

Councillors are hereby summoned, and members of the public and press are invited, to attend a meeting of the **Full Council** to be held on **Monday 27 November 2023**, commencing at 18.45, in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Market Square, Crewkerne.

**Note:**

- **Members of the public who wish to view the meeting proceedings, either in real time or afterwards, can access the meeting through the following link:**  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTA9K-7L4Onjcli2Gtz7tCg>

K. Sheehan, Town Clerk (signed on original)  
21 November 2023

# Agenda

**Open Forum:** Questions may be put to the Council in person during this Public Participation Session of up to 15 minutes and a maximum of 3 minutes per person. Issues notified to the Clerk a minimum of 3 working days before the meeting (i.e., by 5pm on the preceding Wednesday) will receive a response during this session. Issues raised in this session without prior notice may be referred to the Clerk to respond to within 10 working days or listed on a subsequent agenda.

1. **To note apologies for absence.**
2. **Declarations of interest** in items on the agenda.
3. **To confirm the minutes of the Town Council meeting** held on 30 October 2023.
4. **To receive reports from the Unitary Councillors and LCN representative.**
5. **Clerk's progress report:** to receive an update report (for information only, to include the 6-monthly policing report as police unable to attend).
6. **Finance:**
  - a. To approve the accounts for payment for November 2023 as listed.
  - b. To report the bank reconciliation for October 2023 has been completed.
  - c. To note that the monthly accounts for the War Memorial Commemoration Trust have been checked.
7. **Open Spaces Policy:** to consider adopting a draft Open Spaces Policy.
8. **Smallholding & Allotments Act 1908:** to receive a report from the Town Clerk following initial contact with specialist solicitors.
9. **George Reynolds Centre:**
  - a. To consider a proposal for a public meeting regarding the future of the GRC and determine arrangements.
  - b. To consider quotations for a replacement hot water heater.

- 10. Somerset Council services and assets:** to consider arrangements for a public consultation on Somerset Council services in Crewkerne.
- 11. To receive the following minutes and approve any recommendations contained therein:**
- a. Planning & Highways Committee 9 October 2023
  - b. Amenities Committee 11 September 2023
  - c. Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group 19 September 2023
  - d. Joint Burial Committee 6 June 2023
  - e. Reports from Town Council representatives to outside bodies
- 12. To receive Matters of Report (for information only).**
- 13. Next meeting:** Monday 11 December 2023 at 18.45, Council Chamber, Town Hall, following the meeting of the Planning & Highways Committee.

*In accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 s 1(2), to resolve that the press and members of the public be excluded from following items having regard to the confidential issues to be discussed.*

Confidential Session: Exclusion of the Press & Public – Commercially sensitive and contractual information.

Payment Ref	Gross	Vat	Net	Payee	Description
	£1.50		£1.50	Crease, L	Refund - overpayment of Hall hire
O P Nov 1	£171.11	£24.01	£147.10	Sheehan, k	Expenses
O P Nov 2	£66.08	£11.01	£55.07	Iris Business Software	Payroll software remote hosting Oct 23
O P Nov 3	£96.00	£16.00	£80.00	Allen Computer Services	Printer cartridge
O P Nov 4	£23.88	£3.98	£19.90	Elswoods Cleaning Supplies	Grounds disposable gloves
O P Nov 5	£123.19	£20.53	£102.66	Yarcombe Woodland Products	Timber/postmix
O P Nov 5	£71.71	£11.95	£59.76	Yarcombe Woodland Products Ltd	Timber/postmix
O P Nov 6	£10.27		£10.27	Cross, A	Refreshments
O P Nov 7	£2,732.37		£2,732.37	HM Revenue & Customs	Tax & NI Contributions Oct 23
O P Nov 8	£3,866.10		£3,866.10	SCC Pension Fund	Pension Contributions Oct 23
O P Nov 9	£70.00		£70.00	JAF Yeovil Ltd	First Aid provision Bincombe Event
O P Nov 10	£1,530.17		£1,530.17	Active Learning & Skills	Provision of Youth Service Oct 23
O P Nov 11	£130.80	£21.80	£109.00	Purple Hire Solutions	Portable toilet for Bincombe event
O P Nov 12	£600.00		£600.00	J.C.Chainsaw Sculptures	Chainsaw carving demonstration for Bincombe Event
O P Nov 13	£585.00		£585.00	Active Learning & Skills	Provision of detached Youth Work at Happy Valley
O P Nov 14	£180.00		£180.00	Somerset Council	Victoria Hall Premises licence
O P Nov 15	£600.00	£100.00	£500.00	Fern Garden Tree Services	Grass cutting Bincombe
DD23	£322.97	£15.38	£307.59	British Gas Business	Electricity Town Hall 20/9 - 20/10/23
DD17b	£12.19	£0.58	£11.61	Edf Energy 1 Ltd	Electricity Street lighting Henhayes 21/9 - 21/10/23
DD17c	£13.72	£0.65	£13.07	Edf Energy 1 Ltd	Electricity Street lighting Middle Path 21/9 - 21/10/23
DD26	£95.12	£4.53	£90.59	British Gas Business	Gas Town Hall 24/9 - 27/10/23
DD33 C.Card	£161.75		£161.75	Plants Galore	Shrubs/bedding plants
DD2	£1,234.00		£1,234.00	Somerset Council	Business rates Victorial Hall/Town Hall Nov 23
DD20	£309.00		£309.00	Somerset Council	Business rates Cemetery Chapel/Workshop Nov 23
DD51	£649.00		£649.00	Somerset Council	Business Rates GRC Nov 23
DD13	£1,704.97		£1,704.97	Aviva Credit Services UK Ltd	Insurance Nov 23
DD33 C.Card	£161.98	£27.00	£134.98	Star Platforms Ltd	Grounds mobile platform equipment
DD21	£97.59	£4.65	£92.94	British Gas Business	Electricity Happy Valley floodlights 18/9 - 18/10/23
DD30	£135.63	£6.46	£129.17	British Gas Business	Electricity Public Toilets 23/9 - 23/10/23
DD59	£380.13	£18.10	£362.03	British Gas Business	Gas GRC 14/9 - 22/10/23
O P Nov 16	£54.00		£54.00	Swaffield J.H.	Grounds vehicle MOT
O P Nov 17	£410.00		£410.00	Footprintz	Newsletter
O P Nov 18	£551.52		£551.52	Wilkins, E	Temporary Staff Costs
O P Nov 19	£168.00	£28.00	£140.00	Allen Computer Services	Resolution of Wifi fault
O P Nov 20	£63.29		£63.29	James Hardware	Sundries
O P Nov 21	£66.50	£11.08	£55.42	Boilerman Ltd	GRC toilet repair
O P Nov 22	£48.00	£8.00	£40.00	Paperchase Recycling	Cemetery general waste collection 2/10 - 29/10/23
O P Nov 23	£50.00		£50.00	Somerset Association of Local Councils	Playground inspection seminar
O P Nov 24	£1,242.00	£207.00	£1,035.00	Dantek Environmental Services (UK) Ltd	Quarterly water hygiene monitoring
O P Nov 25	£273.00	£45.50	£227.50	Pro Drainage	GRC drain unblocking
O P Nov 26	£1,116.00	£186.00	£930.00	Fern Garden Tree Services	Cemetery grass cutting Oct 23
O P Nov 27	£900.00		£900.00	M C Commercial Cleaning	Cleaning Oct 23
O P Nov 27	£625.00		£625.00	M C Commercial Cleaning	GRC Cleaning Oct 23
O P Nov 28	£22.84	£0.75	£22.09	Warren L	Refreshments
O P Nov 29	£103.80	£17.30	£86.50	Sovereign Fire & Security	GRC Intruder/Fire alarm/CCTV maintenance Dec 23
O P Nov 29	£168.00	£28.00	£140.00	Sovereign Fire & Security	GRC Intruder alarm fault resolution
O P Nov 29	£21.60	£3.60	£18.00	Sovereign Fire & Security	GRC Fire extinguisher maintenance
DD42	£18.46	£0.88	£17.58	British Gas Business	Electricity Cemetery Chapel/Workshop 28/9 - 30/10/23
DD46	£136.80	£22.80	£114.00	Somerset Web Services Lrd	Email hosting Nov 23
DD57	£243.55	£40.59	£202.96	British Telecom	GRC Telephone & broadband Nov 23
DD47	£48.73	£8.12	£40.61	Biffa	Grounds skip hire Oct 23
DD49	£286.69	£47.78	£238.91	The Business	Fuel Oct 23
DD17a	£57.59	£2.74	£54.85	Edf Energy 1 Ltd	Electricity Street Lighting Happy Valley 1/7 - 30/9/23
O P Nov 30	£22.50	£3.75	£18.75	Head K	Christmas flags for town
O P Nov 31	£516.44		£516.44	Creation Generation	Christmas Bauble Workshop
O P Nov 32	£627.84	£104.64	£523.20	Groves Nurseries	Trees/Shrubs
O P Nov 33	£74.30		£74.30	James Hardware	Sundries

O P Nov 34	£66.08	£11.01	£55.07	Iris Business Software Ltd	Payroll software remote hosting Nov 23
O P Nov 35	£929.94	£124.00	£805.94	Wynnstay	Allotment water troughs/PPE
O P Nov 36	£1,268.13		£1,268.13	Somerset Association of Local Councils	Affiliation fee 1/4/23 - 31/3/24
O P Nov 37	£60.60	£10.10	£50.50	Bradfords	Fence pins
O P Nov 37	£24.84	£4.14	£20.70	Bradfords	Gate latch
O P Nov 37	£17.29	£2.88	£14.41	Bradfords	Gravel, postcrete
O P Nov 37	£71.92	£11.98	£59.94	Bradfords	Down pipes
O P Nov 37	£27.85	£4.64	£23.21	Bradfords	Grounds PPE
O P Nov 38	£15.00		£15.00	Watson, J	Refund for market stall
DD33 C.Card	£159.00		£159.00	TV Licensing	GRC TV Licence 1/12/23 - 30/11/24
DD31	£17.38	£2.90	£14.48	Iris Business Software Ltd	Payroll Auto enrolment software Oct 23
DD52	£276.43	£46.07	£230.36	Gamma Business Communications Ltd	Telephone & Broadband Nov 23
DD9	£61.98	£10.33	£51.65	Southern Communications	Mobile phone charges Nov 23
DD33 C.Card	£259.99	£43.33	£216.66	DailyzTech	Mobile phones for Deputy Clerk & Ops Manager
DD43	£13.02		£13.02	Lloyds Bank	Bank charges Oct 23
DD31	£7.77	£1.29	£6.48	Iris Business Software Ltd	Payroll payslips software Oct 23
DD50	£1,231.70	£205.28	£1,026.42	British Gas Business	Electricity GRC Oct 23
DD27	£338.11	£16.10	£322.01	E. O N	Electricity Victoria Hall Oct 23
O P Nov 39	£114.50		£114.50	NG Signs	Staff ID cards
O P Nov 40	£975.00	£162.50	£812.50	Ben's Gutters Commercial	Gutter clearing
O P Nov 41	£17.30	£0.00	£17.30	Sheehan, Katharine	Expenses
O P Nov 42	£206.39	£34.40	£171.99	Danny Wilkins Ltd	Neighbourhood plan website domain renewal
DD33 C.Card	£9.16	£1.53	£7.63	Amazon Marketplace	Stationery
DD33 C.Card	£9.59	£1.60	£7.99	Amazon Marketplace	Key tags
DD33 C.Card	£9.16	£1.53	£7.63	Amazon Marketplace	Stationery
DD33 C.Card	£83.82	£13.98	£69.84	Amazon Marketplace	Tennis equipment storage box
DD33 C.Card	£14.99	£2.50	£12.49	Amazon Marketplace	Frames for Christmas window competition certificates
DD33 C.Card	£322.50		£322.50	DVLA	Grounds vehicle tax 1/12/23 - 30/11/24
	£17,552.36		£17,552.36	Salaries	November
Total	£48,214.48	£1,765.25	£46,449.23		

<b>CREWKERNE TOWN COUNCIL</b>			
<b>BANK RECONCILIATION AS AT 31/10/2023</b>			
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2023		£353,547.28
	ADD		
	Receipts 01/04/2023 - 31/10/2023		£589,845.63
	SUBTRACT		
	Payments 01/04/2023 - 31/10/2023		£352,577.82
<b>A</b>	<b>CASH IN HAND 31/10/23</b>		<b>£590,815.09</b>
	(per Cash Book)		
	Cash in Hand per Bank Statements 31st October 2023		
	LLOYDS - Business Call Account	£433,192.60	
	LLOYDS - Current Account	£50,030.00	
	LLOYDS - Burial Account	£107,592.49	
			£590,815.09
	<b>Less</b> unpresented cheques		
			£0.00
	<b>Plus</b> unpresented receipts		
<b>B</b>	<b>ADJUSTED BANK BALANCE</b>		<b>£590,815.09</b>
	<b>A = B Checks out OK</b>		
	Town Clerk: .....		
	Date: .....		
	Checked by: .....		
	Date: .....		

<b>CREWKERNE TOWN COUNCIL WAR MEMORIAL          COMMEMORATION TRUST RECREATION GROUND          BANK RECONCILIATION AS AT 31/10/2023</b>			
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2023 ADD Receipts 01/04/2023 - 31/10/2023 SUBTRACT Payments 01/04/2023 - 31/10/2023		£0.00  £2,651.49  £30.65
<b>A</b>	<b>CASH IN HAND 31/10/23</b> (per Cash Book)		£2,620.84
	Cash in Hand per Bank Statements 31st October 2023  LLOYDS - Instant Access Account LLOYDS - Current Account   Less unpresented cheques    Plus unpresented receipts	£2,418.46 £202.38          £0.00	£2,620.84
<b>B</b>	<b>ADJUSTED BANK BALANCE</b>  <b>A = B Checks out OK</b>   Town Clerk: ..... Date: .....   Checked by: ..... Date: .....		£2,620.84

## **Open Spaces Policy**

### **Introduction:**

Crewkerne is blessed with fine countryside, much of it accessible, but people of all ages & backgrounds need open spaces close to where they live. Open space is land in some form of public ownership that is regularly available for recreational or sporting use by the community, and also includes a cemetery and churchyard. Open spaces are valued community assets improving public health, well-being and quality of life, and bringing regeneration benefits to an area.

As well as providing space for recreation and exercise, parks & open spaces perform a considerable range of other vital functions for the community such as the following: -

- a. Habitat for wildlife and movement corridors for animals, important to local nature conservation.
- b. Flood protection providing areas for rainfall to drain away.
- c. Space for trees, too large for many gardens, which in turn provide shade, climate regulation and shelter.
- d. Air and water purification.
- e. Aesthetic & landscape enhancement and protection of green vistas.
- f. Sense of well-being, improving desirability of an area and increase in property value.
- g. A venue for social interaction, public art and community events.
- h. An outdoor classroom allowing children to explore and learn about the natural world.
- i. Land for community food growing and enjoying horticultural achievements.
- j. Protection of areas and structures of heritage value.
- k. Carbon sequestration in tackling the causes of climate change.

Environmental change and the need for increased biodiversity will have an effect on the way open spaces are managed.

### **Open Spaces owned and managed by Crewkerne Town Council:**

- Happy Valley Recreation Ground
- Barn Street Recreation Ground
- Bincombe Beeches Nature Reserve
- Severalls War Memorial Garden
- Henhayes Recreation Ground
- Southmead Play Area, Severalls Bowling Green
- Severalls Tennis Courts
- Severalls Allotments
- Bincombe Allotments
- Townend Cemetery
- St Bartholomew's Church Grounds

### **Objectives:**

Open spaces provide opportunities for all areas of our community and include play opportunities, places to walk and sit quietly, and protection for wildlife and social areas.

There is an agreed procedure for the upkeep of Open Spaces and these are maintained for the optimum use of all residents. This procedure is determined by Council Staff, in particular the Operations Manager, and is communicated to, and known, by all Grounds Staff. This will include details on where grass is to be cut, wild areas, areas of rewilding, frequency of maintenance, tree planting/pruning/removal, equipment inspections and records.

Sports pitches will be maintained to a reasonable standard and where a team requires additional work undertaken this can be done either at an additional cost to the Sports Club or with the written agreement of Crewkerne Town Council to undertake it themselves.

Upkeep of these Open Spaces remains under the control of Crewkerne Town Council and no additional work is to be taken in any Open Space without the written permission of Crewkerne Town Council. Any unauthorised work will be considered to be criminal damage and action taken accordingly.

### **Tree Policy**

#### **For Crewkerne Town Council owned trees, we will endeavour to:**

- Maintain our trees in a safe condition.
- Prune our trees when they are causing an actual nuisance, i.e. damage to buildings.

#### **Tree Works the Council are not able to do:**

- Prune privately owned trees.
- Prune trees back because they are overhanging.
- Systematically prune trees to control their size or height.
- Prune or remove trees in order to improve light.
- Prune or remove trees to improve a view.
- Prune or remove trees because of falling leaves, sap, seeds or debris.
- Prune or remove trees to improve television or satellite reception.

#### **Common tree related enquiries:**

If the tree does not belong to CTC and the resident is concerned about:

- Electricity cables (trees interfering with) and supply: National Grid (formerly Western Power) 0800 096 3080
- Telephone wires – BT Faults – 0800 800151
- Trees threatening or obstructing the Highway (including pavements) – Somerset Council Highways – 0300 123 2224
- Trees obstructing streetlights – Somerset Council Streetlight Department – 0345 601 0939
- Trees obstructing right of way – Somerset Council Highways – 0300 123 2224
- High evergreen hedges – refer to land owner or Somerset Council Tree Officer
- Nesting birds and roosting bats – contact the police – 101



- If the resident is unsure about which arborist to employ, helpful consumer advice and directories are available at [www.trees.org.uk](http://www.trees.org.uk)

### **Doing the work yourselves:**

In common law, a property owner can cut back overhanging branches to the boundary of their property. Crewkerne Town Council will usually have no objection to property owners carrying out this type of tree works or engaging a contractor at their own expense, **providing:**

- Access is not gained via Council land or trees, without written permission of the Town Clerk. 01460 74001.
- The tree is not situated within a Conservation Area or subject to a Tree Preservation Order. Refer to the Town Clerk. 01460 74001.
- That any work to the tree is not detrimental to its health or stability and is carried out in accordance with British Standard 2998:2010 – Tree Works.
- That the cut branches are disposed of in a responsible manner and that no unauthorised damage to Council property occurs.
- Works to any tree situated in a Conservation Area, whether Council or privately owned, should have the correct permissions obtained from the Local Planning Authority (LPA) before commencement.

No timber is to be removed by the public from Council open spaces without the express written permission of the Town Clerk.

### **Grass Cutting**

Grass cutting policy will be dependent on the area. Pitches will be maintained to a suitable standard. Should a club need maintenance to a higher standard then this should be made known to the Town Council for consideration. Permission must be in writing and at the club's cost. Other areas may be maintained in a different way to encourage biodiversity, increase wildlife habitat or to save costs. In these areas throughout the spring and summer, the grasses are allowed to grow to create a meadow effect and mown pathways are cut in between.

In the autumn the flat, open areas will be cut back before the winter. The time of this cut will be determined by the Town Council and timescales may vary depending on weather and staff capacity. Pathways may continue to be cut in the autumn/winter depending on the weather but the grass will be allowed to grow longer outside of these areas.

The Churchyard and Cemetery will have their own requirements which may be a mixture of continued grass cutting throughout the season and wilder areas.

### **Allotments**

There are many benefits to an allotment and growing your own fruit, vegetables and flowers including better mental wellbeing, improved physical strength, less pesticides and reduced plastic packaging and Crewkerne Town Council provide allotments for community use. There do however need to be some rules on allotments:

- Rent is charged and has to be paid on a regular basis. Rent overdue for more than 3 months will result in the allotment holder being given notice to vacate
- No allotment is to be used for commercial venture
- No animals are to be kept on allotments – this includes bee hives
- Allotments are to be kept clean and free of rubbish
- Allotments are to be regularly tended and if no work has been done to an allotment for a season, then the holder will be given notice to vacate.

Please refer to the full Allotment Policy for further details.

### **Dog Walking**

Crewkerne Town Council allows well behaved dogs in all its open spaces except Barn Street Recreation Ground which has a dog ban. Please respect this decision.

### **Invasive Species**

The public are not allowed to plant any plants, flowers or trees on Council Open Spaces without prior written agreement. Any non-native or invasive species will be removed, without warning, and disposed of or rehomed as necessary.

### **Financial implications:**

There are financial implications to Crewkerne Town Council for maintaining Open Spaces and changes may be made to agreed procedures to allow for budget management or special events. This decision can be made by the Town Clerk in conjunction with the Chair of Amenities Committee.

### **Biodiversity Considerations:**

The Natural England and Rural Communities Act of 2006 placed a duty on authorities in England (including Town Councils) to have regard to conserving biodiversity as part of their policy and decision-making processes. This was subsequently strengthened under the Environment Act of 2021 which asked public authorities to consider what they can do to enhance biodiversity in England. The first consideration of this duty must be completed by 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024.

This means a public authority must:

- Consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity.
- Agree policies and specific objectives based on their consideration.
- Act to deliver policies and achieve objectives.

### **What the Town Council will do:**

- Consider the impact on biodiversity in the decisions made by the Town Council, especially when commenting on planning applications.
- It will reduce the use of pesticides and herbicides used on Town Council owned land.
- It will regularly review how it manages the Open Spaces identified above, and consider where possible:
  - Leaving standing and fallen dead wood as a habitat for invertebrates.
  - Leaving leaf litter and dead vegetation wherever possible as a habitat for invertebrates.

- Removing invasive and non-invasive species that are detrimental to native flora or fauna as required.
- The Town Council will consider reducing the number of cuts in appropriate areas to allow the grasses to grow and be swathed in September.
- Ensure that there is a margin of uncut grass around the hedges to allow longer grasses to grow.
- Allow fallen tree branches to remain, if safe, to allow invertebrates to inhabit.
- To preserve the Lucombe Oak tree and encourage biodiversity the area under the tree will be left wilded and protect the tree's root system.
- The Crewkerne Neighbourhood Plan is being drafted and the Town Council supports the discussion of biodiversity and added to the plan as necessary.
- Hedge cutting takes place twice a year. All hedges are cut outside of the bird nesting season.
- The Town Council will look to install bird boxes in Town Council owned trees.
- The Town Council will look to promote biodiversity via the Town Council website.

Approved: MEETING DATE MINUTE REFERENCE

Due for review: MONTH DATE

### Agenda Item 8:

Smallholdings and Allotment Act 1908: to receive a report from the Town Clerk following initial contact with specialist solicitors.

### Introduction:

A number of requests have been made under the Smallholdings & Allotment Act 1908 that Crewkerne Town Council considers either compulsorily purchasing or compulsorily hiring the land adjacent to Henhayes, known as Cropmead Orchard. The Town Clerk was asked to research the process and liaise with the relevant authorities to obtain more information for Councillors to consider.

In October 2023 the Town Clerk reported to Full Council that that she had followed up with enquiries regarding the process of acquiring land using this legislation. Somerset Council had advised that it was unable to participate in this process due to resource issues but had suggested making contact with a specialist law firm. It was noted that two days of specialist legal work could potentially cost £6,000. The Clerk was then asked to pursue initial contact with the specialist solicitors to gather further information about process and costs and report back to Council.

Further information has now been provided by the specialist solicitors:

- The compulsory processes, either hire or purchase, are 'last resort' powers and should not be started until the Town Council has discussed with the landowner whether the land could be acquired by agreement.
- Town Council would need to identify sufficient funding for both process costs and compensation costs.
- The process often takes about 18 months to get to the stage for the powers to be available.
- A contested CPO which runs to inquiry is estimated to cost approximately £200,000 for fees encompassing lawyers, land agents, surveyors, planning experts etc. Expenditure cannot be taken off the purchase price.
- Land compulsorily acquired is still purchased (or hired, see below) at market value – the value which would be expected by a willing seller from a willing buyer on the open market and this value is at the time of acquisition rather than when the process starts. The compensation is payable in addition to the process costs.
- The acquiring authority has to be able to demonstrate that it has the ability to pay this compensation/purchase/hire value at the outset of the process. An additional 10% uplift (capped at £100,000) is also applied as a 'loss payment'.
- Other costs are also payable by the acquiring authority to the landowner – conveyancing, reinvestment costs etc.
- There needs to be very strong evidence that there is a need for these allotments in Crewkerne – the evidential burden would be on the Town Council to prove that it is in the public interest to acquire the land for this specific use and that there is no better use for the land in planning policy terms and that this is in the general public benefit.
- The specialist describes the process as 'resource intensive and time consuming'.

- In respect of compulsory hire, I was advised that the process is similar, as are the costs. The compensation element may be less than in a compulsory purchase but would likely be what a commercial rent for the site would be for the hire period plus the disturbance costs incurred by the owner, which could perhaps include a sum reflecting the deferral of profit from the site. Again, this is a power of last resort.

Financial Implications:

There are significant financial and resource implications attached to proceeding with either a compulsory hire or purchase process. The Council does not have reserves or investments sufficient to meet the potential costs identified by the specialist. This would have to be included in a future budget. There is a significant element of financial risk to the Council.

Recommendation:

- a) That Councillors consider whether to allocate further Council officer time to pursuing this matter, and
- b) That Councillors consider whether this should be a budget consideration for 2024-25.



Agenda Item 11: To consider arrangements for a public consultation on Somerset Council services in Crewkerne.

Introduction:

Following receipt of a letter from Cllr. Bill Revans, Leader of Somerset Council, regarding financial pressures and possible changes to the way Somerset Council delivers services and assets, Town Councillors have indicated that they would like to run a short consultation in Crewkerne to establish the priorities of residents where these services are concerned.

A short online survey has been suggested, listing all the services Somerset Council currently provides in Crewkerne and asking residents to number them in order of priority. Hard copies could be available from the Local Information Centre.

In order to inform the budget discussions, the consultation would need to be launched straight away, with a suggested closing date of 9am, Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

Financial Implications:

The survey has been put together in house. Results of consultation to inform budgeting discussions.

Equalities Implications:

Councillors to consider alternative ways to extend the survey.

Recommendation:

Councillors to agree text of survey, method of delivery and dates of consultation as outlined above.

Supporting Documentation:

APPENDIX A: Draft survey form to go out on Facebook, Instagram, CTC website, and hard copies in the LIC.

K Sheehan

Town Clerk

November 2023









7. Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC)

Mark only one oval.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Mos          Least important

8. School Crossing Patrols (if needed, not currently provided by Somerset Council)

Mark only one oval.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Mos          Least important

9. Local flood prevention measures - e.g. provision of sandbags

Mark only one oval.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Mos          Least important

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