

CREDITON HAMLETS PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Crediton Hamlets Parish Council meeting held on the 4th of January 2022 at St Boniface Hall,
Crediton**

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

In Attendance: the Clerk and 1 member of the press

1. To receive and accept apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Brimacombe and Cllr Penny (MDDC)

2. To receive Declarations of Interest

None were declared.

3. Public Discussion

No members of public were present

4. Crediton Hamlets Council Meeting Minutes 6th December 2021

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

5. Report from Cllr Letch (DCC) – for information only

Cllr Letch reported that a parishioner from Yeoford has contacted him with concerns about the state of the road in/near Yeoford. Cllr Letch will be meeting with the parishioner on Saturday. Councillors have reported concerns from another parishioner about the standard of the recent bridge repair works carried out at Neopardy. Cllr Letch will be taking these concerns up with the appropriate DCC officer. Yeoford School has purchased educational books raising social awareness with a £120 grant from the Locality Fund.

6. Report from MDDC Councillors– for information only

Cllr Coren reported on the success of the Christmas Lights competition at Yeoford.

7. Mid Devon District Council Planning Application – to consider the following application upon which MDDC had asked the Council to comment:

Reference: 21/02361/HOUSE
 Proposal: Conversion of store to living accommodation and demolition of log store and part of garage
 Location: Orchard View Gunstone
 Applicant: Mr R Dunn

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

Signed

Date

- 8. Mid Devon District Council Planning Decisions** – it was noted that Mid Devon District Council has granted permission for the following development with conditions as filed:

Reference: 21/02185/CAT
 Proposal: Notification of intention to fell 1 Oak tree (T1) and 1 Spruce (T2) within a Conservation Area
 Location: Rose Cottage The Village Yeoford
 Applicant: Mr S Brooking

- 9. Mid Devon District Council Planning Decision** – to note that Mid Devon District Council has approved the prior approval for the following development with conditions as filed:

Reference: 21/02041/PNCOU
 Proposal: Prior notification for the change of use of an agricultural building to 2 dwellings under Class Q
 Location: Land and building at NGR 280222 97021 (Cabbage Moor) Crediton
 Applicant: Mrs H Putt and Mrs C Rowe

- 10. Mid Devon District Council Planning Decision** – to note that Mid Devon District Council has granted a Certificate of Lawful Use for the following development:

Reference: 21/01934/CLP
 Proposal: Erection of side and rear extension following demolition of existing conservatory
 Location: 6 The Oaks Yeoford
 Applicant: Mr S Beard

- 11. Budget** – to agree the draft budget for 2022/23

The Clerk reported on the updated draft budget which Councillors **resolved** to approve.

- 12. Precept** – to agree the precept request for 2022/23

It was **resolved** to increase the precept by 3% to allow for inflationary increases in PC expenses and help with the purchase of additional defibrillators for the parish. This will result in a very small increase (if any) in the Council Tax paid by parishioners as MDDC are assuming a higher collection rate for 2022/23.

- 13. Citizens Advice** - to consider a request for a grant received from Citizens Advice Torridge, North, Mid & West Devon

Councillors noted that between April and September 2021 Citizens Advice supported 10 clients from the parish with advice and information on 19 individual issues. Benefits and Tax Credits were the most common issue dealt with. It was **resolved** to make a grant of £150 on the proviso that the money must be put towards the provision of extra support for residents of and around Crediton.

- 14. CHAT** – to consider a request for a grant received from CHAT (Church Housing Action Team (Mid Devon))

After discussion it was **resolved** not to make a grant to CHAT as Councillors felt they did not have sufficient information about the organisation.

- 15. Mid Devon District Council Parish Review 2021/2022** – to consider a response to the first stage of consultation on the current and future governance and structure of parish councils across Mid Devon

Signed

Date

This item to be carried forward to the February meeting at which Councillors will have access to maps of the parish.

16. Accounts 2021/2 – following payment was approved and receipts noted:

Payment: Clerk Salary (December)	£322.08
Receipts: Contributions towards cost of Life Support Training	£100

17. To receive a report from the Chairman: for information only

The Chair reported that he had helped open up a flooded road by clearing ditches on land belonging to another landowner. Cllrs discussed information previously received from DCC's Highways Officer which was that DCC are only responsible for clearing road drain grids in tarmac and that all other clearance of ditches, gulleys etc is the responsibility of the owner of the adjoining land, even when there is a hedge or fence between the adjoining land and the road. Cllrs commented that parishioners are not aware of this and also that roads in adjoining counties are kept in a better state of repair and condition. Cllrs also commented that, as DCC neglects the roads and do not keep the road drain grids clear, the situation is made impossible for adjoining landowners as their land and ditches flood or block up with silt because the road drains in the tarmac are themselves blocked. Cllrs explained that, when contacted by parishioners about problems with roads, they always report the issues to DCC but nothing is done by the Highways Team. Councillors expressed their extreme frustration at this as parishioners are likely to think that they have done nothing, which is not the case. Cllrs also expressed their frustration about the lack of response from the Highways Officer which is not acceptable. Residents pay their council tax but do not receive an acceptable service of roads from DCC. Councillors asked **Cllr Letch** to contact the Highways Officer's line manager to explain their concerns and improve communications and the standard of service.

18. To receive reports from Councillors: for information only

Cllr Yarnold reported that he had been contacted by a Yeoford resident about the recent flooding at the Chapel which made the road impassable for cars. The resident was very angry as this has been a problem for years yet DCC have done nothing to prevent it happening. Cllrs commented that when DCC do come out to clear the road drains they no longer use rods so the drains are not properly cleared. Cllr Yarnold also reported on the standard of bridge repair at Yeoford (see also item 5 above) which was absolutely shocking as evidenced by photos supplied by a parishioner. The road was closed for 10 days for work which only took 2 days and was sub-standard. All these issues to be taken up with DCC Highways by **Cllr Letch**.

Cllr Vigers reported that the public footpath from Venny Tedburn to Posbury Church has been blocked by new fencing and a padlocked gate. There is a cattle grid but this is not passable for all pedestrians. Cllr Vigers has spoken with local residents and understands that one resident has already contacted DCC. **Cllr Vigers** will provide relevant information to the clerk so that she can take up the issue with DCC's Footpath Officer.

Cllr Parker reported that residents of Hookway would like 20 is Plenty and No HGV signs. **Cllr Yarnold** will provide details of those already up in Yeoford. Cllr Parker suggested the PC could buy a projector for use at meetings so that planning application plans etc can be considered in detail. He will cost up for the next meeting and/or bring his own projector for a trial run.

Signed

Date

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

Nothing to report

20. Dates of Next Meetings: 7th February (Yeoford Community Hall), 7th March (Boniface Centre), 4th April (Yeoford Community Hall), 3rd May (Tuesday due to bank holiday – Boniface Centre), 6th June (Yeoford Community Hall), 4th July (Boniface Centre), 5th September (Yeoford Community Hall), 3rd October (Boniface Centre), 7th November (Yeoford Community Hall), 5th December (Boniface Centre)

Signed

Date