

1. Present: Sue, Ray, Jenny, John B, Judy

Apologies: Xante, Amy D, Lloyd K, George, Elizabeth S, Graham S

Unknown: Janet J, PTFA Rep

The meeting started quite late, as originally we were not quorate, so needed to phone any that we hoped had just forgotten! (Sue's apologies, as the original date had to be altered for her sake.)

2. Notes from 22nd September meeting: Sue apologised for the several typos in the document – she had clearly not proof read the notes before sending to Ray for circulation! Apart from that, the notes were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

Matters arising: We did get a Love your Town Centre from MDDC, for which thanks. It is specifically for our SpringFest on 13th April 2024. More on this later. Meadow Lane update follows. Wed market update follows. Mobile library update follows.

3. CTC update; Meeting held on 25th January. Agenda items included feedback on Town Survey, which included street furniture. We need to resolve the issue of the youth shelter, much wanted by local families who visit the skatepark with their families (though not mentioned in CTC survey results). The money came from MDDC, and was earmarked, so we can't spend it on anything else, and probably should now be offering to return it, if there is no way forward (CTC opposition to it remains).

We were given a presentation by MDDC Officers of their recommendations for J28 and CTCRR (note, no DCC Officers were present). There had been 2 public consultations (8th and 10th Jan), with positive feedback, largely, though serious reservations about the Meadow Lane/Padbrook roundabout intersections in particular. This item is scheduled for DCC discussion in March. Funding is yet to be confirmed (after losing previous awards x3). Sue has delivered MDDC Flood Guide to all homes affected in November 2023, and issued some to CTC members and public at the recent CTC meeting. There are more in the Library if members of TT know of anyone who would like a copy. CTC has not yet completed its Emergency Procedures document (of which flooding would be just one part). Once this is complete there will be a public meeting to present it.

MDDC: HAZ projects almost completed now. The Upper Bullring work is close to completion, having been badly held up by rain. Planting will happen w.b. 5th February. Cobble stones by Carpet shop will be completed later this year (Cormac staff were unable to meet the standard, so currently it is gravel).

Awards for various buildings of historic interest have all been granted, and the work must be completed by the end of March. This should greatly improve the High Street's appearance. Sadly the Town Hall missed out on a big pot of money, only because the MDDC Conservation Officer opposed the plans, and HAZ award time then elapsed. (MDDC must be asked if this can be rectified in the fairly recent future.)

DCC: Mobile Library scheme is being slowly reduced to non-existence during 2024, as Family Hubs in various of our settlements is discussed/planned. These should be operational in 2025.

The railway station is due to open in Autumn 2025, despite the fact that J28 and CTCRR won't be in place by then.

John B confirmed that J28/CTCRR will be discussed by Cabinet in March. He will update us at our next meeting.

4. J28: Reported above.
5. Relief Road: Also reported above.
6. Emergency procedure: Also reported above.
7. Financial Report; Ray had circulated a spreadsheet earlier in the day. Please study it, so that we can discuss at our next meeting. Note that it has several pages, headings bottom left of your screen. Our accounts are currently quite healthy, with income from adverts in 'What's On' etc.
8. Information Report: Website receives a goodly number of visits (1000+ p.c.m.), and FB also (2800+).
9. Dates to Remember: Wednesday February 14th Upper Bullring, Wednesday Market, 'back home' celebration day. We hope that BBC Spotlight will be present, and that some Farmers' Market stallholders will come and help to boost stalls and footfall. Hot drinks will be available in the Walronds, where the Wool Trail will also be available for families to enjoy together. A singer will join us for parts of the morning, and Judy's display boards on her talk 'The History of Cullompton's High Street', will, we hope, be on show, together with some thought provoking questions that families can focus on. Please spread the word, as we want plenty of people there! CTC members are asked to visit that day too. John and Rosemary hope to be there, etc.
Saturday 16th March, quiz night at JTC, to raise money for MacMillan and for JTC. Tables of 6, a professional quiz master, hot main meal, plus desert, and a bar. To date only 3 tables booked, we need 6+ to break even, and ideally 10. Please promote this event.
SpringFest Saturday 13th April: Festival Group is planning this carefully. Cooking in Town Hall, a family session, Eastern European menu, but with a Devon twist. Music and a prize draw in the Church. Craft Market and family gardening activities in the Walronds. Farmers' Market in Upper Bullring. Please promote this widely, as we want it to be a day of family fun and celebration – posters should be available soon.
10. Next meeting: Wednesday 17th April, 2pm, Zoom. Brief AGM (to readjust the timing after a 'missed' one!), followed by normal meeting. Agenda to include Finances, J28 and CTCRR, Youth Shelter, Emergency Procedures updates, and review of SpringFest.
Meeting ended at 3.05pm.