

Minutes of a meeting of CREWKERNE TOWN COUNCIL held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Market Square commencing at 18.45 on Monday 27 January 2025.

PRESENT

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

In attendance: Town Clerk K. Sheehan, Deputy Clerk G. Hughes.

123 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

24/25

Apologies were received from Cllr. A. Stuart (work commitments).

124 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

24/25

None.

125 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 16 DECEMBER 2024

24/25

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 December 2024 were AGREED as a true and accurate record.

126 PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

24/25

No members of the public were in attendance.

127 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM:

24/25

a. Somerset Councillors

Cllrs. Ashton and Best reported that the budget meeting for Somerset Council had been delayed in order to allow further work to take place. The financial situation facing Somerset Council remained challenging, and talks with Government officials were ongoing regarding pressures resulting from Adult Social Care obligations. A request to precept above the cap without holding a referendum had been made.

b. Local Community Network (LCN) representative

Cllr. Head reported that the next LCN meeting would take place on 31 January online. Cllr. Best reported that it was hoped that this would increase attendance.

c. Crewkerne Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT)

A written report had been circulated; no questions were raised. Councillors requested that the reports be collated to assist with identifying trends.

128 CLERK'S PROGRESS REPORT

24/25

The Town Clerk reported that:

- The Police Community Support Officers would be holding drop-in sessions at the Local Information Centre at 10.30 on 19th February, 26th February and 5th March. She encouraged

councillors to signpost residents to these sessions. It was hoped that if they were well attended, the sessions might be extended into March and beyond.

- There remains a vacancy on the Town Council for which one application had now been received. The vacancy would be readvertised with a deadline of 19th February and this and any other applications would be considered at the February Full Council meeting.
- Scoping meetings and site visits were taking place for the proposed banking hub. A temporary hub would hopefully be in place by the end of April with a permanent hub to follow.
- Following a successful grant application to Somerset Council's Urban Tree Fund, fifteen native trees would be planted at Barn Street Recreation Ground.

129

FINANCE

24/25

- a. To approve the accounts for payment for January 2025 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 27th January 2025 in the sum of £65,432.58 were APPROVED.

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

The Town Clerk reported that Cllr. Head had verified the bank reconciliation for December 2024. It was noted that cash in hand as of 31 December 2024 was £593,981.08.

- 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 31 December 2024 was £6,793.64.

- d. To confirm the recommendation of the Policy and Resources Committee for Community Grant Awards 2025/26

The following Community Grants for 2025/26 were AGREED unanimously:

Organisation	Purpose of grant	Amount Requested	Proposed Award
Crewkerne & District Museum & Heritage Centre	Running costs	£1,500	£500
Crewkerne in Bloom	Extra hanging baskets	£650	£650
Enhayes Centre	Running costs	£1,000	£500
Merriott Majorettes	Batons/poms/costumes	£500	£500
CAB South Somerset	Crewkerne CAB Service	£1,052	£1,052
Crewkerne Shed	Running costs	£1,000	£1,000
1 st Crewkerne Scout Group	Upgrade surface at front of Scout hut	£2,000	£2,000
Crewkerne Pegasus Karate Group	New crash mats	£1,000	£1,000
CUDOS	Set up and running costs for CUDOS Youth	£250	£250
Crewkerne Boxing Club	New extension	Any	£1,000

Severalls War Memorial Gardening Group	New plants	£350	£350
Crewkerne Gardening Club	Contribution to cost of flower show	£200	£200
Crewkerne & District Twinning Association	Contribution to hospitality and entertainment	£500	£500
Crewkerne Methodist Church	Contribution to increased VAT rate on utility bills	£1,000	WITHDRAWN
Connect Somerset	Build a neighbourhood team for Crewkerne	£975	£975
Ferne Animal Sanctuary	Equipment for a dog field	£997	£0
Awe & Wonder	Hire costs for GRC	£1,537	£1,537 *
Friends of Crewkerne Station	Plant and compost renewal	Any	£300
Crewkerne Allotment Team	Works to trees	£500	£500
Somerset Activity & Sports Partnership	Hire costs/Public Liability insurance for Wellbeing Group	£900	£900
Crewkerne Rugby Club Youth Section	New tackling equipment	£700	£700
		TOTAL	£14,414 (incl. in kind grant above).

* Grant 'in kind', but would become payable to new GRC management, dependent on timescales.

e. To approve the recommendation of the Policy and Resources Committee for the setting of the budget 2025/26

and

f. To approve the overall precept for 2025/26

Items 129/2425 e. and f. were taken together. The proposed budget as outlined in the supporting report and associated precept calculation of £663,503 for the 2025/26 financial year were both AGREED unanimously.

130 **PLANNING**

24/25

To consider applications requiring comment before the next Planning and Highways Committee meeting:

- a. **25/00027/FUL Waitrose South Street Crewkerne Somerset TA18 8DA**
Full planning application to include roof and plant replacement upper deck car park works and façade maintenance.
- b. **25/00035/ADV Waitrose South Street Crewkerne Somerset TA18 8DA**
Display of rebranded existing Waitrose signage with new building letters, car park signs and window vinyls.

It was noted that the Somerset Council planning portal had been offline for some time. To enable all councillors to access the application documents it was agreed to defer these applications to the

Planning and Highways Committee meeting on 10 February, noting that the Deputy Clerk had already obtained an extension to accommodate this.

131 **HYPER ACUTE STROKE UNIT (HASU) AT YEOVIL DISTRICT HOSPITAL**

24/25 To consider a request from Adam Dance MP for formal support for the campaign to save Stroke Services in Yeovil

It was AGREED to write a formal letter of support for Mr Dance's campaign to save the HASU at Yeovil District Hospital.

132 **PITHERS COURT**

24/25 To agree quotations for clearance and consider future uses of the land

It was AGREED to award the contract for clearance of the land to Fern Tree and Garden Services for £610 + VAT, with a view to using the cleared land for additional allotments if suitable.

133 **SOMERSET HERITAGE CENTRE**

24/25 To note that the documents listed will be deposited in the county archives

Councillors noted that the following documents had been identified for deposit in the archives at the Somerset Heritage Centre:

Body	Type of record	Relevant dates	Notes
CTC	Declarations of Acceptance of Office	2018	
CTC	Registers of Interests	2002-2011 inclusive, and 2015	
Crewkerne & West Crewkerne Joint Burial Committee (JBC)	Minutes	10.07.1975 - 12.03.1979	Unsigned.
JBC	Financial Statements	1969/70 – 1981/82	
Crewkerne War Memorial Committee (CWMC)	Minutes	30.10.1930 – 12.05.1959	Signed
JBC	Minutes	14.09.1962 – 12.03.1979	Signed
JBC	Minutes	12.09.1947 – 14.09.1962	Signed
CWMC	Minutes	22.10.1959 – 11.12.1968	Signed (mostly)
CWMC	Minutes	04.04.1919 – 22.10.1930	Signed and includes various forms relating to to the National Inventory of War Memorials
JBC	Accounts ledger	1935-1966	
JBC	Accounts ledger	1966 – 2000	
CTC	Minutes	2005/6 – 2013/14 inclusive	Signed and bound

It was noted that records relating to the Joint Burial Committee and War Memorial Commemoration Trust would be noted in the minutes of both these bodies.

134 HENHAYES CAR PARK

24/25 To consider a request from Somerset Breast Screening to site screening unit in Henhayes car park

It was AGREED to allow the Breast Screening Unit to occupy 7 spaces in Henhayes car park between 24th February, with an anticipated finish date around Easter 2025.

135 TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING MINUTES AND APPROVE ANY RECOMMENDATIONS THEREIN:

24/25

- a. Planning and Highways Committee 11 November 2024.
- b. Amenities Committee 11 November 2024.
- c. Policy and Resources Committee 10 June 2024.
- d. Reports from Town Council representatives to outside bodies.

All minutes above were duly noted and any recommendations contained therein AGREED. No reports from representatives to Outside Bodies were received.

136 MATTERS OF REPORT

24/25

Councillors raised the following points:

- A number of councillors commented that they had attended the Boxing Day events in the town centre, with all concerned noting that there had been a considerable amount of support for the hunt as well as the pram race. Councillors noted that the horses and hounds had not used any Town Council land and that hunt supporters had cleaned the road before reopening it.
- It was noted that the Action Against Foxhunting (AAF) supporters had been surveying members of the public at a recent Farmers' Market. Cllr. Head stated that the discussion with AAF in December had agreed that any survey would need to be conducted independently of both AAF and the Town Council to obtain unbiased data.
- Cllr. Rawe had obtained information regarding a town treasure hunt and agreed to circulate costings and further details to all councillors.
- It was noted that the heras fencing at the end of Church Path had now been removed.
- Cllr. Livesley noted that drains had struggled to cope with the large amounts of recent rainfall. Residents would be encouraged to keep reporting problems to Somerset Council, but it was noted that Somerset Council were struggling to keep up with many services due to lack of staff and funding.
- Cllr. Ashton reported that he was currently involved in an Article 4 consultation process, designed to strengthen conservation areas and agreed to report back fully once the process had concluded.
- Concerns were raised about wheelie bins left on pavements, obstructing pedestrians but also getting blown over during recent storms.
- Cllr. Best agreed to continue to chase up several broken streetlights previously reported by Cllr. Nathan to Somerset Council.
- It was noted that Symphony Health Care Service were providing a community patient hub in Martock, but that there was no public transport between Crewkerne and Martock. Cllrs Best and Ashton agreed to raise this with Somerset Council.
- Thanks were expressed to Adam Dance MP and Cllr. Best for their efforts lobbying for the banking hub for Crewkerne.
- Cllr. Head stated that arrangements were being made for a Crowdfunder online campaign to continue to raise funds to support the maintenance, consumables and eventual replacement of the thirteen defibrillators in Crewkerne.

137 **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

24/25

Monday 24 February 2025, 18.45, Council Chamber, Town Hall.

The meeting closed at 19.43.

Signed:

Dated:

TC27January2025