

Minutes of a meeting of CREWKERNE TOWN COUNCIL held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Market Square on Monday 25 July 2022.

PRESENT

Cllrs. A. Samuel (Deputy Mayor), S. Ashton, M. Best, T. Bond, N. Draycott, P. Maxwell, J. Morris, J. Nathan and D. Wakeman.

In attendance: Deputy Town Clerk L. Gowers and 5 members of the public.

OPEN FORUM

A representative from Crewkerne Wellbeing Centre gave an outline of the services that they offer to children and young people in the town. The services are offered free of charge and the organisation hoped to apply to Crewkerne Town Council for funding.

Severalls Jubilee Bowls Club had previously sent two questions to the Clerk.

1. Prior to making the decision to open up the grassed area surrounding the tennis courts at the War Memorial Grounds can the Chairman advise whether or not any consultation was undertaken with the residents that live on three side of the Grounds and the lease holders of the Bowls Green.

2. The area to the east of the tennis courts is currently designated with Council approval as a car parking area for members of the Bowls Club and visiting teams on match days. Allowing members of the public to walk around in this space seems to be a dangerous combination. Please comment.

Cllr. Wakeman thanked the Bowls Club for their questions and answered as follows:
Acting as the sole trustee of the War Memorial Grounds this Council has the power to make, alter and revoke rules for the regulation and management of the Trust property as it sees fit. These powers are conferred on the Council by the original Trust document. The primary purpose of the Trust is to provide recreational ground for the benefit of the inhabitants of Crewkerne – this Council believes that opening the amenity land around the courts provides this benefit.

Regarding vehicular access and parking, in accordance with the decision of Full Council and the Trust of 27th June this year, parking will continue to be permitted on the flat area immediately adjacent to the Bowls Club for Bowls Club members and the Council will keep this arrangement under review to ensure that users of the tennis courts (when they are open) and the surrounding amenity area are able to access the area safely. All the proposals relating to the amenity area at the courts have been published on the Council website and discussed in public meetings where members of the public have had opportunity to attend, comment and contribute.

A member of the Bowls Club responded and asked why there had not been any consultation for the residents that lived around the tennis courts, regarding opening up the amenity space.

44 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE 22/23

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr. Head (unwell), Cllr. Livesey (personal) and Cllr. Stuart (unwell).

45 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

22/23

No declarations of interests were made at this point.

46 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 11 JULY 2022

22/23

The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 11 July 2022 were AGREED as a true and accurate record.

47 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

22/23

Cllr. Ashton reported that:

- At a Full Council meeting of the County Council recently, an ecological emergency was declared.
- There would be an update regarding Misterton School shortly. The news was currently embargoed but should be positive.
- Highways had confirmed that the Section 106 monies from the Taylor Wimpey development were available for improvements to traffic in the town. There was £100,000 that was index linked. The monies were due for payment prior to start of construction and SSDC would confirm if the funds had been received. The funds could enable some projects in the town to go ahead, rather than waiting for the Small Improvement Scheme to be available.

District Cllr. Best reported that:

- The Waste Partnership had won an award recently for the Recycle More project.
- The Small Improvement Scheme for the movement of the 40mph speed limit to the Clapton side of the Maiden Beech Crossroads was now out for tender. The flashing school lights would be installed shortly but was not part of the SIS.
- South Somerset District Council had agreed to go back to face to face meetings for all public meetings.

48 CLERK'S PROGRESS REPORT

22/23

The Clerk reported that:

The works on the wall at Haselbury Plucknett had gone well and it was hoped that all machinery and personnel would be offsite, and the road open again on 1st August. Cllr. Best clarified that the works had damaged the road surface, therefore the road would be closed overnight for resurfacing.

49 PLANNING

22/23

a 22/01989/TCA 19 Foundry Square Crewkerne Somerset TA18 8HB.

Notification of intent to Fell No. 1 Tree within a Conservation Area.

The Council noted that it would be an exceptional decision to fell a tree with a TPO but agreed that this particular tree was the wrong tree in the wrong place and was in very poor condition. Councillors requested that, to preserve the tree canopy in Crewkerne, the property owner was asked to plant a different, more suitable tree in the garden.

50 FINANCE

22/23 a. To approve the payments for July 2022 as listed

The Clerk reported that Cllr. Morris had verified the accounts for payment in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations. Accounts for payment for 25 July 2022 in the sum of £35,548.14 were APPROVED.

Cllr. Morris noted that as prices were increasing so quickly, it was possible that a price could increase between the purchase order being raised and the order being placed.

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

The Clerk reported that Cllr. Morris had verified the bank reconciliation for June 2022.

c. To receive the first quarter income and expenditure financial report.

The report was noted.

51 BARN STREET RECREATION GROUND

22/23 To note receipt of landscape architect's plans for Barn Street Recreation Area and make arrangements for a period of public consultation.

Landscape architect plans had been drawn up following two public meetings regarding improvements to Barn Street Recreation Ground. The plans would be forwarded to Councillors for their information, and it was AGREED that a public consultation would launch at the Councillor Surgery held in the Town Hall on Saturday 20th August and continue for one month. It was also requested that a letter of thanks be written to Mr Leeson, the landscape architect, who drew the plan.

52 HENHAYES ADVERTISING

22/23 To consider a request from Crewkerne Rangers FC to erect sponsorship boards during the football season.

It was AGREED, in principle, to allow Crewkerne Rangers to erect sponsorship boards on Henhayes during the football season, but the Town Council reserve the right to review this decision if necessary.

53 CHURCHYARD TREES

22/23 To consider a quotation to reduce the crown of the hornbeam tree in St Bartholomew's Churchyard.

The tree surgeon's report recommended a crown reduction of 10% within the next two years. Therefore, it was AGREED that the cost should be included in the 2023/24 budget and work to take place in the next financial year.

54 GEORGE REYNOLDS CENTRE

22/23 a. To receive usage estimates from the Rugby Club for 22/23 season.

Received. It was noted that usage estimates had not yet been received from the Football Club.

b To set season charges for use of GRC for football and rugby clubs from September 2022.

Cllr. Bond requested clarification that the extra weekend use had been included in the draft season charges. The Deputy Clerk was unable to provide clarification therefore it was AGREED to defer this item to Full Council, which would reconvene after committee meetings on Monday 8th August.

55 JUBILEE EVENT

22/23 To receive a 'wash up' report from the Deputy Clerk in respect of the Jubilee celebrations.

The Deputy Clerk reported that all organisations who were involved in producing events for the jubilee weekend had agreed that it had been a big success. There had been a great spirit of community engagement and collaboration and many of the organisations had successfully fundraised over the weekend of events.

The Deputy Clerk made Councillors aware that much of the time and equipment for the Party in the Park event on Friday 3rd June had been donated and the cost would have been substantially increased if this had not been the case.

The Deputy Clerk thanked those Councillors and their families who were able to help at short notice after the security company failed to arrive.

56 BINCOMBE BEECHES NATURE RESERVE

22/23 To consider a quote and arrange for the annual baling of the meadow at Bincombe.

The Deputy Clerk clarified that the meadow was baled annually but due to price increases, the quote was above delegated authority. It was AGREED unanimously to cut and bale the meadow, and proceed with one quote due to time constraints for the work.

57 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

22/23

a. To delegate to the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group the authority to appoint and manage the workload of a planning consultant in support of the production of the Crewkerne Neighbourhood Plan.

It was AGREED to delegate authority to the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group to appoint a Planning Consultant to support the production of the Neighbourhood Plan.

b. To resolve to underwrite costs incurred in respect of planning consultancy services before external funding confirmed (expected to be minimal).

It was AGREED to underwrite costs for the Planning Consultant before external funding was confirmed.

- 58 COUNCILLOR SURGERIES AND COFFEE WITH COUNCILLOR EVENTS
22/23 To confirm dates and agree attendance at upcoming surgery and coffee events.

The following Council surgeries were confirmed:

Saturday 17th September – Cllrs. Bond and Nathan
Saturday 15th October – Cllrs. Best and Wakeman
Saturday 19th November – Cllrs. Maxwell and Samuel

The following 'Coffee with Councillors' event were confirmed:

October – Cllrs Nathan and Morris
November – Bond and Ashton.
Dates and location to be confirmed.

- 59 COUNCIL NEWSLETTER
22/23 To consider requests received from external organisations to place articles in the quarterly town newsletter.

Following discussion, it was AGREED to defer this item to a future Full Council meeting.

- 60 TO RECEIVE MINUTES FROM THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS AND APPROVE ANY
22/23 RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED THEREIN:

- a. Planning & Highways Committee 13 June 2022
- b. Amenities Committee 23 May 2022
- c. Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (various)
- d. Youth Steering Group 16 February 2022
- e. Reports from Town Council representatives to outside bodies

Items as above were received, and recommendations agreed.

- 61 MATTERS OF REPORT (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)
22/23

Cllr. Wakeman reported:

1. That the bin in The George Shopping area had not been emptied for some time.
2. The organisation that patrols the Lidl car park (between Lidl and Falkland Square) would now patrol all parking around Falkland Square.

Cllr. Draycott noted that:

1. Parking spaces between the Lidl car park and Henhayes were coned off to install electric vehicle chargers. There was concern that the Town Council was not aware of the works.
2. Badger setts on Bincombe Nature reserve were being blocked with branches. The Deputy Clerk would report this to Avon and Somerset Police via 101.
3. There had been an incident where a child had been caught trying to set a fire in one of the new public toilet cubicles. The child and the parents had been spoken to by the police and the child had apologised and a parent had agreed that they would volunteer with Crewkerne in Bloom. The Deputy Clerk was asked to follow up to confirm if this had taken place.

Cllr. Morris noted that there were continued problems on Clammer Hill Lane as children/young people often used that route to and from school, were disruptive and windows had been broken.

Cllr. Samuel reported that:

1. The pathway beside the school from Kithill to the bug hotel was overgrown. The Deputy Clerk would investigate ownership and request that it be tidied. It was also noted that the pathway was very degraded due to badger activity.
2. A member of the public had asked why the double yellow lines outside St. Bartholomew's School on Kithill were on the same side of the road as the school, which meant that children had to cross the road to be collected by parents in cars. Cllr. Best confirmed that there were already yellow lines on that side of the road and they were extended by Highways using a Road Order, to ensure that traffic could move up and down the road whilst children were being delivered or collected from school.

The meeting closed at 20.07.

Signed:

Dated:

TC25July2022