

CREWKERNE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the **ANNUAL TOWN MEETING OF ELECTORS** held in the Victoria Hall, Market Square, Crewkerne on Monday 15 April 2019 at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT :

Kathy Head Mayor of Crewkerne (in the Chair)
Peter Davidson Town Clerk

Approximately 50 local government electors of the Parish of Crewkerne and 4 other persons.

The Town Crier, David Craner, announced the opening of the meeting with a special cry.

1. **INTRODUCTION BY CLLR. MRS KATHY HEAD, THE MAYOR**

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending. She said there would be an opportunity for electors to ask questions or to raise matters of concern following the presentations.

2. **ANNUAL HONOURED CITIZENSHIP AWARD PRESENTATION**

The Mayor presented an Award to Mr Richard Hall. Mr Hall was well known in Crewkerne as the energetic, generous and hard-working proprietor of Oscars wine bar. He supports many of Crewkerne's voluntary organisations and had bolstered many of the town's sporting, artistic, recreational and leisure events with his enthusiastic and lively input.

Mr Hall accepted the award and thanked everyone. He highlighted the fact that his mother and father had both worked tirelessly to support the town and he considered that he was accepting this award on their behalf.

The Mayor then presented an award to Mr Norman (Tim) Udall. Mr Udall had served not only on the Town Council but also given staunch support to the Twinning Committee as well as the Rotary Club. He was currently a trustee of the Henhayes Centre where his knowledge and calm appraisal of problems were proving invaluable.

Mr Udall accepted the award and thanked everyone, paying particular thanks to his family for their support. He recounted that the Victoria Hall held special memories for him, dating back to his time as a pupil in the local boys' school.

3. **MAYOR'S COMMENDATION AWARD**

The Mayor presented the Mayor's Commendation Award to Mr David Craner. The award was given in recognition of his dedicated service to the community of Crewkerne, as the Town Crier for Crewkerne for the last 12 years.

Mr Craner accepted the award and thanked everyone. He said that the highlights of his time as Town Crier were the Queen's visit and the fact he had been made Honorary Town Crier for Crewkerne's twin towns of Igny and Bures-sur-Yvette.

4. **INTRODUCTION OF TOWN COUNCILLORS**

The Mayor introduced the Councillors and thanked them for their support through the year. She paid particular thanks to the four Councillors who were not standing at the forthcoming elections: Cllrs. Mrs Rusty Jackson, Miss Katy Pritchard, Mrs Angie Singleton and Neil Sturtivant.

5. **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL TOWN MEETING ON MONDAY 16 APRIL 2018**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Annual Town Meeting of Electors held on Monday 16 April 2018 were **APPROVED**.

6. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES**

The Clerk reported that reducing one-use plastic and permit parking had both been raised at last year's meeting.

- **Reduction of one-use plastic**: the Clerk advised that the Deputy Clerk was investigating a number of initiatives around the theme of reducing one-use plastics. This was going to be a focus of attention at the forthcoming summer food festival. In addition, the Deputy Clerk was exploring potential grant funding to enable a water filling station to be installed in the Town Hall Local Information Centre.
- **Permit parking**: the Clerk reiterated the point made at last year's meeting, that permit parking schemes were managed, organised and run by Somerset County Council.

7. **TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE POLICE**

Constable Chris Purcell described the work of the local policing team, highlighting the fact that the priority was very much for the team to work within the community as much as possible, to ensure that the police presence was both visible and accessible.

8. **TO RECEIVE THE MAYOR'S ANNUAL REPORT OF CREWKERNE TOWN COUNCIL BY CLLR. MRS KATHY HEAD**

Cllr. Mrs Head gave a presentation which highlighted the key points in this year's Mayor's Annual Report, written copies of which were available at the meeting.

9. **TO RECEIVE AN ANNUAL REPORT ON THE ACTIVE LIFESTYLE CENTRE AND CREWKERNE AQUA CENTRE FROM CLAIRE SAXBY, DIRECTOR OF CREWKERNE LEISURE MANAGEMENT**

The Mayor welcomed Mrs Claire Saxby, Chairman of Crewkerne Leisure Management (CLM) to the meeting.

Mrs Saxby reported that the last year had been challenging for CLM, with major expenditure both committed and planned, in order to maintain and enhance the facilities at the Aqua Centre. She emphasised that the team of loyal volunteers were key to the continuing success of the Aqua Centre but noted that, with great regret, Neil Sturtivant, the Aqua Centre Manager, had tendered his resignation.

10. **TO RECEIVE AN ANNUAL REPORT ON THE GEORGE REYNOLDS CENTRE FROM CREWKERNE SPORTS AND YOUTH ACTIVITIES LTD (CSYAL)**

The Mayor noted that Mr Carr, Director of Crewkerne Sports and Youth Activities Ltd. (CSYAL), had been unable to attend the meeting and that Mr Samuel of the Royal British Legion had kindly agreed to present a report to the meeting on behalf of CSYAL.

Mr Samuel reported that, for CSYAL, the year had been one of stability and gradual improvement in usage of the GRC. The staff and Directors had worked hard to support the running of the GRC throughout the year.

11. **TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION FROM ROSEMARY PRINCE, CHAIR OF TRUSTEES, ON THE HENHAYES CENTRE**

The Mayor welcomed Ms Rosemary Prince, Chair of Trustees, on the Henhayes Centre to the meeting.

Ms Prince thanked the Town Council for the grant towards the Henhayes Centre, which was needed to support their core services. She summarised the varied programme of activities undertaken at the Centre. She also explained that the Centre had been managed by the team of voluntary trustees but the decision had been taken to take on a manager for the Centre, whose focus would be on sourcing grant funding and in increasing usage of the Centre.

12. **TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM SOUTH SOMERSET DISTRICT COUNCIL (SSDC) REGARDING SSDC PRESENCE IN THE TOWN HALL FRONT OFFICE**

The Mayor welcomed Ms Sharon Jones, Customer Focused Team Manager, South Somerset District Council (SSDC).

Ms Jones gave the meeting an informative presentation, explaining how SSDC's front-facing services were in the process of being transformed in a way which promoted self service solutions to customer need

13. **TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE CREWKERNE BRANCH OF THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION**

The Mayor welcomed Mr Tony (Sam) Samuel and Mrs Alice Samuel, of the Crewkerne Branch of the Royal British Legion (RBL).

Mr and Mrs Samuel described the work of the Legion and the many events organised over the last year by the Crewkerne Branch, which had gone from strength to strength over the last few years. They thanked Mrs Sarah Wills, the GRC Manager, for making them so welcome at the GRC.

14. **PRESENTATION OF GRANTS CHEQUES TO LOCAL GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS**

The Mayor presented grant cheques to the following community groups:

- Crewkerne & District Museum & Heritage Centre
- Crewkerne Bowling Club (West Street)
- Crewkerne Gardening Club
- Crewkerne in Bloom

- Crewkerne Men's Shed
- Crewkerne Ranger Guide Unit
- Crewkerne Sports and Youth Activities Limited
- Crewkerne Tea Dance Group
- CUDOS
- Henhayes Community Centre
- Rotary Club of Crewkerne District
- Severalls Jubilee Bowls Club
- The Speedwell
- Twinning Association
- an annual allowance to David Craner, the Town Crier.

15. **MATTERS RAISED BY CREWKERNE RESIDENTS**

The Mayor invited residents to ask questions or raise any concerns.

Residents raised the following points:

- A resident noted that this winter's Christmas lights had looked lovely.
- A member of public raised a point about a planning application which, upon clarification, was not applicable to the parish of Crewkerne.

The meeting closed at 8.47 p.m.

Signed:

Dated:

THE MAYOR'S REPORT

Welcome to the 2018/19 edition of the Council's Annual Report, which aims to keep you informed about the work that the Council is doing on your behalf.

There are reports from each of the Council Committees, as well as a financial report and the Council's list of achievements within the year. These are challenging times for local councils as central government funding continues to shrink. Nevertheless, as you will see in these reports, the Council has been very active this year and has made substantial progress on a number of projects and continues to work hard to maintain the council-owned buildings and play and recreation areas.

In recognition of their outstanding contribution for the benefit of the town and its citizens, Richard Hall and Tim Udall have been elected Honoured Citizens of Crewkerne this year.

Richard is, of course, well known as the proprietor of Oscars wine bar but this award recognises that Richard generously supports many of Crewkerne's voluntary organisations, including provision of a meeting place for the Men's Shed group and loyal support to groups such as the Crewkerne Churches Together, CUDOS and the Museum and Heritage Centre.

Tim served on the Town Council and was Chairman in 1979/80 and has also served on the Twinning Committee and as a member of the Rotary Club. Tim was a guiding light with the old Crewkerne Day Centre and now plays a leading role, as Chairman, in the management of the Henhayes Centre.

I would like to thank my fellow Councillors who do an excellent job on your behalf in ensuring that Crewkerne remains a vibrant town. However, they could not do this without the Town Council staff and a large number of volunteers who help out with various groups and organisations in the town. I would also like to thank them all for their continuing effort on behalf of the community.

Cllr. Mrs Kathy Head, Mayor