

Minutes of a meeting of CREWKERNE TOWN COUNCIL held in the Council Chamber, Market Square starting at 18:45 on Monday 27 March 2023.

PRESENT

Cllrs. K. Head (Mayor), M. Best, N. Draycott, D. Livesley, J. Nathan, J. Morris, S. Ashton, A. Samuel, and A. Stuart.

In attendance: Town Clerk K. Sheehan, Deputy Town Clerk E. Wilkins, and 11 members of the Public.

OPEN FORUM

Six Members of the public spoke regarding the Taylor Wimpey (TW) Keysite Reserved Matters Application:

A resident asked the Town Council to confirm whether the tree proposed to be felled by TW is within the boundary of the Cemetery and not on their land. The Town Council was asked about records of cemetery boundaries.

A resident noted that trees are protecting us from flooding and should be protected. Any trees that are removed also have an effect upon the Somerset Levels.

A resident highlighted the TW development is 100 spaces short of the Council requirement, which he felt would have an impact upon people's lives and safety. Again, clarity on proposed retention of trees was requested, noting that the trees are a defining part of the landscape and vital for privacy and dignity of the Cemetery and have obvious environmental benefit. The proposal of a Local Nature Reserve at the Kithill Wildlife site was welcomed.

A resident commented that the loss of trees at the Cemetery affects the tranquillity. More trees are needed to screen the new houses from the Cemetery.

A resident questioned the S106 agreement, Part 1 item 5, agreed between Highways and TW querying how are they to fulfil their obligation to provide a footpath and cycleway to town?

A resident would like to set up a petition to get the support of Crewkerne regarding the trees at the Cemetery.

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22/23

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. T. Bond, P. Maxwell, and D. Wakeman (all personal).

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22/23

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Cllrs. Ashton and Best declared an interest in the agenda item relating to Key Site Reserved Matters Application by virtue of being on the new Area South Planning Committee.

Cllr. Nathan declared an interest in the agenda item relating to planning application 23/00546/LBC by virtue of living opposite the property.

Cllr. Samuel declared an interest in the agenda item relating to Severalls War Memorial British Legion Tea Party request by virtue of being a member of the British Legion.

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22/23 **TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 13 MARCH 2023**

The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 13 March 2023 were AGREED as a true and accurate record.

181
22/23 **TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

Cllr. Best reported that as of 1st April 2023 the District Council ceases to exist, and the Unitary Authority takes over in Somerset. Various new committees will be in place, as well as eighteen Local Community Networks (LCNS) are being set up but not meeting until June/July. Crewkerne will be in the same LCN as Ilminster.

In relation to Planning, there will be less referral to Strategic Planning. Major developments will still be referred to Committee.

The merger of Yeovil District Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (YDH) with Somerset NHS Foundation Trust (Somerset FT) takes place on 1st April 2023. A proposal to close the Stroke Unit at YDH is out for consultation and the public are able to comment. The Town Clerk was asked to recirculate the information.

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22/23 **CLERKS PROGRESS REPORT**

The Town Clerk reported that:

- E. Wilkins in post as Deputy Town Clerk as of 20th March.
- Operations Manager position was now being advertised and interviews would be held w/c 17th April.
- Annual Town Meeting of Electors on 17th April. Tea and coffee will be available.

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22/23 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

To consider planning applications due before the next meeting of the Planning & Highways Committee

23/00006/REM **Crewkerne Key Site 1 Land East of Crewkerne Between A30 And A356 Yeovil Road Crewkerne Somerset TA18 7HE**
Approval of reserved matters for appearance, landscaping, layout and scale for 110 dwellings and associated development following outline approval of 05/00661/OUT (Comprehensive mixed use development for 525 dwellings, employment (B1, B2, B8) primary school, community facilities, playing fields, parkland, P.O.S. structural landscaping and associated infrastructure including link road and highway improvements) as amended by 19/03482/S73 and 21/03005/S73.

23/00007/REM **Crewkerne Key Site 1 Land East of Crewkerne Between A30 And A356 Yeovil Road Crewkerne Somerset TA18 7HE**
Approval of reserved matters for appearance, landscaping, layout and scale for 525 dwellings and associated development following outline approval of 05/00661/OUT (Comprehensive mixed use development for 525 dwellings, employment (B1, B2, B8) primary school, community facilities,

playing fields, parkland, P.O.S. structural landscaping and associated infrastructure including link road and highway improvements) as amended by 19/03482/S73 and 21/03005/S73.

Crewkerne Town Council considered the above applications, commenting that:

- The Town Council strongly objects to the felling of any trees, particularly as the mature trees on/near the Cemetery boundary provide screening necessary to the sensitive nature of the site. Removing any of these trees will have a detrimental effect upon the Cemetery;
- Parking allocation remains an unresolved issue, with 100 fewer spaces allocated than parking guidance indicates is necessary. The allocation of spaces is inadequate, with 2 parking spaces allocated to a 2-bedroom house whilst only 1.5 to a 2-bedroom apartment. The site was incorrectly assessed against urban criteria, rather than as a small country Market Town;
- The Town Council would like clarification from the developer as to how they intend to meet their obligations under S106 agreements to deliver a footpath/cycleway to the town centre being delivered if the footpaths cannot be upgraded to Bridleways?
- The Town Council objects to the overcrowding and positioning of the housing close to the Cemetery;
- The plans are misleading, and clarification is needed on which trees are to be felled/retained. There are some numbering errors and confusion over whether some of the trees are actually in Town Council ownership as they bear cemetery inspection tags.

Crewkerne Town Council would like to reserve the right to comment further on receipt of the outstanding reports in relation to this application, particularly Highways.

23/00546/LBC

23 North Street Crewkerne Somerset TA18 7AL

To provide structural support to a failed beam, over the kitchen.

Recommend **APPROVAL**.

23/00527/HOU

30 Thomson Drive Crewkerne Somerset TA18 8AQ

Removal of existing conservatory & the erection of two single storey extensions to front & side of dwelling.

Recommend **APPROVAL**.

23/00298/FUL

14 Langmead Road Crewkerne Somerset TA18 8DY

Erection of new dwelling.

Recommend **APPROVAL** with caveat that the Devon hedge be retained if possible.

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22/23

FINANCE

- a. To approve the accounts for payment for March 2023 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 27 March 2023 in the sum of £46,503.17 were APPROVED.
- b. To report the bank reconciliation for February 2023 has been completed.

The Clerk reported that Cllr. Morris had verified the bank reconciliation for February 2022. It was noted that cash in hand as of 28 February 2023 was £413,797.87.

- c. To review and confirm the Financial Risk Register.
Confirmed and changes noted.
- d. To review and confirm the Asset Register.
Confirmed and changes noted.
- e. To note that the annual review of Internal Controls has been carried out.
Noted.

184 **CORONATION CELEBRATION**

22/23 To receive an update on plans for the Coronation Celebration

The Deputy Clerk reported plans are in place for The Big Picnic in the Park on Sunday 7th May at 12:00 until 16:30 on the Henhayes Field, noting that:

- Artwork has been completed; thanks were expressed to Cllr. Wakeman for arranging this. The Facebook page and website have been updated, posters to be distributed if haven't already.
- Car Park closure has been permitted.
- First Aid, Security and Toilet facilities are booked.
- Extra bins booked.
- Entertainment booked – live music.
- Stage to be hired from the Henhayes Centre.
- Activities for children booked.
- Food and Drink arranged.
- Decoration – Rotary Club are to put up flags around town. Cllrs. Head and Nathan have counted 70 flag poles in town to utilise. More flags to be purchased for buildings without their own.

185 **SEVERALLS WAR MEMORIAL GARDENS**

22/23

- a) To consider a request from the Royal British Legion to hold a tea party event at the gardens to fundraise for the OverLord challenge.
APPROVED.

- b) To consider a request from the Severalls residents gardening group to hold a summer fete.
APPROVED.

186 **SUMMER PLAY DATES**

22/23 To receive an update on funding and arrangements for summer play dates/youth projects in Crewkerne.

Cllrs consider a suggestion that up to three play days be provided: one in May, two in the Summer, as well as the postponed Graffiti Project. This will be arranged with our own provider as District Council have not responded to Town Clerk regarding provision this year. The cost is £600 per day. Cllr. Best agreed to investigate further District funding.

Cllr. Samuel asked for clarification on the cost of £600.00 per session. The Town Clerk confirmed that it is mainly staffing costs, and some equipment.

Decision was made to DEFER until information is obtained on funding from District, with the aim to go ahead with two in Summer plus the Graffiti Project, with a further date in Autumn to engage Youth Groups in planting at Bincombe.

187 **SPACE4CREWKERNE**

22/23 To note correspondence received from Space4Crewkerne regarding a proposal for a wildlife site at Kithill.

The proposal was welcomed by Councillors.

Cllrs. Best and Ashton were unable to comment due to close proximity with other development sites and their involvement with the Planning Committee.

It was AGREED to delegate to the Deputy Clerk to investigate and report back with information regarding the cost and other implications associated with it.

188 **GEORGE REYNOLDS CENTRE**

22/23 To consider a request from Crewkerne Cricket Club to erect a sponsorship board on the GRC.

The Town Clerk was asked to propose to Crewkerne Cricket Club that they utilise the area on the side railings rather than GRC, and to replace the Rugby and Football advertisements when they are removed at the end of season.

189 **NEWSLETTER**

22/23 To approve the draft newsletter.

Town Clerk noted the following changes have been made:

- Temporary Coronation Poster has been replaced with the final artwork.
- A last-minute request by Chair of The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group to add a thank you for completing the recent survey and results to be shared in due course.

APPROVED

190 **TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING MINUTES AND APPROVE ANY RECOMMENDATIONS THEREIN:**

22/23

- a. Planning & Highways Committee 13 February 2023
APPROVED
- b. Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group 29 November 2022
APPROVED
- c. War Memorial Commemoration Trust 30 January 2023
APPROVED
- d. Youth Steering Group 9 January 2023
APPROVED
- e. Reports from Town Council representatives to outside bodies:
No reports at present but Cllrs Head and Ashton stated they will shortly be reporting from The League of Friends of Crewkerne Hospital and PPG.

191 **TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING MINUTES AND APPROVE ANY RECOMMENDATIONS THEREIN:**

22/23

- Cllr. Best reported the burnt-out car outside the Aqua Centre ignited itself, and it is waiting to be removed. Cllr. Samuel noted that she had observed children looking into the vehicle which is unsafe.

- Cllr. Samuel reported that she had been looking into reported dog fouling at the Barn Street Recreation Ground. There was no obvious sign of dog fouling but the bin there did smell strongly of faeces. To make sure obvious signage is up on every entrance to state 'No Dogs'. Cllr. Samuel queried if the Beech tree had the annual check. Town Clerk to update at the next Amenities Committee Meeting.
- Cllr. Livesley reported that he has been checking the state of the Disabled Toilet following the recent fouling of it. The Town Clerk reported that incidents have been happening less often but are still occurring. Town Clerk reported there is an issue with the timer on the disabled toilet door which should be resolved this week.
- Cllr. Livesley asked if Parking Restrictions will be enforced by the Unitary Authority. The Town Clerk reported that enforcement is taking place as a new Car Park Service Level Agreement has been added and confirmed that all parking enforcement will now be carried out by Somerset Council.
- Cllr. Ashton noted that there are no major road closures planned in Crewkerne until August, when Station Road potentially will be closed for resurfacing.

192 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

22/23

Monday 24th April 2023, 18.45 in the 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 AND CONTRACTUAL MATTERS.

193 OPERATION MANAGER

22/23

Interview arrangements were confirmed and interviews are due to take place w/c 17th April.

194 GRC AIR CONDITIONING

22/23

Cllrs. considered quotes for air conditioning units at the GRC, noting that they were badly needed due to high temperatures of the room in Summer. The Town Clerk reported that CTC had been successful in a grant application to SSD for 50% of the costs.

It was AGREED to accept the quote from JNR Air Conditioning and fund the balance from the GRC project budget.

The meeting closed at 19:45.

Signed:

Dated:

TC27Mar2023