

Minutes of a meeting of CREWKERNE TOWN COUNCIL held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Market Square at 18.45 on Monday 26 February 2024.

### **PRESENT**

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

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

Absent: Cllrs. Ashton and Morris.

### **OPEN FORUM**

A member of the public wanted to express their concerns regarding the free use of the George Reynolds Centre. They would prefer community groups to receive a grant and to choose their venue. A formal complaint was registered with the clerk.

#### 137 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

23/24

No apologies were received.

#### 138 **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

23/24

Cllr. Samuel declared an interest in the Mini Police relating to St Bartholomew's School by virtue of her employment at the school.

#### 139 **TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 29 JANUARY 2024**

23/24

The minutes of the meetings held on 29 January 2024 were AGREED as a true and accurate record.

#### 140 **TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM UNITARY COUNCILLORS AND LOCAL COMMUNITY NETWORK REPRESENTATIVE**

23/24

Cllr. Best reported that:

- The s151 officer believes that a balanced budget is achievable but there are concerns going forward into next year. They will deliver a monthly report so this can be monitored.
- Somerset Council's budget was passed with the majority voting in favour. The proposed cutbacks and job losses are now available to view.
- The first LCN Highways Meeting has now taken place. Six officers from Somerset Council were in attendance and some of the local parishes. It was useful to have direct contact with SC regarding specific issues.
- The intention is to hold fewer LCN meetings and more regular sub-group meetings. The next meeting will have representatives from the Rivers Authority, the Environment Agency and will discuss Active Travel plans.

#### 141 **CLERK'S PROGRESS REPORT**

23/24

The Town Clerk reported that:

- The Council has now been awarded Quality Status under the National Award Scheme for Local Councils. The Council has received a congratulations letter from the Chairman of the National Association of Local Councils and the Somerset Association of Local Councils. Crewkerne Town Council is the only council in Somerset with this award. The Town Clerk and Cllr. Stuart were thanked for their work on this.
- The GRC meeting has been arranged for Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm. Councillors were advised not to arrive early as to not infringe on the regular bookings.
- If there are any issues in the town or with any of our open spaces, please encourage members of the public to contact the office. If they can report the issues with photographs and a specific location, then the correct staff and equipment can be dispatched.

142  
23/24

### **FINANCE**

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

The Town Clerk reported that Cllr. Nathan had verified the accounts for payment in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations. Accounts for payment for 26 February 2024 in the sum of £45,841.71 were APPROVED.

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

The Town Clerk reported that Cllr. Nathan had verified the bank reconciliation for January 2024. It was noted that cash in hand as of 31 January 2024 was £451,155.83.

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

The Town Clerk reported that Cllr. Nathan had verified the Trust accounts and that cash in hand as of 31 January 2024 was £5,710.98.

- d. To consider a grant application from Crewkerne Boxing Club

Councillors felt that this was a well written application. They commented that the club are good at community engagement and are fully inclusive.

It was AGREED to award a grant of £1000.

- e. To review and confirm the Risk Register

The proposed amendments were AGREED.

- f. To review and confirm the Asset Register

The proposed amendments were AGREED.

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23/24

### **MINI POLICE**

Councillors considered a report detailing the requests from the Mini Police. It was recommended that the Mayor judges the three winning posters and these can be made into signage for Happy Valley. It was also suggested that an additional recycling bin is purchased for Happy Valley, and the children's

remaining recommendations are passed to the Happy Valley Working Group for review. The Town Clerk will write to the Mini Police to thank them and invite them to the Annual Town meeting.

The above recommendations were AGREED.

The Deputy Clerk was asked to contact The Shed to ask if they could make some signage that the children could decorate. These can then be used in our open areas to highlight 'no mow' areas.

144 **HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRE**

23/24

Cllr. Best reported that at Full Council, two petitions were presented, for both Crewkerne and Castle Cary. Due to the level of public concern the contractor (Biffa) has been asked to revisit the proposal to see if savings can be made across all the sites.

145 **EVENTS PROGRAMME**

23/24

a. D-Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The Mayor has consulted with The Royal British Legion, and they have proposed a lantern at the Tommy at Severalls and another lantern in the Town Hall window, alongside a window display. The Deputy Clerk will source battery operated candles. The previous Town Crier has been in contact, and he would like to return for special occasions. If available, he can read the 8am proclamation and the Mayor can read the official tribute at 9.15pm. Deputy Clerk to purchase the official D-Day 80 flag.

b. Plants and Gardens Festival

The Clerk reported that the Friends of St Bart's Church had been contacted and invited to come to the Full Council meeting but no response has been received.

c. Summer event

ALS have agreed that they could move one of their summer holiday playdays to a weekend to incorporate it as part of a Henhayes-based summer event. The Deputy Clerk has contacted several community groups who would also be interested. The date proposed is Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> July.

It was AGREED that the Deputy Clerk should proceed with organising the event.

d. Tennis Courts launch event

The Deputy Clerk reported that the official opening of the tennis courts would take place on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April in the afternoon. Free tennis sessions for both children and adults will be available with an LTA coach. Further information to follow.

e. To consider a request from Rockin' Daddy's Emporium to hold an event on Henhayes/GRC

Councillors were supportive of the idea in principle but felt due to logistics the event would be better suited to the GRC.

It was AGREED that this community event should be granted use of the GRC.

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

23/24

- a. Planning & Highways Committee 15 January 2024.
- b. Policy & Resources Committee 15 January 2024.
- c. Amenities Committee 13 November 2023.
- d. Joint Burial Committee 5 December 2023.
- e. Youth Service Steering Group 7 August 2023.
- f. Reports from Town Council representatives to outside bodies.

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

147 **MATTERS OF REPORT**

23/24

Councillors raised the following points:

- Cllr. Samuel was congratulated on an excellent civic event incorporating many local community groups. Special thanks were given to the Administration Officer for organising the event.
- It was noted that CTC are offering a free tennis court session to local community groups. It was clarified that this is to promote use of the tennis courts and will be limited to one session. After the first year the Clerk will publish a report on the finance and usage.
- It was reported that after a recent shop fitting a business in the town centre now has an illuminated sign. The Clerk/Deputy Clerk will check the town's policy on this matter and the question with the Somerset Council's planning department whether permission should have been sought.
- Parking for the tennis courts was raised, this was deferred to the War Memorial Commemoration Trust meeting as this is an agenda item.
- It has been noted that the eroding wall in Rose Lane has now been coned off by Somerset Council.
- Crewkerne in Bloom have approached Open Reach about decorating their junction boxes. The designs will involve local school children and will be approved by Open Reach.
- Thanks were given to Taylor Wimpey for replacing the bin on Station Road.
- There has been reports of badger setts being filled in at the cemetery. This has been investigated and no evidence of this can be found but we will continue to monitor the situation.

148 **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

23/24

Monday 25 March 2024, 18.45, Council Chamber, Town Hall.

The meeting closed at 19.41.

**Signed:** .....

**Dated:** .....

TC26February2024