

Minutes of a meeting of CREWKERNE TOWN COUNCIL held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Market Square at 18.45 on Monday 25 March 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 three members of the public.

149 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

23/24

All Councillors were present.

150 **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

23/24

No declarations of interests were made.

151 **TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 26 FEBRUARY 2024**

23/24

The minutes of the meetings held on 26 February 2024 were AGREED as a true and accurate record.

152 **PUBLIC OPEN FORUM**

23/24

No one wished to speak.

153 **CO-OPTION**

23/24

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

Two of the four applicants had been unable to attend the meeting due to unforeseen circumstances.

It was AGREED to defer the co-option to the Full Council meeting on 22nd April 2024, to enable Councillors to have an opportunity to meet all four candidates. The Mayor apologised to the two candidates in attendance for any inconvenience.

154 **TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM UNITARY COUNCILLORS AND LOCAL COMMUNITY NETWORK**

23/24

REPRESENTATIVE

Cllr. Ashton reported that:

- The recent Local Community Network (LCN) meeting had focused on civil contingencies.
- The LCN Transport Sub-Committee had been well received and felt to be productive.
- He had left the Conservative Party and was now sitting as an Independent Councillor at Somerset Council.

Cllr. Best reported that:

- LCN meetings were now trying to focus on smaller parishes.
- A Somerset Council services 'price list' and further costings on the Highways Stewards schemes would be available in the summer.

- Somerset Council is looking at how to share information more effectively with Clerks.
- Work on the financial situation of Somerset Council was continuing, with a dispensation now in place to remove the ringfence on capital receipts.

Cllr. Head noted that the Active Travel LCN sub-group had met and discussed cycle path provision.

155 **CLERK'S PROGRESS REPORT**

23/24

The Town Clerk reported that:

- The Annual Town Meeting of Electors would be taking place on Monday 15th April at 7.30pm in the Victoria Hall. The Boxing Club were hoping to do a demonstration, and the Bincombe 360 film project would be sharing their work.
- The first meeting of the Youth Town Council would take place on 2nd April. Once it was properly established it was hoped that feedback from the Youth Town Council would be shared at Full Council meetings.
- The GRC Public Meeting was taking place on Thursday 28th March, all were welcome to attend.

156 **FINANCE**

23/24

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

The Town Clerk reported that Cllr. Head had verified the accounts for payment in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations. Accounts for payment for 25 March 2024 in the sum of £52,529.70 were APPROVED.

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

The Town Clerk reported that Cllr. Head had verified the bank reconciliation for January 2024. It was noted that cash in hand as of 29 February 2024 was £400,746.44.

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

The Town Clerk reported that Cllr. Head had verified the Trust accounts and that cash in hand as of 29 February 2024 was £5,934.37.

- d. To note that the annual review of internal controls has been carried out

Councillors noted that this review had been carried out, and the notes circulated to all. No questions were raised.

- e. To consider a grant application from the Speedwell Hall

The grant application from the Speedwell Hall for £127.39 for a tea dance group was AGREED.

- f. To consider a grant application from the Men's Wellbeing Group

The grant application from the Men's Wellbeing Group for £960.00 for public liability insurance and room hire was AGREED.

Councillors noted that both applications were being funded from the current year grants budget line, which had a small underspend.

157 **HEARING LOOP SYSTEM**

23/24

It was AGREED to purchase the portable hearing loop system detailed in the report at £6,108.85 as well as the additional training package from Gordon Morris. A dispensation to proceed on the basis of one supplier quoting was granted due to the lack of suppliers serving the area.

Councillors noted that the portable nature of the system would mean it could be used at the Town Hall, Victoria Hall and the George Reynolds Centre.

158 **WEDNESDAY MARKET**

23/24

To consider whether to introduce a trial Wednesday market

A report from the Deputy Clerk was considered, with Councillors noting that a small number of traders had contacted the Council to request opportunities to trade on a weekly basis in the town. Cllr. Best noted that an existing permission is in place for a Wednesday market at the front of the Town Hall, and Councillors agreed that a longer trial period was needed. It was noted that some of the Market Square shops had previously complained about the impact of the Farmers' Market road closure on their businesses and with this in mind, it was AGREED to trial a Wednesday Market for six months, but without a road closure. Market fees would be held at previous levels to encourage regular traders.

159 **50th/130th ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION**

23/24

To consider how to mark the anniversaries of Crewkerne Urban District Council and Crewkerne Town Council

It was AGREED to delegate authority to the Town Clerk to order commemorative pin badges up to a value of £200, for former and serving councillors and staff. The Town Clerk was also asked to progress arrangements for a commemorative photo of councillors and staff to mark both the 50th anniversary of CTC and also the recent achievement of Quality Status.

160 **DEFIBRILLATOR REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME**

23/24

To consider correspondence regarding funding for the replacement of the town defibrillators

Correspondence from the Chair of Crewkerne Rotary Club was noted, which suggested the Town Council might hold a central fund for defibrillator consumables when needed, and also to accumulate money towards replacement defibrillators when required.

It was noted that two defibrillators remained out of action, and that different arrangements were in place for different units. It was AGREED that the Town Council would revisit the issue of central funding for the units/consumables, but that in the meantime Cllr. Head would draw up a spreadsheet of all the units, their locations, their ownership and who was currently carrying out the regular checks.

Thanks were extended to the Chair of the Rotary Club for his work to date on this issue.

161 **TO RECEIVE VERBAL UPDATES AND APPROVE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE FOLLOWING GROUPS**

23/24

a. Happy Valley Working Group

Cllr. Best reported that the group had met and identified a number of actions, but would be prioritising the issue with badgers undermining the footways and surfaces.

The terms of reference were duly AGREED.

b. Committee Review Working Group

It was noted that this group had not yet met, but was due to meet in mid-April and would look at committee structures, responsibilities, and meeting schedules.

c. Road Markings and Parking Working Group

Cllr. Bond reported that the group had met and considered four requests, one of which was put forward for local consultation. The group anticipated meeting quarterly.

The terms of reference were duly AGREED.

162 **EVENTS PROGRAMME**

23/24

a. D-Day 80th Anniversary

The Deputy Clerk provided an update, noting that the Town Crier was returning for the event and that the D-Day 80 flag had been purchased. Lamps were being collected for a display at Town Hall.

b. Plants and Gardens Festival

The Clerk reported that the Friends of St Bart's Church had been in touch and were still hoping to progress this event.

c. Summer event

The Deputy Clerk confirmed that the summer event would be 27th July, between 11-4pm and that community stallholders were being invited to attend.

d. Tennis Courts launch event

The Deputy Clerk reported that arrangements for the launch on 13th April were in hand, and that 17 bookings for the fun sessions had been received.

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

23/24

- a. Planning & Highways Committee 12 February 2024.
- b. Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group 30 January 2024.
- c. Reports from Town Council representatives to outside bodies.

All minutes above were duly noted and any recommendations contained therein AGREED.

164 **MATTERS OF REPORT**

23/24

Councillors raised the following points:

- Cllr. Best reported that Somerset Council would be contacting West One surgery about the now unused ambulance parking bay, and the possibility of returning it to disabled parking provision.

- Cllr. Livesley noted the Community Kitchen plans to renovate the NatWest building as a community hub and hoped that the Town Council would be included in discussions at an appropriate point.
- Cllr. Draycott queried if the Men’s Wellbeing Group would consider holding evening sessions to accommodate people with work commitments. The Town Clerk agreed to make enquiries.
- Cllr. Woodland noted that fireworks had recently been set off at Happy Valley. Residents were strongly encouraged to report these incidents directly to the police. He also reported that he had had a request for the teen shelter to be removed. Cllrs. felt that young people should be consulted on this idea.
- Cllr. Head reported that Crewkerne in Bloom were hoping to replant the wildflower area at Henhayes with spring bulbs. Crewkerne in Bloom were waiting to hear from St Bart’s Church as to whether they would like to retain the wildflower area this year, or return the area to mown grass.
- Cllr. Samuel noted that the pillbox flower beds looked very nice and thanked all the volunteers involved with this. She also noted that cars parked along Station Road were causing issues with both visibility and accessibility, forcing pedestrians, pushchairs and wheelchair users into the road.

165 **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

23/24

Monday 22 April 2024, 18.45, Council Chamber, Town Hall.

The meeting closed at 20.17.

Signed:

Dated:

TC25March2024