

Minutes of a meeting of CREWKERNE TOWN COUNCIL held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Market Square following a meeting of the Planning and Highways Committee on Monday 22 April 2024.

PRESENT

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

In attendance: Town Clerk K. Sheehan, Deputy Clerk G. Hughes and five members of the public.

166 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

23/24

All Councillors were present.

167 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

23/24

No declarations of interests were made.

168 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 25 MARCH 2024

23/24

The minutes of the meetings held on 25 March 2024 were AGREED as a true and accurate record.

169 PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

23/24

No one wished to speak.

170 CO-OPTION

23/24

To co-opt to the vacant position on Crewkerne Town Council

The four applicants were invited to introduce themselves to Councillors. Following this each candidate was questioned individually by Councillors about their experience and interest in the role before Councillors voted.

It was AGREED that Christine Rawe be co-opted to the vacant position on Crewkerne Town Council.

The declaration of acceptance of office was signed by Cllr. Rawe and the Town Clerk. The remaining candidates left the meeting, no members of the public remained in attendance.

171 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM UNITARY COUNCILLORS AND LOCAL COMMUNITY NETWORK

23/24

REPRESENTATIVE

Cllr. Ashton reported that:

- It was expected that there would be protests held at the forthcoming meeting of Somerset Council, following interruptions at other meetings and repeated defacing of County Hall.
- Slight changes had been made to the terms of reference for Somerset Council planning committees which should give more weight to comments from Town and Parish Councils.
- Additionally, ward members of adjacent wards will now be able to request planning applications come before planning committees. Work was underway on the four existing local plans, and some Scrutiny work was being undertaken with regards to phosphates.

Cllr. Best reported that:

- In excess of £13,000 had been spent removing graffiti from County Hall, following recent protests.
- The Full Council meeting was expected to be challenging and Somerset Council had increased security measures accordingly.

Cllr. Head noted that no further LCN meetings had taken place but that minutes of the last meetings had been circulated to all councillors.

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23/24

CLERK'S PROGRESS REPORT

The Town Clerk reported that:

- The Cemetery gates had been refurbished, repainted and rehung and positive feedback had been received.
- The Town Hall replacement boiler project would commence the following day and would entail that staff might need to work flexibly around the offices or at home.
- The Employment Fair would be taking place on Friday 26th April, 10am-1pm at the George Reynolds Centre (GRC), all were welcome to attend.
- Cleaning and repointing works to 'Tommy' were now complete. These works were part funded by the War Memorials Trust, with the balance using up earmarked CIL receipts.
- The Council had been awarded funding from SALC to refresh the artwork on the interpretation boards at Bincombe Beeches and provide updated nature trail leaflets at Town Hall.

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23/24

FINANCE

- a. To approve the accounts for payment for April 2024 as listed

The Town Clerk reported that Cllr. Best had verified the accounts for payment in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations. Accounts for payment for 22 April 2024 in the sum of £49,001.24 were APPROVED.

- b. To report the bank reconciliation for March 2024 has been completed

The Town Clerk reported that Cllr. Best had verified the bank reconciliation for March 2024. It was noted that cash in hand as of 31 March 2024 was £382,829.46.

- c. To note that the monthly accounts for the War Memorial Commemoration Trust have been checked

The Town Clerk reported that Cllr. Best had verified the Trust accounts and that cash in hand as of 31 March 2024 was £197.17.

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23/24

INTERNAL CHAPEL WALLS

To consider quotations for the restoration of the internal workshop chapel walls

It was AGREED to defer this item to the May meeting of the Amenities Committee to allow for a further quotation relating to the porch walls to be added to one of the quotes.

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23/24

GRC PUBLIC MEETING

To receive a verbal update and appoint Council representatives to the group

Cllrs Livesley and Best reported that, following the public meeting regarding the future of the GRC, a number of people had come forward to try and move the project forward. Representatives of the various sports clubs, town council and the community were prepared to form a charitable company limited by guarantee to independently manage the Centre, with operational bar and catering functions. A follow up meeting with these representatives had been held, which had been constructive.

It was noted that there was work to be done around the articles of association, lease and business plan and a formal decision of Council to proceed along these lines would be required. In the meantime, it was AGREED that Cllrs. Best and Livesley be formally appointed as the Town Council representatives to the GRC meetings.

176 **NEWSLETTER**

23/24 To approve the draft newsletter for publication

The draft town newsletter was AGREED for publication, subject to the following changes:

- Inclusion of additional Honoured Citizen photo.
- Introduction to the newly co-opted councillor.
- Mention of the Rotary-sponsored chatty bench.

177 **EVENTS PROGRAMME**

23/24 a. D-Day 80

It was suggested that the timings of the proclamations may have been varied and the Deputy Clerk would verify this.

b. Plants and Gardens Festival

No further details had been received but it was understood that arrangements were in hand. Cllr. Head would forward latest minutes from the organisers.

c. Summer event 2024

Further meetings had been held with the youth service provider and timings would be 11am – 4pm.

d. Big Picnic 2024

Correspondence from Somerset Council was noted, Cllr. Best clarified that this would be promoted further in advance in 2025. No action necessary.

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

23/24

- a. Joint Burial Committee 13 February 2024
- b. Reports from Town Council representatives to outside bodies.

All minutes above were duly noted and any recommendations contained therein AGREED. The Clerk was asked to recirculate the Outside Bodies reporting template.

179 **MATTERS OF REPORT**

23/24

Councillors raised the following points:

- Cllr. Samuel raised concerns about the impact of the South Street road closure on local shops and businesses. Cllr. Ashton reported that there is a mechanism for rate rebates to be claimed via Somerset Council/central Government by individual businesses.
- Cllr. Ashton noted that initial discussions are taking place about the possibility of facilitating some sort of business group in the town.
- Cllr. Best invited councillors to visit the 'Knife Angel' installation, currently in Taunton until 28th April.
- Cllrs. Stuart and Woodland reported that no one had attended the monthly Councillors surgery at the weekend. They suggested a volunteer morning at Happy Valley and the Clerk confirmed that the volunteer mornings would be moving around the various open spaces in the future.
- Cllr. Ashton noted that Crewkerne Health Centre's new 'Anima' patient system was now operational, patients would need to register before they could use it. Volunteers were available at the Health Centre to assist with registration.
- Cllr. Woodland congratulated everyone involved with organisation of the Annual Town Meeting, which had been a great success, noting that more microphones were required.

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23/24

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Monday 20 May 2024, 18.45, Council Chamber, Town Hall.

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 Matters.

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23/24

MINUTES OF THE STAFFING SUB-COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Staffing Sub-Committee held on 12th April 2024 and all recommendations contained therein were AGREED.

The meeting closed at 21.14.

Signed:

Dated:

TC22April2024