

Minutes of a meeting of CREWKERNE TOWN COUNCIL held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Market Square commencing at 18.45 on Monday 24 February 2025.

**PRESENT**

Cllrs. A. Samuel (Mayor), S. Ashton (present for confidential session only), N. Draycott, D. Livesley, J. Nathan, C. Rawe, and S. Woodland.

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

**138 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

24/25

Apologies were received from Cllrs. M. Best (personal), K. Head (unwell), J. Morris (personal) and A. Stuart (work commitments).

**139 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

24/25

None.

**140 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 27 JANUARY 2025**

24/25

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 January 2025 were AGREED as a true and accurate record.

**141 PUBLIC OPEN FORUM**

24/25

A member of the public spoke on behalf of Action Against Foxhunting (AAF), noting that:

- AAF members had attended the Boxing Day hunt meet, recording and taking photos.
- These members had raised concerns about horses congregating in a narrow street.
- AAF had submitted a FOI request to Somerset Council for various reports relating to the event but this had been declined.
- AAF had been carrying out a survey of people attending the recent farmers' market.
- It was hoped that Town Councillors would take into account the health and safety concerns raised by AAF.

Cllr. Samuel thanked the member of the public for their contribution. The member of the public then left the meeting.

**142 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM:**

24/25

a. Somerset Councillors

None.

b. Local Community Network (LCN) representative

None.

c. Crewkerne Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT)

A written report had been circulated; Councillors welcomed the new format which allowed for comparison month to month. It was noted that January figures appeared high, but was in line with police expectations for this time of year.

143 **CLERK'S PROGRESS REPORT**

24/25

The Town Clerk reported that:

- There would be a short notice road closure at Hermitage Street overnight on 25<sup>th</sup> February, which would allow Wessex Water to carry out repairs.
- Preliminary clearance works at Easthams would likely be undertaken by Taylor Wimpey during the week, final confirmation was awaited.

144 **FINANCE**

24/25

- a. To approve the accounts for payment for February 2025 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 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025 in the sum of £40,127.77 were APPROVED.

- b. To report the bank reconciliation for January 2025 has been completed

The Town Clerk reported that Cllr. Nathan had verified the bank reconciliation for January 2025. It was noted that cash in hand as of 31 January 2025 was £563,964.19.

- 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 2025 was £7,181.64.

- d. To review and confirm the Risk Register

The proposed amendments were AGREED.

- e. To review and confirm the Asset Register

The proposed amendments were AGREED.

- f. To make arrangements for the annual review of internal controls

The Town Clerk reported that Cllr. Best had volunteered for this meeting. It was suggested that Cllr. Stuart be approached as the second councillor for the review. Cllrs. Nathan and Draycott offered to act as reserves.

145 **COUNCIL MEETINGS SCHEDULE 2025/26**

24/25

To confirm the meetings schedule for 2025/26

The meetings schedule for the coming year was AGREED.

146 **ANNUAL TOWN MEETING 2025**

24/25

To consider format and roles

Councillors discussed trialling a less formal version of the Annual Town Meeting, with an initial community exhibition style session, to be followed by a shortened 'sit down' session, with grants and

awards. It was suggested that the Youth Council also be invited, and Cllrs. Nathan and Woodland would support them to give an update if needed.

147 **GEORGE REYNOLDS CENTRE MANAGEMENT**

24/25 To receive a verbal update

Cllr. Livesley reported that the GRC Ltd. Working group had met in February, and reviewed financial reports from the previous years, both under external and Town Council management, to better understand the challenges ahead. He noted that even under independent management, it would still require financing by the Town Council for several years. A 'soft' approach was currently being pursued, with a part time centre manager, casual bar staff and a longer lead in time. It was hoped that Cllr. Best would be in a position to present the full plan to Full Council in March on behalf of the working group.

148 **TELEPHONE BOX ADOPTION**

24/25 To consider the adoption of the telephone kiosk at Town Hall and consider future uses

It was AGREED to adopt the BT telephone kiosk on the east side of Town Hall with all arrangements delegated to the Town Clerk.

Some discussion took place around its future use, with suggestions made of an additional defibrillator or housing plants. It was agreed to revisit this once the adoption process was complete.

149 **CREWKERNE KEY SITE**

24/25 To consider street names for submission to Somerset Council

The following names were AGREED for submission to Somerset Council:

**IGNY** – Twinned Town.

**BURES** – Twinned Town.

**SHARP** - Battle of Britain Pilot Ronald Sharp, who lived in Bincombe Drive, and in WW2 defended the allied bomber streams, Atlantic convoys and flying boats and who was brought down by Luftwaffe fighters with far superior power to his archaic Blenheim bomber. He won the Battle of Britain Clasp, is commemorated on the Battle of Britain Memorial and passed away in 1995.

**PORT-WEG** – 'Portway' is the way to the market town.

**PEDREDAN** – Anglo Saxon name for the River Parrett.

**TENTER** – refers to tenter frames used for drying cloth.

**HORNER** – Thomas Horner was a wealthy Crewkerne cloth merchant.

**SAILCLOTH** – Crewkerne was known for making sailcloth.

**TWILL** – a type of weave used in textiles.

**DRAPER** – refers to cloth merchants of drapers in the area.

**SERGE** – a type of woven wool fabric once produced in Crewkerne.

**LINDEN** – European name for lime trees.

**PARRETT** – representing the River Parrett.

Additionally, five further names were agreed to be used as reserves:

**SPITFIRE** – directly linked to the spitfire crash at Townsend Cemetery in 1942.

**SUPERMARINE**

**MERLIN**

**SPARKS** – Bill Sparks returned to Crewkerne having been a prisoner of war. Sparks was also the name of one of the three school houses.

**CLEAL** – Derrick William Cleal was awarded the OBE in 1995 for services to the community.

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

24/25

- a. Planning and Highways Committee 13 January 2025.
- b. Policy and Resources Committee 13 January 2025.
- c. Joint Burial Committee 3 December 2024.
- d. Youth Service Steering Group 2 December 2024.
- e. Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group 22 October 2024 and 28 November 2024
- f. Happy Valley Working Group 12 July 2024.
- g. GRC Ltd. Working Group 15 May 2024.
- h. 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.

**151 MATTERS OF REPORT**

24/25

Councillors raised the following points:

- Cllr. Livesley reported graffiti on the Bincombe allotment gate and at the bottom of Bincombe Lane.
- Cllr. Samuel reported that the Royal British Legion would like to hold VE Day event on 10 May at Severalls War Memorial Gardens and would submit a risk assessment and copy of Public Liability insurance to the Town Clerk.
- Arrangements were made to remove a wreath from the churchyard.

**152 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

24/25

Monday 24 March 2025, 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 – Commercially Sensitive and Legal matters.**

Cllr. Ashton joined the meeting at this point and remained until the end.

**153 TEMPORARY BANKING HUB LOCATION PARTNER AGREEMENT**

24/25

To authorise the licence agreement with Cash Access UK for the location of a temporary banking hub in the Local Information Centre at Town Hall

The agreement was AGREED and duly signed, with the Town Clerk applying the Council seal.

The meeting closed at 19.45.

**Signed:** .....

**Dated:** .....

TC24February2025