

CREWKERNE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of CREWKERNE TOWN COUNCIL held at 18.45 in the Beech Suite, George Reynolds Centre on Monday 28th February 2022.

PRESENT

Cllrs. K. Head (Mayor), C. Aslett, T. Bond, R. Cottle, J. Roundell Greene, A. Samuel, A. Stuart, and D. Wakeman.

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

OPEN FORUM

A representative of Crewkerne in Bloom highlighted that the South West in Bloom (SWiB) finals were being hosted locally this year, at the Haselbury Mill, and that there would be an opportunity to promote the town off the back of this. It was noted that the Town Clerk and Mayor would attend a meeting with representatives of SWiB, Haselbury Plucknett Parish Council and Crewkerne Business Group to discuss further. There would be an update at the next Full Council meeting.

A member of the public asked if there would be an updated version or addendum to the Crewkerne Conservation Area Appraisal in light of the Council's consideration of assets to nominate for inclusion on the Local Heritage List.

A member of the public asked for an update on the Severalls tennis courts. Cllr. Wakeman confirmed this would be an agenda item at the next Amenities Committee meeting.

Questions received in advance from members of the public were read out with answers:

Q1a: "Has planning application 21/03005/S73 for the haul road been approved and what conditions will be applied? This went to informal committee on 18th January 2022 and was approved but it does not show this on the planning portal?"

SSDC are currently waiting for a meeting with the County Ecologist & Applicant's ecologist before issuing the decision

b) Why are the construction vehicles not using Blacknell Lane for access as per the CONSTRUCTION VEHICLE SITE ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS in the CONSTRUCTION ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN (18-268 CEMP dated 23rd July 2021) which is part of the discharge of conditions 21/02056/DOC1?

This is correct. The CEMP confirms all access via Blacknell Lane. The Lead Planner from SSDC says "In my view this is not actually practical as the gap between the end of the current Blacknell Lane by the Eden Building and the site itself requires the removal of planting and crossing of the Viney Brook and road construction before being able to access the phase 1 site. To only do so from Blacknell Lane is an impractical construction operation as the contractor would have no off-road base from which to manage the 1st stage of work. There is a sense in the initial access being taken from the same road that serves Blacknell Lane but at a point with direct access. That said, even if direct access from Station Road is a practical way of starting

the site it is not the route approved by the CEMP. We are in discussion with the developer on this issue currently”.

c) Does the Town Council know how much Taylor Wimpey (TW) have put aside in a bond with SCC for the road between A30 and the A356 and will this bond cover the link road to Blacknell Lane?

The TC does not know the value of the bond. Cllr. Best has approached County Council for an answer which will be relayed when received.

d) Does the decision not to upgrade the footpaths CH33/34 CH 33/35 CH33/36 to restricted byways mean that the footpaths cannot be used as cycleways as was originally planned as a link to the town centre?

This is probably a question better addressed to the developer in terms of their intentions as the ROW's status has not changed. There is a meeting planned with TW at the end of March.

e) Is the agreement to build the link road into Blacknell Lane to be provided prior to the occupation of 1000m2 of employment space or within 4 years of commencement of the employment land or within 7 years of the first occupation of any dwelling whichever the sooner? Or requires the link prior to occupation of the 199th dwelling?

The Lead Planner from SSDC says “As with Q c, the triggers for providing the various road links are set out in the S.106 negotiated directly between the developer and Somerset County Council. They are not part of the S.106 between the District Council and developer. Whilst we have published copies on our website (both the original S.106 and subsequent deed of variation) I think it would be better for SCC to set out their expectations of the trigger clauses.”

The Town Council will request information from SCC and answers will be relayed when received.”

Q2) “There is an amount of £936, paid to Fern Garden & Tree Services, for pollarding some trees at Barn Street rec. As the council is aware, Barn Street rec falls within the conservation area. I sent Cllr. Cottle a copy of the map showing the conservation area, in June last year. Can you tell me on what authority the council was allowed to cut down these trees? They certainly have not been pollarded.

I note that the council has paid a deposit amount of £897 to Zonkey Solutions, for the Crewkerne Business Group website. Could I please ask for details as to why the council is paying this amount, and why it is not being paid by the Business Group?”

The Crewkerne Business Group website is being funded by the Welcome Back Funding, which is being co-ordinated by SSDC. With all projects under Welcome Back Funding, the invoices have to be paid and then claimed back from SSDC. CTC have paid the Zonkey invoice, as you highlight, and are in the process of claiming the amount back from SSDC now.

The Deputy Clerk added that she was investigating the question relating to Barn Street Recreation Ground, and would provide further information once this had been done.

178 **TO NOTE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

21/22

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. M. Best (personal), B. Hodgson (personal), R. Pailthorpe (personal) and J. Roberts (work commitments).

179 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

21/22

in items on the agenda

None.

180 **MINUTES**

21/22

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 January 2022 were AGREED.

181 **TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

21/22

None.

182 **CLERK'S PROGRESS REPORT**

21/22

The Clerk reported that the outstanding window replacement at the Falkland Square toilets had now been completed.

The Deputy Clerk noted that the overhanging hedge on North Street had been flailed and that the Town Clerk had requested road sweeping be carried out on this stretch by the District Council. Councillors considered that the vegetation could have been cut back even further and the Clerk was asked to write again to request further clearance.

183 **FINANCE**

21/22

a. To approve the accounts for payment as listed

Questions were answered relating to payments for broadband and telephone at the GRC, Crewkerne Business Group website and the air quality monitor power supply. Cllr. Aslett declared an interest at this point, noting that his employer was a payee on the list, although he had not been involved in the work carried out (he did not participate or vote).

The Clerk reported that Cllr. Wakeman had verified the accounts for payment in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations. Accounts for payment for 28 February 2022 in the sum of £84,056.60 were APPROVED.

b. To report the bank reconciliation for January 2022 has been completed

The Clerk reported that Cllr. Wakeman had verified the bank reconciliation for January 2022. It was noted that cash in hand as of 31 January 2022 was £291,175.92.

184 **MEETINGS 2022/23**

21/22

To approve the meetings calendar for the forthcoming municipal year

Deferred to a future meeting for further clarification on dates.

185 **SCHEME OF DELEGATION**
21/22 To ratify decisions made at informal meetings on 10 January 2022

The circulated list of decisions made at the above meetings were duly APPROVED.

186 **TOILET TWINNING**
21/22 To consider a proposal to ‘twin’ the new Falkland Square toilets

The proposal to ‘twin’ the new toilets was AGREED, with suggestions that if successful, all CTC-owned toilets could be twinned in the future.

187 **JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS**
21/22 To receive an update on the planned Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

The Deputy Clerk reported that:

- Planning meetings had been held with various local groups
- A programme of planned events in the town over the four days would be produced
- It was hoped to hold a Party in the Park event for children with giant garden games, a bouncy castle etc.
- A funding application to assist with costs had been made.

Councillors requested that this was a standing item at Full Council meetings until June.

188 **WELCOME BACK FUND**
21/22 To receive an update on the WBF projects

The Deputy Clerk reported that:

- Various events had been run since October, using this ERDF money distributed by SSDC as part of the ‘Welcome Back Fund’ designed to bring people back to the High Street
- These events had included successful markets, street performers, Christmas bauble workshops and the town’s business Advent calendar
- There were plans in progress to develop a website for the new Crewkerne Business Group and put on a comedy night at the end of March
- Additional events supported would be the annual ‘Fiver Fest’ and a business fair.

189 **LOCAL HERITAGE LIST**
21/22 to consider nominations for inclusion on the Local Heritage List (LHL)

Councillors felt that residents of Crewkerne should be asked for their contributions to the LNL. The Clerk was asked to publicise the information about the process and criteria and look at including in the next newsletter if deadlines permit. Cllr. Wakeman volunteered to co-ordinate a small working group to collate nominations and report back to Council.

190 **SSDC PLAYDAY**
21/22 to consider a request from SSDC to run a summer play event at Henhayes

A proposal from SSDC to hold a summer play event at Henhayes was AGREED.

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

A proposal from the Clerks to bring minutes to Full Council following each subsequent meeting of the relevant working group/committee was AGREED. This would enable any changes made by the committee/working group to be reflected in the minutes received.

192 **TO RECEIVE MATTERS OF REPORT**

21/22

Cllr. Wakeman reported that he had been contacted regarding levels of service received at the town's medical practice, noting that a number of concerns had been raised. The Clerk was asked to prepare a letter to send to Symphony highlighting these concerns.

Cllr. Bond reported that she had received correspondence about a providing signage for a 'Chatty bench' in town. This was noted as an item for the next Amenities agenda.

Cllr. Samuel reported that, with Cllr. Head, she had met with residents about Barn Street Recreation Area, and that a follow up meeting would be scheduled for 12th March in the Victoria Hall.

Cllr. Aslett highlighted that no recent news on the proposed transfer of 'Tommy' at Severalls had been received. The Clerk was asked to request an update from SSDC.

Cllr. Aslett noted that the recent surgery had been well attended with a number of issues raised. Of note, the Ashlands School crossing lights were continuously flashing, and the Deputy Clerk was asked to raise this with Somerset County Council.

Cllr. Head reported that the format of the meetings on 25th and 26th March with Taylor Wimpey was still being discussed.

193 **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

21/22

Monday 28th March 2022, 6.45pm, Beech Suite, George Reynolds Centre.

It was AGREED that in view of the confidential nature of the business 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 –
PROCEDURAL MATTERS**

194 COUNCIL PROCEDURES AND COMMUNICATION

21/22

A discussion on Council procedures took place. It was AGREED that, in future, Public Open Forum questions should be posed to the Council in person.

The Clerk was asked to look at examples of other Council's communication policies.

The meeting closed at 20.45.

Tc28Feb2022