

CREDITON HAMLETS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Crediton Hamlets Parish Council Meeting held at the Boniface Centre, Crediton on Monday 3rd February 2025

Present: Cllr Beasley, Cllr Brimacombe, Cllr Cole, Cllr Mortimer, Cllr Parker, Cllr Price, Cllr Stevens (Chair), Cllr Vigers, Cllr Yarnold and Cllr Letch (DCC)

In attendance: the Clerk and one member of the public

1. To receive and accept apologies:

Apologies received from Cllr Binks (MDDC) and Cllr Chenore (MDDC)

2. To receive declarations of personal and disclosable pecuniary interests in respect of items on the agenda

None

3. Public Discussion – an opportunity for members of the public to make representations, answer questions and give evidence in respect of any item on the agenda

None

4. Crediton Hamlets Parish Council Meeting Minutes 6th January 2025 – to consider the approval of the minutes as a correct record

It was **resolved** to approve the minutes as a correct record.

5. To receive a report from Cllr Letch (DCC) – for information only

Cllr Letch had previously submitted a written report which will be available on the Council’s website. The County Council has proposed decreasing the money available in the Locality Fund to £5,000 for each County Councillor. This money is important as it is a way for County Councillors to help parishes directly. Councillors have voted to retain the current amount (£8,000) and a decision is awaited. The Countywide Local Infrastructure Walking and Cycling Plan (LCWIP) includes paths/trails in 10 designated areas in Devon. One is the Boniface Trail which would provide a walking/cycling route from Crediton to Exeter. Consultation on the route is ongoing, in particular how closely the route will follow the A377 which would not be attractive for walkers.

Cllr Letch will not be standing at the next DCC election and introduced a possible candidate to take his place.

6. To receive a report from MDDC Councillors – for information only

None

7. Mid Devon District Council Planning Applications – to consider the following application upon which the Council has been asked to comment

Reference: 24/01758
Proposal: Erection of single storey front elevation
Location: 4 Dunscombe Cottages Newton St Cyres
Applicant: Mr T Richards

It was **resolved** to support this application.

8. Mid Devon District Council Planning Applications – to note that a consent has been granted for the following application with conditions as filed

Reference: 24/01760
Proposal: Variation of condition 2 of planning permission 23/01124 (Erection of two storey extension) to extend first floor elevation above garage
Location: 17 Yeoford Meadows Yeoford
Applicant: Mr & Mrs Harper

9. MDDC Community Risk Register – to consider the new Community Risk Register upon which the Council has been asked to comment

Signed Dated

This is a local risk register which MDDC is working to create on a local level (as opposed to the National Risk Register held by Central Government). By consulting with parishes MDDC is hoping to integrate with parishes. The Register covers all parishes and some risks are parish specific whereas others are more generic. Councillors **resolved** not to suggest any amendments. The Register is to be published by MDDC and reviewed annually.

10. Internal Audit for 2024/5 Financial Year – to resolve to appoint Mrs Penny Clapham as the Council’s Internal Auditor and to sign and return the Auditor’s letter of engagement

It was **resolved** to appoint Mrs Penny Clapham and sign and return the letter of engagement.

11. Gritting of Roads – to discuss the gritting of the road between Cheriton Bishop and Yeoford and agree associated actions

Cllrs Beasley and Yarnold explained that when the roads are icy the school bus does not pick up QE school children in Yeoford as bus drivers are not confident to come down the hill from Woodland Head. (The hill is not usually gritted in cold weather). This means that children are either late to school or do not attend at all. **Cllr Letch** and the **Clerk** will contact Cllr Stuart Hughes (the DCC Cabinet Member for Highway Management) to explain the issue and request that the road be added to the gritting route. Cllr Vigers explained that there is the same issue on the school bus route from Tedburn to Crediton.

12. Warning signs for Hookway – to receive an update and agree associated expenditure

Cllr Parker had earlier sent details of the proposed signs to the Clerk and these were circulated to Councillors at the meeting. There are 8 signs in total. £700 has been ringfenced in the Council’s reserves for this project. It was **resolved** to purchase the signs with the total cost for signs, posts and fixings not to exceed £700. **Clerk** to action.

13. Blocked roadside drains in the Parish – to discuss blocked roadside drains (which contribute to unacceptable flooding) and agree associated actions

Cllr Yarnold particularly raised the blocked drain outside Yeoford School which is badly silted up and when heavy rains occur is in danger of flooding local homes. Councillors cited many other drains which are in a similar state in the parish, despite Councillors doing what they can to clear them. Cllr Vigers reported that she had recently been on the DCC website to report a blocked drain in Venny Tedburn. The interactive map stated that the drain had been “inspected” the previous day. Clearly “inspection” does not mean that the drain will be cleared as it remained blocked. **Cllr Letch** and the **Clerk** will contact Cllr Stuart Hughes (the DCC Cabinet Member for Highway Management) to make a complaint.

Recent very heavy rains have caused serious flooding at various places in the parishes. Local residents and Councillors do what they can to clear drains but DCC is clearly not taking the appropriate action, putting people and property at risk. In view of this Councillors also discussed using precept monies to pay a contractor to clear drains. The Clerk understands that another parish is planning to do this in the upcoming financial year and will find out whether the project is successful then report back at a future meeting.

14. Yeoford Station – to consider making a grant for the planting of pots to improve the appearance of Yeoford Station and whether the Council should join the Community Rail Network for a fee of £25 plus VAT

Cllr Yarnold explained that he would like to obtain funding to make Yeoford Station more attractive for travellers and residents. (As has been done in Crediton and Copplestone). He has had a positive response from the GWR Station Manager and the process is now to make an application to the Community Rail Network. The Clerk explained that it will probably be necessary to join the Community Rail Network to access funding. It was **resolved** to pursue the project and to join the Network at an expected fee of £25 + VAT. **Clerk/Cllr Yarnold** to action.

15. 2025 Annual Parish Council Meeting and Annual Parish Meeting – to agree dates

It was agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting will commence at 7.15 pm on Monday the 3rd of March at Yeoford Community Hall (to be immediately followed by the March PC meeting). **Clerk** to publicise. The Annual Parish Council meeting will commence at 7.15 pm on Tuesday the 6th of May at Yeoford Community Hall (to be immediately followed by the May PC meeting).

16. Accounts 2024/25 – to approve the following payments and note the following receipts

Payments

Clerk pay (January)	£372.50
Citizens Advice (grant)	£400
Andrew Deptford (defibrillator and cabinet for Venny Tedburn)	£1614
Stephens Scown (VAT invoice for transfer of cemetery/car park)	£350

Signed Dated

Receipts

DCC Locality Fund – grant for Venny Tedburn defib	£500
Legacy	£1000
Yeoford Hearty Hearts – grant for maintenance of defib at The Duck	£500.65

It was **resolved** to approve the payments. Receipts noted and Councillors also noted the third quarter budget report, which the Clerk had previously circulated.

17. To receive a report from the Chair – for information only

The Chair thanked Cllr Letch for his dedicated support over the past few years. His efforts have been much appreciated and it is recognised that being a County Councillor must feel like pushing water up a hill at times. The Chair and Cllr Parker had both attended a meeting for Mid Devon Parish Councillors at Phoenix House on 30th January. Unfortunately Newton St Cyres was the only other PC represented. Cllr Binks and Cllr Chenore also attended. See report below.

18. To receive a report from Councillors – for information only

Cllr Parker reported on the issues covered at the MDDC meeting mentioned above. These included: Parish Rights of Way (PROW); the DCC Parish Paths Partnership Scheme (P3); including a QR code on noticeboards to increase public access to minutes etc; community transport links and road wardens. **Clerk** to provide information on the P3 Scheme prior to the next PC meeting. Cllr Vigers reported that the Venny Tedburn defibrillator will very shortly be operational and thanked Councillors and Cllr Letch their support for this project. Cllr Cole raised concerns that the road markings at Fordton Cross have still not been repainted so there remains a risk of serious accident. **Clerk** to contact Crediton Courier with a press release on this and **Cllr Mortimer** will arrange a photo and some wording. Cllr Beasley explained that a football tournament is being set up at Yeoford Community Hall. **Clerk** to investigate whether the PC has the power to award trophies, if that is something Councillors would want to do.

19. Correspondence/Clerk's Report – for information only

It has been decided not to pursue the idea of a mural on Yeoford bridge. No response has been received from DCC regarding the road markings at Fordton Cross, flooding at Downs and use of S106 money at Westernlea.

20. Next Meetings: 3rd March (Yeoford Community Hall) Annual Parish Meeting at 7.15 immediately followed by Council meeting, 7th April (Boniface Centre), 6th May (Tuesday due to Bank Holiday) (Yeoford Community Hall) Annual Parish Council meeting at 7.15 immediately followed by Council meeting, 2nd June (Boniface Centre), 7th July (Yeoford Community Hall), 1st September (Yeoford Community Hall), 6th October (Yeoford Community Hall), 3rd November (Boniface Centre), 1st December (Yeoford Community Hall) (all meetings commence at 7.30 pm unless otherwise stated).

Signed Dated