

The Chairman expressed his disappointment at the lack of response from accountable individuals.

The Clerk advised members on the Council's agreed policy and decisions. The Vice Chairman emphasised the Council's previously agreed limited responsibility in respect of CCTV equipment and that the Council had fully honoured its commitment.

It was agreed that the Chairman would reply to the Chairman of CAMM and liaise with the Town Council's representative to ensure attendance by the contractors.

It was further agreed that the Chamber of Commerce or CAMM would be expected to meet any additional expenditure incurred by the Council in the event that the Council or MDDC were not able to fund unforeseen or additional costs.

Meeting closed at 22:32 pm.

Signed:

(F Letch, Chairman)

Date:

PLANNING DECISIONS AND APPLICATIONS FOR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING 21/10/08

Planning Decisions – as notified by the Planning Authority:

DECISION	Type - Application Granted					
	Number	Applicant	Agent	Location	Proposal	Officer
	08/01480/FULL (13/08/2008)	Mr & Mrs Oldland Penrose Park Road Crediton Devon EX17 3ET	Apple Conservatories UK Ltd Unit 29B Apple Lane Sidmouth Road Sowton Exeter EX2 7HA	Penrose Park Road Crediton Devon EX17 3ET	Erection of a conservatory	Miss Tina Maryan
DECISION	Type - Application Granted					
	Number	Applicant	Agent	Location	Proposal	Officer
	08/01556/FULL (03/09/2008)	Mr D Cotton Sapphire Court Walsgrave Triangle Coventry CV2 2TX	Mr Tony Lyon T3 Retail Designs Ltd The Shorthorns Crifftin Enterprise Centre Oxton Road Epperstone Nottinghamshire NG14 6AT	Lloyds Pharmacy Threshers Crediton Devon EX17 3JJ	Installation of air conditioning condenser	Miss Tina Maryan

Planning Applications

APPLICATION	Type - Application Number	Applicant	Agent	Location	Proposal	Officer
	08/01645/FULL (09/10/2008)	Mr J Easton C/o Mr Keith Mortimer Upper Park 2 Searle Street Crediton Devon EX17 2AT		60 Greenway Crediton Devon EX17 3LP	Erection of conservatory (Revised Plan)	Miss Tina Maryan
	Approved -					
APPLICATION	Type - Application Number	Applicant	Agent	Location	Proposal	Officer
	KC/DCC/2715/2008 (10/10/2008)	Children & Young peoples Services Devon County Council County Hall Topsham Rd Exeter EX2 4QG	Mr S Hellier NPS South West Ltd County Hall Topsham Rd Exeter EX2 4QG	Newcombes Resource Centre Clifford Gardens Crediton	Single Story brick clad building for use as a children's centre adjacent to existing disused Newcombes Resources Centre	Kate Cantwell DCC
	No Objections – However, members considered the application as a missed opportunity to add to the social housing proposal for the rest of the site, by adding two additional flats in a second story above the Children’s Centre.					