

Minutes of the ANNUAL TOWN MEETING OF ELECTORS held in the Victoria Hall, Market Square, Crewkerne on Monday 17 April 2023 at 6.30 p.m.

PRESENT:

Kathy Head                      Mayor of Crewkerne (in the Chair)  
Katharine Sheehan          Town Clerk

Plus, approximately 40 local government electors of the Parish of Crewkerne.

1. WELCOME

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending, noting that a number of community groups had brought presentations and leaflets, staged for information around the room.

2. ANNUAL HONOURED CITIZENS AWARD 2023

The Mayor presented an Award to Mrs Catherine Bacon. Mrs Bacon had been instrumental in the building of Crewkerne in Bloom, which upon entering the South West In Bloom awards for the first time in 2019, came home with three silver cups, a gold certificate and several 'In Your Neighbourhood' awards. Mrs Bacon has been a key part of the team ever since and last year the Town received its third Gold Award. The Honoured Citizen Award was presented to Mrs Bacon in recognition of her work and commitment to Crewkerne.

Mrs Bacon accepted the award and thanked everyone.

The Mayor then presented an award to Mr Roy Scrivens. Mr Scrivens has not only volunteered at the Local Information Centre (LIC), but also at the Henhayes Memory Group every week, helping to support those suffering from dementia. He sits on the board of the Henhayes Centre and every December gives up hours and hours of his time to become the most wonderful Father Christmas and bring immeasurable joy to hundreds of Crewkerne children. Cllr. Head concluded by saying that it is only right that Mr Scrivens is recognised for everything he does for the town.

Mr Scrivens accepted the award and thanked everyone, paying thanks to his family for their support.

3. MAYOR'S COMMENDATION AWARD 2023

The Mayor presented a Mayor's Commendation Award to John Davies. She commented that John will be a familiar face to many as he works hard behind the scenes keeping many of the town's beauty spots tidy and blooming throughout the year. He is particularly involved with the cemetery and pillbox sites, but most of all the Severalls Memorial Garden, which is a beautiful and peaceful place.

As the move towards the unitary Somerset Council drew closer, John joined the Town Council's campaign to have the ownership of both our beloved war memorial 'Tommy' and the Severalls Memorial Gardens returned to Crewkerne Town Council. John organised a petition of almost 500 signatures supporting the return of these important gardens to the town and took it to South Somerset District Council.

Happily the ownership transfer has now completed and the gardens and memorial can be cared for by the town.

Mr Davies accepted the award, thanking the Mayor.

4. INTRODUCTION TO TOWN COUNCILLORS

The Mayor introduced the Councillors and thanked them for their support through the year.

5. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL TOWN MEETING ON MONDAY 4 APRIL 2022

The Minutes of the meeting of the Annual Town Meeting of Electors held on Monday 4 April 2022 were APPROVED.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS TOWN MEETING MINUTES

None.

7. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE POLICE

PC Paul Nally reported that:

There was currently a full team serving the Crewkerne beat although there had been some personnel changes within that team. This was positive compared to other nearby areas, which were understaffed. The team was still based out of the Crewkerne Police Station although not on a 24-hour basis. In terms of crime statistics for the area, reported crime numbers were either at reduced levels or at the same levels as the previous year. No questions were raised.

8. MAYOR'S REPORT

Cllr. Head gave a presentation which summarised the highlights from the year to date and the Council's future priorities.

9. PRESENTATIONS FROM COMMUNITY GROUPS

Presentations were made by the following community groups:

- Aqua Centre (Dave Pittard presented)
- Crewkerne Time Bank (Matt Day presented)
- Be A Good Neighbour (Stephen Gray presented)
- Crewkerne in Business (a short statement was read by the Town Clerk)
- Lawn Tennis Association Parks Project (James Deem presented)

10. PRESENTATION OF GRANT CHEQUES TO LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

The Mayor presented grant awards to the following organisations:

- Crewkerne and District Museum & Heritage Centre
- Crewkerne Tea Dance Group
- Crewkerne in Bloom

- Henhayes Community Centre
- Merriott Majorettes
- Citizens Advice South Somerset
- Crewkerne Boxing Club
- Crewkerne Men's Shed
- 1<sup>st</sup> Crewkerne Scout Group
- Somerset Farmers Market
- Crewkerne Pegasus Karate Club
- Crewkerne Rugby Club
- CUDOS

11. MATTERS RAISED BY CREWKERNE RESIDENTS

Members of the public raised questions relating to:

- The condition of the A30 between Crewkerne and Yeovil
- The need for Community Speedwatch – volunteers should contact the Deputy Clerk
- Commemorations for the late Queen – continued tree planting throughout the town was planned
- Works to the Town Hall and associated council tax rises – Cllr. Dan Wakeman confirmed that the external works to the Town Hall had been completed several years ago and although internal works were required, these had not yet been precepted for.

The meeting closed at 7.59 p.m.

Signed: .....

Dated: .....

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