

Minutes of the **ANNUAL TOWN MEETING OF ELECTORS** held in the Victoria Hall, Market Square, Crewkerne on Monday 30 March 2026 at 8.00pm.

PRESENT:

Alice Samuel Mayor of Crewkerne (in the Chair)
Gemma Hughes Town Clerk
Shaheda Syeda Bowen Deputy Town Clerk

Plus, approximately 50 local government electors of the Parish of Crewkerne.

1. WELCOME

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending. Community Groups were thanked for bringing their presentation boards and leaflets, which were available around the room. Various groups had been on hand for a community engagement session directly before the Annual Town Meeting. The Mayor briefly introduced the Town Councillors in attendance, noting they were available to speak with residents after the meeting.

2. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting of the Annual Town Meeting of Electors held on Monday 14 April 2025 were **APPROVED**.

3. MAYOR'S REPORT 2026

The Mayor gave a presentation which summarised the highlights from the year to date and some forthcoming events to look forward to.

4. FLAGSHIP CREWKERNE

A representative from Open Doors gave a presentation on a Flagship Crewkerne event happening later in the year. Members of the public were encouraged to join in with future workshops.

5. GRANT AWARDS 2026

The Mayor read out the Community Groups received grant awards, who then gathered for a group photo. These groups were:

Organisation	Purpose of grant
Crewkerne & District Museum & Heritage Centre	Operating costs
Crewkerne in Bloom	Mulch for town flower beds
Henhayes Centre	Operating costs
Merriott Majorettes	Competition costumes
Somerset Farmers Market	Ground rent
Rotary Club of Crewkerne District	Contribution towards fireworks display
CAB South Somerset	Crewkerne CAB Service
Crewkerne & District Shed	Running costs
Crewkerne Pegasus Karate Group	Crash mats, pads and head guards
CUDOS	A-Frame Ladder
Severalls Jubilee Bowls Club	Concrete base and shed
Severalls War Memorial Gardening Group	Maintaining gardens
Crewkerne & District Twinning Association	Contribution to hospitality and entertainment
Awe & Wonder	Hire costs for GRC
Friends of Crewkerne Station	To refresh seasonal planters
Crewkerne Allotment Team	Water containers, solar pump and battery
Crewkerne RFC Youth	Training equipment
Crewkerne & District University of the Third Age (u3a)	Presentation equipment
Crewkerne Brownies	Life skills items
Crewkerne Cricket Club	Operating costs
Crewkerne Boxing Club	Training Equipment

Representatives from Severalls Jubilee Bowls Club, Twinning Association, Friends of Crewkerne Station, and CUDOS gave updates on their grant-funded projects and their work in the community.

6. ANNUAL HONOURED CITIZENS AWARD 2026

The Mayor presented an Honoured Citizen Award to Chris Howard.

Chris Howard is an asset to Crewkerne and has volunteered her time for the last 16 years to run a chair-based fitness class for those with decreased mobility. She runs this class twice a week and over the last 16 years has helped over 500 people from Crewkerne and raised approximately £45,000 for The Henhayes Centre by volunteering her time.

The class is specifically aimed at older people and those with mobility issues, recovering from health issues, operations, stroke, heart attacks or cancer, as well as those suffering with Parkinsons, MS or Huntington's. The class is full of positivity and encouragement, which is all down to Chris.

The impact on the lives of attendees is truly immeasurable. One particularly remarkable moment involved a gentleman with fairly advanced Parkinson's. He arrived very unsteady, relying on his wife and two walking sticks, struggling even to navigate the doorway. By the end of the class, he was able to leave unaided - and even forgot his sticks! It was an incredible and unforgettable moment; made possible by Chris's carefully guided exercises and the unwavering support and positivity she offers. These PhysioFit sessions are even more important at present due to the lack of recovery care and physio offered by the NHS. The class provided by Chris is a lifeline to so

many people, ensuring they get back to fitness quickly and safely. Chris also includes fall prevention and how to get up from the floor as part of the class which is extremely important for many older people.

Alongside the volunteer work she does at The Henhayes Centre, she also volunteers her time for other community groups and events, such as the Crewkerne Christmas Tree Festival by performing as part of the hand bell ringers and singing in a choir that performs free for charitable events.

Chris has dedicated so much of her time to helping older and vulnerable people of Crewkerne. The town is extremely lucky to have her.

Chris Howard accepted the award and thanked everyone.

7. MAYOR'S COMMENDATION AWARD 2026

The Mayor presented a Mayor's Commendation Award to Jeffrey Hutson.

Jeffrey Hutson - known simply as Jeff - has been a valued and much-appreciated member of the Crewkerne community for some time. Throughout this period, he has become widely recognised not only for his friendly presence, but also for the meaningful contributions he continues to make to the life of the town.

Jeff is particularly renowned for his exceptional talent in photography. What began as a personal interest has grown into a skill admired by many across the community. His photographs consistently demonstrate a high level of quality, creativity, and technical ability. Whether capturing community events, local landscapes, or everyday moments around the town, Jeff has an eye for detail and a natural ability to tell a story through his images. In doing so, he creates a visual record of Crewkerne that will be treasured for years to come.

Despite the praise he so rightly receives, Jeff remains remarkably modest. He is quick to emphasise that his work is driven purely by passion rather than professionalism, and he continues to give his time and talent generously for the benefit of others. Much of what he does is offered quietly and without expectation of recognition; many may not realise the time, care, and commitment behind the images he produces. His humility, combined with the consistently high calibre of his work, has earned him the respect and admiration of those who know him and those who have come to value his contributions.

Through his dedication, Jeff has helped to strengthen the sense of community within Crewkerne. His photographs not only document events but also bring people together, allowing residents to reflect on and share in the moments that shape the town. His work enriches the community, providing a lasting legacy that can be enjoyed by current and future generations alike. Jeff's dedication, kindness, and quiet professionalism make him a truly deserving recipient of the Mayor's Commendation. His voluntary contribution is a wonderful example of how individual passion can have a meaningful and lasting impact on a community.

Congratulations, Jeff. You are an inspiration and a tremendous asset to the town. This award is a small token of appreciation for your remarkable contribution.

Jeffrey Hutson accepted his award.

8. YOUNG CREWKERNIAN AWARD 2026

The Mayor presented a Young Crewkernian Award to Moken Mills.

Moken is a strong example of what a young person from Crewkerne can achieve through hard work, dedication, and a positive attitude, while representing his town and supporting those around him.

He grew up and was educated locally - attending Busy Bees Nursery, St. Bartholomew's Primary School, Maiden Beech Academy, and now Wadham School - and has represented each in athletics, cross country, and football, often reaching county and national levels. In football, he was offered a contract with Exeter City but chose to stay with his local club to remain rooted in the community and focus on boxing.

Moken has trained in boxing since age six, winning his first national title at 10, becoming Crewkerne's first national champion in the sport, and inspiring younger children locally. His success has come through consistent effort and determination, overcoming the limited opportunities of a rural area. To date, he has competed in 64 contests, winning 56, as well as holding nine national and nine international gold medals.

Now part of Team England through the England Boxing Talent Pathways, he has won a gold medal for England at 15, bringing pride to Crewkerne. Most recently, he won the Western Counties title at the Junior National Championships, progressing to the next stage while continuing to represent his town with pride. His international experience includes training in Havana with the Cuban national schoolboy team, where he proudly shared Crewkerne Boxing Club vests as a thank-you gift.

Moken also gives back to the community, coaching younger children at the boxing club and volunteering as an assistant coach for the Crewkerne Under 7 football team, supporting and inspiring the next generation.

Through his achievements, commitment, and respect for others, Moken has already brought pride to Crewkerne and exemplifies what can be achieved through hard work. For these reasons, he is very deserving of the Young Crewkernian Award.

9. MATTERS RAISED BY CREWKERNE RESIDENTS

No members of the public raised any questions

The meeting closed at 8.34 p.m.

Signed:

Dated:

ATM30MARCH2026