

CREWKERNE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of CREWKERNE TOWN COUNCIL held at 18.45 in the Beech Suite, George Reynolds Centre on Monday 24th January 2022.

PRESENT

Cllrs. K. Head (Mayor) (part), T. Bond, R. Cottle, B. Hodgson, J. Roberts, J. Roundell Greene, A. Samuel, A. Stuart, and D. Wakeman.

In attendance: Town Clerk K. Sheehan, Deputy Clerk L. Gowers and four members of the public.

162 TO NOTE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

21/22

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. C. Aslett (personal), M. Best (personal), and R. Pailthorpe (unwell). Cllr. Head apologised as she would be leaving part way through the meeting to meet a personal commitment.

163 OPEN FORUM

21/22

Cllr. Head reported that a series of detailed written questions regarding aspects of the CLR development had been received ahead of the meeting. The queries had been raised with SSDC as the Planning Authority and answered in detail by an SSDC officer, as below:

“Q1. The Document (SECTION 106 -SCC S 106), of 19/03483/S73 shows a phasing plan (13072/0102 A) which does not include the link road to Blacknell Lane. What agreement is there for this link road to be built and when?”

This is set out in the S.106 between Somerset County Council and Taylor Wimpey and requires the link prior to occupation of the 199th dwelling. TW's phasing plan forming part of the reserved matters application shows it as part of the 110 dwelling phase forming part of the southern section reserved matters approval.

In response to a further query about where haulage of building materials enters the site, the planning officer wrote:

The link to Blacknell Lane is triggered by an occupancy level set out in the Section 106 between SCC as Highways Authority and TW and is not required to be provided prior to commencement of development on site. Access from Station Road is direct and from the same road.

“Q2. The Construction Ecology Management Plan (210716_P309_CECOMP_Final), of 21/02056/DOC1 shows (Figure 4: Outline Site Landscape Plan) where the lime trees along Station Road are to be replaced, (Figure 5: Phase 1 Landscape plans) where the existing hedge and trees along Station Road are to be removed, and (Figure 7: Tree protection plan (Aspect Tree Consultancy, 2019)) where the lime trees are also shown to be removed. Why are these plans still showing the removal of these lime trees and how will this Construction Ecology Management Plan protect the trees from being cut down?”

The S73 permission 19/03483/S73 approved the removal of the lime trees. This was still the case when SSDC approved the 110 dwellings under reserved matters application

20/00149/REM. By the time we took that application to committee we had agreed a revised design to retain the majority of these trees, however a number of the supporting reports prepared at that time reflected the approved position. Subsequently, as agreed with TW they submitted a Non Material Amendment application 21/01152/NMA which updated the 19/03483/S73. This provided the new, approved junction design which is the one TW are currently working to.

“Q3. Could you please also tell me how the Planning Inspectorate’s decision not to upgrade the footpaths CH33/34, CH33/35 and CH33/36 to restricted byways will affect the CLR plan?”

It doesn’t, that proposal sought to alter the status of the routes. TW will need to secure diversion orders where their layouts seek to alter or cross public routes.

“Q4. Why wasn’t the haul road on the original plan?”

The 2005 application considered a single application proposal, haul roads are an inevitable requirement of development and under the single application would have been contained wholly within the application site. The issue now is the site is split into two phases & to develop the southern phase they need to bring material from the northern phase which is the subject of a separate planning permission. Haul roads are generally dealt with as part of the operational phase of development, not dealt with at the outline planning application stage.

“Q5. What was the value of the bond that TW has put aside?”

This is an issue between SCC as the Highways Authority and the applicant, not SSDC.

A representative of Space4Crewkerne raised the issue of the pedestrian crossing on East Street, noting that the markings had become very faint and was a safety concern. She noted that, from September, younger children would be relying on this crossing to access Wadham Secondary School and asked that any possible ways to improve the crossing be pursued.

164 **MINUTES**
21/22

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 December 2021 were AGREED.

165 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
21/22 in items on the agenda

No declarations of interest were made at this point.

Cllr. Head, with the agreement of all councillors present, moved Items 8a-e, up the agenda as she was due to leave the meeting for a personal commitment.

166 **FINANCE**
21/22 a. To approve the accounts for payment as listed

The Clerk reported that Cllr. Pailthorpe had verified the accounts for payment in accordance with the Council’s Financial Regulations. Accounts for payment for 24 January 2022 in the sum of £48,126.95 were APPROVED.

b. To report the bank reconciliation for December 2021 has been completed

The Clerk reported that Cllr. Pailthorpe had verified the bank reconciliation for December 2021. It was noted that cash in hand as of 31 December 2021 was £316,398.47.

c. To approve the recommendation of the Policy & Resources Committee for grant awards for 2022/23

Subject to an amendment to the amount awarded to Severalls War Memorial Gardening group (amended to £475), reflecting that the requested sleepers had been provided free of charge by SSDC, it was **AGREED** to approve the recommendation of the Policy and Resources Committee for grant awards for 2022/23.

d. To approve the recommendation of the Policy & Resources Committee for the setting of the budget for 2022/23

Cllr. Bond stated that she felt unable to support the proposed budget and precept recommendations due to increasing living costs which would leave many households with additional financial pressures.

At the request of Cllr. Bond, a recorded vote was held and votes were cast accordingly:

IN FAVOUR of approving the budget recommendation from the P&R Committee:
Cllrs. Cottle, Head, Hodgson, Roberts, Roundell Greene, Samuel, Stuart and Wakeman.
AGAINST approving the budget recommendation from the P&R Committee:
Cllr. Bond.
ABSTENTIONS: none.

It was therefore **AGREED** to approve the recommendation of the Policy and Resources Committee for the setting of the budget for 2022/23.

e. To approve the overall Precept for 2022/23

At the request of Cllr. Bond, a recorded vote was held and votes were cast accordingly:

IN FAVOUR of approving the overall precept recommendation from the P&R Committee:
Cllrs. Cottle, Head, Hodgson, Roberts, Roundell Greene, Samuel, Stuart and Wakeman.
AGAINST approving the precept recommendation from the P&R Committee:
Cllr. Bond.
ABSTENTIONS: none.

It was therefore **AGREED** to set the precept for 2022/23 in the sum of £466,525, which equated to a 6.5% increase in the equivalent Band D charge per household, or an extra 97 pence per month.

Cllr. Head apologised that she now had to leave and proposed that Cllr. Roundell Greene take the chair for the remainder of the meeting. This, seconded by Cllr. Wakeman, was duly **AGREED** and Cllr. Head left the meeting.

Cllr. Roundell Green in the chair.

None.

District Council

Cllr Hodgson noted that the council tax support scheme had been renewed for a further year.

168 **CLERK'S PROGRESS REPORT**

21/22

The Clerk reported that the Mayor would shortly be launching the 2022 Honoured Citizen Award, with the final award to be made at the Annual Town Meeting on 4th April 2022.

Additionally, she noted that the Falkland Square toilet refurbishment project was nearing completion, with the disabled toilet window outstanding and the tarmac path reinstatements due in the near future.

169 **PLANNING**

21/22

21/03651/LBC – Lloyds Bank Plc – Removal of external signage and an external ATM

Some discussion took place on the planned removal of the ATM, with councillors noting that this would leave the town with limited provision for cash withdrawals.

It was **AGREED** that the town council would support the comments of the SSDC planning officer and request that the ATM be left in operation for as long as possible.

170 **WEBSITE**

21/22

To receive an update on the new website

Cllr. Roberts reported that she had presented the website to councillors and received a positive response. Moving forward, the staff would receive website training early February with a provisional launch date in the w/c 21st February.

171 **TOWN HALL REPLACEMENT BOILER**

21/22

To consider quotations received for a replacement boiler

Councillors considered an initial quotation for the replacement of the defunct boiler at the Town Hall, which had since been matched, like for like, by a different heating engineer with availability to undertake the works sooner. Councillors agreed that this work was a priority in view of the welfare of staff and volunteers in the current cold weather and supported efforts to progress the work as quickly as possible.

It was **AGREED** to delegate this matter to the Clerk in consultation with the Chair.

172 **HENHAYES FOOTBALL PITCH**

21/22

To consider whether to enter into a pitch maintenance agreement with Crewkerne Rangers FC to support their application for funding

It was **AGREED** to enter into a pitch maintenance agreement with Crewkerne Rangers Football Club, subject to:

- confirmation from CRFC that this would incur no costs to the town council, either now or in the future; and
- that any pitch maintenance works should not prevent members of the public from enjoying free use of Henhayes.

173 **TO RECEIVE COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUP MINUTES AND**
21/22 **APPROVE ANY RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED THEREIN**

- a. Minutes of the Joint Burial Committee held on 7 December 2021
- b. Minutes of the Planning & Highways Committee held on 13 December 2021 and 10 January 2022
- c. Minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee held on 10 January 2022
- d. Minutes of the Amenities Committee held on 10 January 2022

Items a-e. were noted and **AGREED** en bloc.

174 **TO RECEIVE MATTERS OF REPORT**

21/22

Cllr. Roberts reported that the defibrillator located at West One Surgery was not working. The Deputy Clerk noted that she had contacted Rotary about the current status of the town defibrillators for clarification on which organisation was responsible for each unit.

Cllr. Bond reported that she had received correspondence asking if the town could participate in a recent mental health campaign whereby QR codes on local benches would put people in contact with mental health charities/support lines. The Clerk was asked to investigate further.

175 **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

21/22

Monday, 28 February 2022, 6.45pm venue/Zoom tbc.

It was AGREED that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted it was advisable that the public and press be excluded and were instructed to withdraw.

**CONFIDENTIAL SESSION: EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC –
STAFFING AND CONTRACTUAL MATTERS**

176 **STAFFING COMMITTEE**
21/22

The minutes of the Staffing Committee held on 14 January 2022 were received and the recommendations contained therein were **AGREED**.

177 **LAND IN FRONT OF TOWN HALL**
21/22

Following an update from the Clerk, it was **AGREED** to proceed with the planned acquisition of the land in front of the Town Hall from SSDC.

All councillors in attendance at the confidential session declared that they had no interest in any item on the agenda.

The meeting closed at 19.35.

Signed:

Dated:

Tc24Jan2022