

Minutes of a meeting of CREWKERNE TOWN COUNCIL held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Market Square on Monday 26 September 2022.

PRESENT

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

In attendance: Town Clerk K. Sheehan, Deputy Town Clerk L. Gowers and 1 member of the public.

OPEN FORUM

No one wished to speak.

68 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE  
22/23

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

69 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS  
22/23

No declarations of interests were made at this point.

70 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD ON 25  
22/23 JULY 2022 AND 8 AUGUST 2022

The minutes of the Town Council meetings held on 25 July 2022 and 8 August 2022 were AGREED as a true and accurate record.

71 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS  
22/23

Cllr. Ashton reported that:

- A conference on Local Government Reorganisation, focusing on the Local Community Networks (LCN) consultation would be held on 4 October (the Town Clerk confirmed she would attend).
- Taunton Park & Ride scheme was now charging £1 each way.
- A new Lord Lieutenant of Somerset had taken office.
- He had dealt with a number of complaints regarding recent roadworks organised in Ashlands Road and North Street.

Cllr. Best reported that:

- The County Council's Children's Services had been awarded a 'good' Ofsted rating.
- The County Council Chairman's Awards were open for nominations until the end of October.

72 CLERK'S PROGRESS REPORT  
22/23

The Town Clerk reported on a number of issues which had been on the cancelled Amenities Committee agenda in the period of national mourning. Funding had been awarded covering the cost of a replacement accessible roundabout for Henhayes, and an order had been placed. Enquiries had been made about solar panels for the roof of the George Reynolds

Centre, but solar companies had either supply issues or no capacity for the work, so it had been suggested the Council makes further enquiries after Christmas. The District Council had agreed to the transfer of both Severalls War Memorial 'Tommy', and the War Memorial Gardens, and this was now in the hands of solicitors. She also reported that a petition had been received proposing that dogs on leads be permitted in Barn Street Recreation Area. Councillors asked the Clerk to bring this to the next Amenities Committee.

73 PLANNING

22/23 a. To consider applications due before the next meeting of Planning and Highways  
22/01908/REM Land South of Kithill, Crewkerne, Somerset

A full draft response had been circulated and would be considered as a separate agenda item (see below).

22/01684/FUL Crewkerne Key Site 1 Land East Of Crewkerne Between A30 And A356 Yeovil Road Crewkerne Somerset TA18 7HE  
Full application for the installation of an electricity substation.

Recommend APPROVAL.

To Note:

22/02478/DOC1 Land South Of Kithill Crewkerne Somerset  
Part Discharge of Conditions No.6 (Construction Traffic Plan), No.8 (Water Drainage), No.9 (Internal Ground Levels) and Full Discharge of Condition of No.7 (Scheme of Investigation) on Planning Application 18/01737/OUT.

Noted.

b. To approve the final response from Crewkerne Town Council to the Local Planning Authority in respect of 22/01908/REM Land South of Kithill

A full draft response to this Reserved Matters planning application had been circulated to councillors and published on the website. Cllr. Maxwell noted that this was an extended response which had sought to include contributions from members of the public in attendance at the recent extra ordinary meeting of the Planning & Highways Committee. He noted that the final page of the proposed submission included a list of SSDC policies contravened by this application. The response concluded that,

"This application will have a significant detrimental effect on the landscape and environment, including protected species and is not in accordance with the following policies:

- SD1 Sustainable Development
- SS6 Infrastructure Delivery
- HG3 Provision of Affordable Housing
- TA6 Parking Standards
- EQ1 Tackling Climate Change
- EQ4 Net Loss of Biodiversity
- EQ5 Provision of Green Infrastructure

Crewkerne Town Council therefore at this point cannot support this Reserved Matters application and reserves the right to add additional recommendations and comments following the issue of outstanding information and reports from the developer".

Having reviewed the document, it was unanimously AGREED that it accurately reflected the current position of the Town Council regarding this application and the Deputy Clerk was asked to submit it to SSDC.

74      FINANCE

22/23    a.      To approve the payments for August 2022 and September 2022 as listed

The Clerk reported that Cllr. Wakeman had verified the accounts for payment in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations. Accounts for payment for 31 August 2022 in the sum of £46,423.03 were APPROVED. Accounts for payment for 26 September 2022 in the sum of £30,789.07 were also APPROVED.

The Clerk responded to queries from Cllr. Bond regarding playground safety surfacing, locks at the GRC, and Bowls Club maintenance.

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

The Clerk reported that Cllr. Wakeman had verified the bank reconciliation for August 2022. It was noted that cash in hand as of 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022 was £392,553.14.

c.      To approve a recommendation from the Policy & Resources Committee to pay a grant to Crewkerne Wellbeing CIC

Councillors AGREED a recommendation from the Policy & Resources Committee to pay a grant for £500 to Crewkerne Wellbeing CIC to support their activities in the town. The Deputy Clerk reported that she had recently met the staff, who had confirmed all practitioners were DBS checked and qualified in the holistic therapies on offer, with one member holding a diploma and working towards the completion of a degree.

d.      To consider a proposal in respect of rents and hire charges in readiness for forthcoming budget deliberations

A proposal for rents and hire charges for 23/24 was AGREED with the addition of an addendum reserving the right for the Council to keep these charges under review and adjust accordingly, should there be further significant movements in the energy markets.

75      BARN STREET RECREATION GROUND

22/23    To receive an update following the conclusion of the public consultation and determine next steps

The Deputy Clerk reported that 27 hard copy questionnaires had been returned, and 83 online survey responses. Cllr. Samuel proposed convening a small group of councillors to examine the responses and produce feedback. Cllrs. Samuel, Nathan and Morris expressed an interest in doing this. Cllr. Samuel felt Cllr. Head would also wish to be involved.

76      WARM HUBS

22/23    To consider the provision of 'Warm Hubs' in Crewkerne

Councillors considered a request from both the County and District Councils for information regarding the possible provision of warm hubs locally. After some discussion surrounding how appropriate spaces could be made available and staffing/volunteer requirement, the Clerk was

asked to respond to say that should there be any gap in warm hub provision on weekdays, the Council Chamber and adjoining kitchen could be made available.

77 NEWSLETTER

22/23 To approve the draft of the autumn edition of the quarterly newsletter.

Councillors APPROVED the draft newsletter for publication.

78 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ORGANISATION (LGR)

22/23 To consider a response to the consultation on Local Community Networks (LCNs).

Councillors considered the report from Somerset County Council outlining the various models of LCNs. The Clerk reported that she would be attending the Town and Parish Conference on 4 October which would provide further information and an opportunity to ask questions. Councillors felt that the larger size LCNs proposed in Model C would be unworkable due to size, but it was AGREED to delegate the Council's response to the Clerk in consultation with any Councillors able to attend the conference and approve the final response at Policy & Resources Committee on 10 October 2022.

79 UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND

22/23 To receive an update on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund from County Councillors.

Cllrs. Ashton and Best agreed to seek an update from County Council officers and report back.

80 'CHRISTMAS COMMITTEE' BANKING ARRANGEMENTS

22/23 To receive an update from the Deputy Clerk.

The Deputy Clerk reported that Nationwide had recently withdrawn the bank account used by the town's 'Christmas Committee', leaving the group without banking provision. The group had been set up as a stand-alone committee, but the Deputy Clerk had always acted as a Town Council representative to the group. Consideration was being given to setting it up as a working group under the umbrella of Crewkerne Town Council and the Clerk and Deputy were seeking advice on insurance, finances and licensing implications. The Clerk noted that a full report and a formal decision on the way forward would be required.

81 CHRISTMAS EVENT ARRANGEMENTS

22/23 a. To consider a quote for the installation of Christmas lights.

A quote for £5,932.80 + VAT from Knight Electrical was ACCEPTED. A dispensation for proceeding on the basis of only one quote was made on the basis that the lighting system is bespoke and would be difficult for a contractor unfamiliar with the set up to undertake the work. However, it was noted that while the lights were up, a walk through with another electrical contractor would be undertaken to allow them also to quote for the work in 2023.

b. To consider a quote for the Christmas Lighting Up road closure operation.

A quote for £1656 + VAT from Bradsons was ACCEPTED.

82 TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING MINUTES AND APPROVE ANY RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED THEREIN

22/23 a. Planning and Highways Committee 11 July 2022

b. Reports from Town Council representatives to Outside Bodies

Items detailed above were received, and recommendations agreed.

83 MATTERS OF REPORT

22/23

Cllr. Wakeman reported that he had been receiving residents' concerns regarding availability of appointments at both the Doctors and Dental surgeries. He also noted that the location of road closure signage on pavements had caused issues for mobility scooter and wheelchair users.

Cllr. Livesley raised concerns about the signage provided during recent road works in the town, which in certain cases had not been adequate, nor adjusted as necessary once works had completed or moved location. The Deputy Clerk was asked to write to Highways and raise the Council's concerns about signage.

Cllr. Morris noted that there had been further issues with satnav systems directing drivers up Clammer Hill Lane, resulting in vehicles getting stuck at the top. The Clerk stated that the police had been in contact about improving signage, and she would request an update.

Cllr. Ashton reported that he had recently met with the Chief Executive of the Bridgwater and Taunton College Trust and he was due to meet with him again, should any councillors have questions or issues they would like him to raise on their behalf.

Cllr. Nathan asked if an update could be obtained from the County Council regarding the streetlighting on the new development off North Street.

84 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

22/23

Monday October 24<sup>th</sup>2022, 18.45, Council Chamber.

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 – STAFFING MATTERS

85 STAFFING COMMITTEE

22/23

To consider a recommendation from the Staffing Committee and confirm minutes of the meeting held on 23 September 2022

The draft recruitment pack for the Deputy Clerk position, including the advert, job description and person specification was AGREED and the Clerk was asked to start advertising the position.

The meeting closed at 20.05.

Signed: .....

Dated: .....

TC26Sept2022