

CREWKERNE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of CREWKERNE TOWN COUNCIL held in the Council Chamber on Monday 27th September 2021 at 6.45 p.m.

PRESENT

Cllrs. K. Head (Chairman), C. Aslett (item 97 onwards), M. Best, T. Bond, R. Cottle, B. Hodgson, R. Pailthorpe, J. Roberts, J. Roundell Greene, A. Samuel, A. Stuart and D. Wakeman.

In Attendance

Town Clerk K. Sheehan, Deputy Clerk L. Gowers, P. Davidson and one member of the public.

92 TO NOTE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

21/22

None.

93 OPEN FORUM

21/22

No matters raised.

94 MINUTES

21/22

The minutes of the (informal) meeting held on 9 August and the meeting held on 13 September were AGREED.

95 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

21/22

in items on the agenda

None.

96 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

21/22

County Council

Cllr. Best reported that most SCC work was now being oriented towards the move to the new Unitary Authority. Some discussion was taking place over future warding arrangements for the new council.

District Council

Cllr. Pailthorpe noted that hybrid meetings are still taking place at SSSC and more strategic discussions about the reorganisation process were being held.

97 CLERK'S PROGRESS REPORT

21/22

The Clerk reported that SALC had circulated an email over the weekend, stating that they had collated responses early relating to whether parish/town elections should take place in 2022 or 2023 and were no longer seeking any further responses. The majority of responding councils supported bringing forward elections by one year to May 2022.

The outgoing Clerk, Peter Davidson, thanked councillors and office staff for their support and hard work over the past six years, stating that it had been an honour and a privilege to serve the town and wishing all in Crewkerne the best for the future.

98
21/22 **PLANNING**

To consider the following item requiring consideration before the next P&H meeting – 20/03708/OUT Land at Goldwell Farm S106 consultation on potential planning leisure obligations

Councillors noted that a response to this consultation was required, despite having previously rejected the application.

Cllr. Aslett arrived (6.52pm).

It was agreed to delegate the response to the Clerk in consultation with Cllr. Wakeman as Chair of Amenities, and that the response should reiterate a), the Town Council's strong objection to the development and b), that the division of S106 and CIL monies should be adjusted to reflect that fact that Crewkerne infrastructure would be supporting most of the added pressure from this development.

99
21/22 **FINANCE**

a. To approve the accounts for payment for September as listed

The Clerk reported that Cllr. Cottle had verified the accounts for payment in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations.

Accounts for payment for 31 August 2021 in the sum of £48,900.74, and for 27 September in the sum of £38,294.98 were APPROVED.

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

The Clerk reported that Cllr. Cottle had verified the bank reconciliation for August 2021. It was noted that cash in hand as of 31 August 2021 was £249,342.99.

c. To consider a grant application from Crewkerne Rangers FC and request to mount a defibrillator on the wall of the GRC

Councillors welcomed the addition of a further defibrillator in an area of high public use, noting that when the Aquacentre is closed, the nearest one would be in the George precinct. A proposal to grant the requested sum of £300 was APPROVED.

100
21/22 **RATIFICATION OF DECISIONS MADE AT INFORMAL COUNCIL MEETINGS**
To agree all decisions made under the Scheme of Delegation between 7 May & 27 September

It was AGREED to ratify all decisions made during the above period of time.

101
21/22 **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

To consider the next steps in the Neighbourhood Plan process

After considering 'next steps' outlined in a report from the Clerk, Councillors agreed that now Covid restrictions were lifting, it would be a good time to organise a launch event and engage members of the public and other community groups. Cllr. Best agreed to organise

a kick off meeting of a Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group for the beginning of November. Cllrs Cottle and Pailthorpe also expressed interest in participating.

102 **FUTURE PARISH ELECTIONS**

21/22 To consider the Council's position regarding the 2023 parish/town elections and whether they should be moved forward to May 2022

It was AGREED to submit a response to SALC stating that the Council's preferred option was to keep the elections in May 2023, as originally planned.

103 **INSTALLATION OF CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

21/22 To consider the quotation for the installation and removal of the Christmas lights on Market Street

It was AGREED to accept the quote provided. The Deputy Clerk reported that funding had been obtained for some new lights this year.

104 **ACCESS CONTROL SYSTEM FOR THE GRC**

21/22 To consider quotations received for the installation of an access control system for the GRC

Cllr. Wakeman outlined the reasons for installing an access control system, emphasising that it was important to properly secure the premises and safeguard the user groups, tenants and equipment contained therein.

After discussion, it was unanimously AGREED to accept the quotation from Ocean Fire & Security for the installation of an access control system for the GRC at a cost of £7265.80 + VAT (funds to be taken from General Reserves).

105 **COUNCILLOR SURGERIES AND COFFEE EVENTS**

21/22 To receive a report from the recent 'Coffee with Councillors' event and identify dates and volunteers for future events and surgeries

The Clerk was asked to draw up a list of suggested dates and venues for members to sign up to, with surgeries scheduled to coincide with Farmers' Market weekends.

106 **TO RECEIVE COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUP MINUTES**

21/22

a) Amenities Committee held on 13 Sept 2021

Noted.

b) Planning and Highways meetings held on 9 August and 13 September 2021

Noted.

107 **TO RECEIVE MATTERS OF REPORT**

21/22

Cllr. Bond reported that she had been contacted about the external appearance of the former Gresham Books shop. The Clerk was asked to write to the owner to express the Council's disappointment that the previously planned works to the premises have not gone ahead.

Cllr. Bond also reported that there had recently been instances of debris, including bricks, on the road in North Street and that, she would be encouraging members of the public to report this directly to the Police at the time of any future occurrence on 101.

Cllr. Wakeman reported a number of blocked gullies brought to his attention via members of the public which he would forward for inclusion on Planning & Highways agenda.

108
21/22 **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

Monday, 25 October 2021, 6.45pm in the Council Chamber.

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 – PERSONNEL & CONTRACTUAL MATTERS

109
21/22 **RECOMMENDATIONS FROM STAFFING COMMITTEE**

The minutes of the Staffing Committee held on 24th September were received and the recommendations contained therein duly AGREED.

110
21/22 **REQUEST FOR VARIATION OF CONTRACTUAL TERMS**

Councillors considered a request for a variation of contract held with the Council but it was AGREED that the existing contractual terms should stand.

The meeting closed at 8.20 p.m.

Signed:

Dated:

Tc27Sept 2021