

Minutes of a meeting of CREWKERNE TOWN COUNCIL held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Market Square on Monday 27 June 2022.

PRESENT

Cllrs. K. Head (Mayor), S. Ashton, T. Bond, N. Draycott, D. Livesley, P. Maxwell, J. Morris, J. Nathan, A. Samuel, A. Stuart, D. Wakeman.

In attendance: Town Clerk K. Sheehan and 8 members of the public and District Councillor R. Pailthorpe.

OPEN FORUM

Members of the public present spoke regarding the following issues:

- An update was requested on the planned refurbishment of the tennis courts by South Somerset District Council (SSDC) in conjunction with the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA). She noted that although courts were available at Wadham School, this required advance booking of up to one week and payment of an hourly charge. Cllr. Wakeman agreed to seek an update and respond to the resident.
- Two residents spoke on the proposal to reopen the grassed area to the side of the tennis courts at Severalls. Both represented the Bowls Club and wished Councillors to note that this area had not ever been freely accessible to the public before. One resident noted that the grass had been designated for parking by Crewkerne Urban District Council in the 1970s. The area was required as overflow parking for visiting teams. The second resident felt that it would be worth waiting until the full extent of the plans from SSDC and the LTA were known.
- A resident presented a petition of 466 signatures supporting the application of Crewkerne Town Council to regain ownership of the War Memorial Gardens at Severalls from SSDC. The Mayor received the petition on behalf of CTC and thanked the resident for his efforts.

28 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

22/23

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr. Best (work commitments).

29 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

22/23

No declarations of interests were made at this point.

30 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD ON 16 AND 23 MAY 2022

22/23

The minutes of the Town Council meetings held on 16 and 23 May 2022 were AGREED as a true and accurate record.

31 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

22/23

Cllr. Ashton reported that:

- Somerset County Council (SCC) was still in the process of setting up groups and meetings post-election;
- Plans for a 3G football pitch at Wadham School were progressing, and would be supported by funding from the Football Association;

- An EGM of SCC had been held to deal with the appointment of a new Chief Executive;
- An Electric Vehicle (EV) charging point had been installed in West Street car park. Cllr. Ashton noted that it was a domestic type charging point, rather than a rapid charging unit which he felt would be more useful in supporting EV use generally.

District Cllr. Pailthorpe reported that:

- He was pursuing an updated version of the register for historic buildings at risk;
- Cllr. Best had been appointed as the SSDC representative to ABCD;
- Several grants had been made by the District Council recently.

Cllr. Pailthorpe then left the meeting.

32 CLERK'S PROGRESS REPORT

22/23

The Clerk reported that:

- There had been two instances of vandalism to the public toilets in Falkland Square in the past week, as a result one toilet had had to be closed. The replacement parts had been received and fitted and the toilet reopened that morning;
- A second draft of the transfer for the 'Tommy' war memorial had been received and would be reviewed as soon as possible;
- The Step Up skills and employment advisors and the Fixy repair bus would both be open for a drop in session on Wednesday 29 June in front of Town Hall, 10am-2pm.

33 PLANNING

22/23

a. 22/01411/OUT: Land adjacent Cloudshill, Hewish Lane, Crewkerne

It was AGREED to recommend APPROVAL.

34 FINANCE

22/23

a. To approve the payments for June 2022 as listed

The Clerk reported that Cllr. Nathan had verified the accounts for payment in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations. Accounts for payment for 27 June 2022 in the sum of £44,769.46 were APPROVED.

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

The Clerk reported that Cllr. Nathan had verified the bank reconciliation for May 2022. It was noted that cash in hand as of 31 May 2022 was £478,007.19.

c. To receive the second report of the Internal Auditor

The report of the Internal Auditor was noted.

d. To approve the Accounts and Annual Return for the year ending 31 March 2022:

- i. The Accounts and Annual Governance Statements were APPROVED
- ii. The Accounting Statements were APPROVED
- iii. The report of the Internal Auditor (Annual Return) was noted
- iv. The signatures of the Mayor and Clerk were AUTHORISED.

All documents were signed where appropriate by the Mayor and Clerk.

e. To note the value of the grants awarded at the meeting on 24 January 2022 in accordance with the recommendation of the internal auditor

Grants awarded at the Full Council meeting on 24 January 2022 were as follows:

Organisation/Community Group	Grant Awarded
Citizens Advice South Somerset	£2,005
Crewkerne & District Museum & Heritage Centre	£1,500
Crewkerne Tea Dance Group	£250
Crewkerne in Bloom	£1,000
Crewkerne Shed	£1,000
Crewkerne Aqua Centre	£1,656
Henhayes Community Centre	£2,500
Rotary Club of Crewkerne & District	£750
Severalls War Memorial Gardening Group	£475
The Speedwell	£500
Crewkerne Boxing Club	£1,000
Merriott Majorettes	£750
Jackdaws Music Education Trust	£250
TOTAL	£13,636

f. To note that the Risk and Asset Registers were review in-year at the February 2022 meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee

Noted.

35 LAND AT SEVERALLS TENNIS COURTS

22/23 To consider a proposal to open the land around the tennis courts at Severalls

Councillors considered a report proposing to open the green space land around the tennis courts, with associated fencing and bollards, bins and benches at an approximate cost of £2610 (+VAT).

Councillors AGREED:

- To proceed with the works outlined in the report and delegate authority to the Clerk in consultation with Chair of the Amenities Committee to place orders for fencing, bins and benches as outlined above in order to open the land for public recreation.
- To seek the formal approval of the War Memorial Commemoration Trust to carry out these works and open the land for public recreation.

36 LAND AT TOWN HALL

- 22/23 a. Transfer of ownership: to resolve to authorise Councillors to sign the legal transfer document to transfer the Land at Town Hall from SSDC to Crewkerne Town Council and to authorise the Town Clerk to apply the Council seal

It was AGREED to authorise the signatures of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor on the legal documents, and Council seal, actioning the transfer of the land outside Town Hall from SSDC to Crewkerne Town Council.

- b. Parking enforcement: to consider a proposal from SSDC to add the parking spaces at Town Hall to the existing Service Level Agreement (SLA) for enforcement purposes

It was AGREED to add the parking spaces located at Town Hall to the existing SLA between SSDC and CTC for enforcement purposes.

37 UNIT 2, CREWKERNE BUSINESS PARK

- 22/23 To resolve to authorise Councillors to sign the renewed lease agreement for the above premises, and to authorise the Town Clerk to apply the Council seal

It was AGREED to authorise the signatures of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor on the legal documents, and Council seal, renewing the lease of Unit 2, Crewkerne Business Park for a further three years.

38 HR SUPPORT

- 22/23 To consider the early renewal of the Council's Employment Law/HR support service

It was AGREED to renew the Council's Employment Law/HR support service for a five year period, to take advantage of the discounted rate.

39 STREAMING AND BROADCASTING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

- 22/23 To consider the future of streaming and broadcasting of Council meetings

Cllr. Head noted that a discussion was needed on the Council's commitment to recording/streaming Council meetings. The technology currently used was time consuming to set up and did not always work well. It was noted that both SSDC and SCC, having spent a significant sum on equipment for these purposes, were both still experiencing audio problems. Members of the public in attendance indicated that they felt the ability to access meetings online was useful.

The Clerk was asked to get quotes for professional sound and audio support for the Chamber, including the provision of a hearing loop and bring this back to a future meeting for discussion.

40 OUTSIDE BODIES

- 22/23 To appoint a Town Council representative to the Patient Participation Group (PPG)

Cllr. Ashton was appointed to represent Crewkerne Town Council on the PPG for Crewkerne Health Centre.

41 TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING MINUTES AND APPROVE ANY RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED THEREIN:

- 22/23
- Staffing Committee 6 June 2022.
 - Planning and Highways Committee 11 April 2022 and 23 May 2022.
 - Joint Burial Committee 5 April 2022.
 - Amenities Committee 14 May 2022.

42 MATTERS OF REPORT (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

22/23

Cllr. Head noted that it would be useful to reinstate the forms/agenda item for members to report back from meetings of Outside Bodies they had attended on behalf of Crewkerne Town Council.

Cllr. Wakeman reported that he had received recent enquiries about parking at Henhayes and a complaint about pavement condition, which he had responded to.

Cllr. Bond reported she had received correspondence regarding parking in and around Fox Meadows which she had referred to the Town Clerk.

Cllr. Samuel reported that residents at Langmead Square were experiencing issues with blocked driveways. Councillors thought that this should be discussed further at Planning and Highways Committee.

Cllr. Ashton noted that a revised location for the Speed Indicator Device at Broadshard had been agreed by SCC.

Cllr. Maxwell reported that a site visit with Highways Officers to review various issues across the town had been arranged.

Cllr. Nathan reported that access road to the Stonewater development on North Street was very steep, overgrown and likely to be icy in winter. Cllrs. were concerned that there were outstanding obligations still to be met by the developer and Cllr. Maxwell confirmed he had included this on the list of issues to look at during the Highways site visit.

Cllr. Livesley reported that recent roadworks to Bincombe Lane had resulted in a mixture of widths of the reinstated road markings. The Town Clerk was asked to raise this with SCC Highways.

43 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

22/23

Monday 25 July 2022, 18.45 in the Council Chamber.

The meeting closed at 19.45.

Signed:

Dated: