

Minutes of a meeting of CREWKERNE TOWN COUNCIL held in the Council Chamber, Market Square at 18.45 on Monday 24 July 2023.

PRESENT

Cllrs. A. Samuel (Mayor), S. Ashton, M. Best, T. Bond, K. Head, J. Nathan (from item 44 onwards), and J. Morris.

In attendance: Town Clerk K. Sheehan, Deputy Clerk E. Wilkins and 8 members of the public.

OPEN FORUM

Members of the public raised the following issues:

- Traffic studies relating to the town as a whole were significantly out of date and could be usefully refreshed to understand the town's current needs, rather than considering one way systems in isolation.
- Trees at Barn Street were looking stressed following a long period of hot weather. The Town Clerk clarified that the Grounds Team were aware and monitoring.

39 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

23/24

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. Draycott, Livesley, Maxwell, Stuart and Wakeman (all personal).

40 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

23/24

None.

41 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 26 JUNE 2023

23/24

The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 26 June 2023 were AGREED as a true and accurate record.

42 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM UNITARY COUNCILLORS AND LOCAL COMMUNITY NETWORK REPRESENTATIVE

23/24

Cllr. Ashton reported that:

- There would be a meeting of the full Somerset Council later in the week, where the method of naming streets would be discussed, along with a new Code of Conduct.
- Some issues of financial concern were being discussed.

Cllr. Best reported that:

- A last minute pay deal entailed there would be no waste collection strikes.
- The paving outside of the George Hotel was being relaid.

Cllr. Head (LCN representative) reported that:

- There had not been a meeting of the LCN since she had reported last but the Town Clerk had circulated the minutes to all councillors. The next meeting was likely to be September.

43 CLERK'S PROGRESS REPORT

23/24

The Town Clerk reported that:

- The long-anticipated tennis courts refurbishment had started earlier in the day.
- The floor restoration in the Victoria Hall had now been completed.

44 **PLANNING**

23/24 To consider applications due before the next meeting of the Planning and Highways Committee

23/01280/HOU **Treetops, 31 East Street, Crewkerne, TA18 7AG**
Installation of 15 solar panels on south facing roof.

Recommend: APPROVAL.

45 **FINANCE**

23/24

- To approve the accounts for payment for July 2023 as listed
The Town Clerk reported that Cllr. Morris had verified the accounts for payment in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations. Accounts for payment for 24 July 2023 in the sum of £40,717.31 were APPROVED.
- To report the bank reconciliation for June 2023 has been completed
The Town Clerk reported that Cllr. Morris had verified the bank reconciliation for June 2023. It was noted that cash in hand as of 30 June 2023 was £751,628.67.
- To receive the first quarter income and expenditure report
The first quarter income and expenditure report was noted, with the Town Clerk reporting that the report was much as expected at this stage in the financial year, with the exception of the Victoria Hall refurbishment which was unforeseen expenditure.

46 **GOVERNANCE**

23/24

- To approve an updated Scheme of Delegation to Officers
The Scheme of Delegation was AGREED.
- To consider the draft Action Plan 2023-27
The Action Plan 2023-27 was AGREED.

47 **LOCAL COUNCIL AWARD SCHEME (LCAS)**

23/24 To resolve that Crewkerne Town Council has all the documentation and information in place for Quality Council status and will submit a formal application to LCAS

It was AGREED that all necessary documentation and information was now in place for Quality Council status and the Town Clerk was asked to make a formal application to LCAS.

48 **NORTH STREET ONE WAY SYSTEM**

23/24 To resolve to make a formal approach to Somerset Council in support of the North Street one way system

Cllr. Nathan declared a personal interest in this item due to living along North Street.

Following discussion, it was AGREED to write a formal letter to Somerset Council to request that the town traffic survey be updated to reflect the current needs of the town, to enable the various plans for

one way systems to be revisited supported by up to date evidence, in light of the forthcoming link road obligations on the Taylor Wimpey site.

49
23/24 **NEWSLETTER**
To approve the draft town newsletter

The latest draft of the newsletter was agreed without change.

50
23/24 **D-DAY 80**
To consider an event commemorating the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings 6 June 2024

The Deputy Clerk was asked to investigate the possibility of having a beacon, and report back to a future meeting.

51
23/24 **TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING MINUTES AND APPROVE ANY RECOMMENDATIONS THEREIN:**

- a. Planning & Highways Committee 15 May 2023.
- b. Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group 10 May 2023.
- c. Amenities Committee 12 June 2023.
- d. War Memorial Commemoration Trust 27 March 2023.
- e. Reports from Town Council representatives to outside bodies.

All minutes above were duly noted and any recommendations AGREED.

52
23/24 **MATTERS OF REPORT**

Councillors raised the following issues:

- Badger activity on various paths around the Happy Valley area
- Possible aviation activity taking place locally which could be breaching regulations
- Overflowing dog waste bins were becoming a frequent occurrence and the adequacy of Somerset Council's collection schedule was queried.
- Crewkerne Business Group was starting to regroup and meet again.

53
23/24 **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

Monday 25 September 2023, 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 – FINANCIAL INFORMATION RELATING TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS.

54
23/24 **ABCD**
To receive an update on funds currently held on behalf of ABCD and to consider a way forward

The Town Clerk reported that ABCD had now held a formal meeting and agreed to open a new bank account.

Councillors AGREED:

- To hold (no movements) ringfenced ABCD funds for a further 3 months. The situation would be reassessed at this time should ABCD's bank account not be open.

- To act as a recipient organisation for a grant for a local art project instead of ABCD, subject to the Town Clerk’s review of the associated terms and conditions of the offer.
- That ABCD should be invited to make a presentation to councillors once their new bank account was successfully opened.

55
23/24 **UNPAID INVOICES RELATING TO USE OF THE GRC**

Councillors AGREED to ask the organisation in question to ensure all payments are up to date by 31st August 2023, otherwise continued use of the facilities would not be permitted.

The meeting closed at 19.54.

Signed:

Dated:

TC24July2023