

## Minutes of the Crediton Hamlets Parish Council Meeting held at the Boniface Centre, Crediton on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2025

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

### 1. To receive and accept apologies

None received

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

None

### 3. Public Discussion

None

### 4. Crediton Hamlets Parish Council Meeting Minutes 6<sup>th</sup> May 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 MDDC Councillors – for information only

Cllr Binks reported that Cllr Chenore is now Vice-Chair of MDDC. MDDC is thought to be in the top 5% of councils in the country for recycling of waste.

### 6. To receive a report from the DCC Councillor – for information only

Cllr Cairney updated councillors on the political “make up” of the newly elected County Council. All parties will have to work together to achieve the Government’s proposed two-tier structure.

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

Reference: 25/00356 – amended description and additional information  
 Proposal: Demolition of former accommodation block known as “Nazareth” and erection of 1 self-build dwelling & detached garage  
 Location: Land at NGR 281381 97495 Former Posbury St Francis Posbury  
 Applicant: Mr C Burnet-Hitchcock

Councillors noted that the applicant had provided additional information but **resolved** to continue to object to the application for the reasons set out in their previous objection submitted to the MDDC Planning Portal on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2025. **Clerk** to action and re-state the request that the application be called in if the planning officer is minded to consent.

Reference: 25/00589 & 25/00585  
 Proposal: Erection of roof over existing yard, silage clamps, dung store and livestock gathering area  
 Location: Land & buildings at NGR 279571 97814 and 279573 97800  
 Applicant: Mr M Palfrey

Councillors noted that the applicant is working with the Environment Agency to reduce water and air pollution and **resolved** to support the application.

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

Reference: 25/00121/LBC  
 Proposal: Listed Building Consent for replacement of storm damaged roof  
 Location: Shephards Westwood Westwood Crediton  
 Applicant: Mr & Mrs D Charlesworth

### 9. Mid Devon District Council Planning Applications – to note that consent has been refused for the following application for reasons as filed

Reference: 24/00930  
 Proposal: Erection of a holiday unit with landscaping works

Location: Land at NGR 282465 99000 (Beare Mill) Crediton  
 Applicant: Mr J Carthy

**10. Annual Internal Audit Report 2024/25** – to note the contents (report circulated to Councillors before the meeting)

The Clerk reported that the audit went very well with no concerns raised. Councillors noted the Auditor's suggestions that the Council should consider moving to internet banking and outsourcing the payroll.

**11. Certificate of Exemption 2024/25**– to resolve to certify that the Council is exempt from the limited assurance review under S9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015 (Certificate circulated to Councillors with agenda)

The Clerk reported that the higher of the Council's gross income or gross expenditure did not exceed £25,000 for the year ending 31 March 2025. It was **resolved** (proposed – Cllr Mortimer, seconded Cllr Parker) to certify that the Council is exempt from the limited assurance review. **Clerk** to submit the Certificate to the External Auditor by the end of June.

**12. Annual Governance Statement 2024/25** – to consider, approve and sign the statement (statement circulated to councillors with agenda)

Councillors had previously read the Statement and were content that the Council has a sound system of internal control. It was **resolved** to approve and sign the statement (proposed – Cllr Yarnold, seconded – Cllr Beasley)

**13. Annual Accounting Statement 2024/25** – to consider, approve and sign the statement (statement circulated to councillors with agenda)

Councillors **resolved** to approve and sign the Accounting Statement (proposed – Cllr Cole, seconded – Cllr Brimacombe). **Clerk** to publish the Council's accounts and governance return for the exercise of public rights for a period of 30 consecutive days to include the first 10 days of July as required by law. **Clerk** to submit the Annual Governance and Accountability Return to the external auditor by the 1<sup>st</sup> of July.

**14. Defibrillator for Woodland Head** – to discuss and agree associated actions

Cllr Price reported that he has spoken with residents of Woodland Head and received support for a defibrillator. A location which is suitable for connection to a power supply has been agreed. Cllr Cairney indicated that he would support an application to the Locality Fund for a grant towards the cost. **Clerk** to submit the application for a grant of £500, research suitable defibrillators and report back at the July meeting.

**15. Removal of the Waste Bin by the Duck in Yeoford** – to discuss and agree associated actions

Cllr Yarnold reported that MDDC had removed the waste bin, without warning, because it is situated on private land. There is one other waste bin at the other end of Yeoford which MDDC will, presumably, retain and continue to empty. One bin is not sufficient for a village of the size of Yeoford and the owners of the Duck are concerned that people will continue to leave waste, especially dog waste, where the bin used to be. **Clerk** to write to MDDC to ask that they re-consider. Cllr Binks (MDDC) will do the same.

**16. Update on Yeoford Station**

Cllr Yarnold reported that he and 3 other volunteers had attended the training. The grant for the planting from the Community Rail Network is not yet forthcoming, Clerk to send the cheque (already signed) to join the network.

**17. DCC response to the PC's letter of 14<sup>th</sup> March regarding the state of roads in the Parish and poor communication by DCC** (circulated to Councillors on 8<sup>th</sup> May)

Councillors noted the response which provided information about flooding on roads, road markings (refresh scheduled for the summer), the standard of repair works and quality control by MDDC. Cllr Cairney explained that DCC's strategy is to bring road repairs back in house if that provides better value and that he will do his best to hold DCC to account.

**18. Accounts 2025/2026** – to approve the following payments

Clerk pay (May)	£415.57
Lloyds Bank Charges (10 Mar to 9 Apr)	£5.65
HMRC	£20.00
Yeoford Community Association (Hall hire)	£42

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

The Chair reported that he had attend the VE Day celebrations in Crediton and thanked the Councillors who had represented the Council at the late Cllr Frank Letch's funeral. Councillors asked the Clerk to record in the minutes their thanks for and appreciation of Cllr Letch's dedication and hard work for the Council over many years. His contribution was and will continue to be much appreciated.

**20. To receive a report from Councillors – for information only**

Cllr Beasley circulated photographs of the damaged bridge at Keymelford. It has still not been repaired despite the Clerk having reported it earlier in the year and two others having also reported it. **Clerk** to try again. The barriers on both sides are damaged/removed and the bridge is a hazard.

Cllr Vigers asked about plans to recruit a new Clerk on the current Clerk's retirement in the autumn. The **Clerk** will start work on a job description and advert once the annual accounts are published.

**21. Correspondence/Clerk's Report**

None

**22. Next Meetings:** 7<sup>th</sup> July (Yeoford Community Hall), 1<sup>st</sup> September (Yeoford Community Hall), 6<sup>th</sup> October (Yeoford Community Hall), 3<sup>rd</sup> November (Boniface Centre), 1<sup>st</sup> December (Yeoford Community Hall) (all meetings commence at 7.30 pm unless otherwise stated).