

Councillors are hereby summoned, and members of the public and press are invited, to attend a meeting of the **Full Council** to be held on **Monday 22 September 2025**, starting at 18.45, in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Market Square, Crewkerne for the purpose of transacting the business outlined on the agenda below.

**Notes:**

- The recording of the meeting will be uploaded for members of the public who wish to view it via the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTA9K-7L4Onjcli2Gtz7tCg>.
- Members of the public requiring assistance or reasonable adjustments to aid their attendance at council meetings are asked to contact the Council Offices in advance using the above contact details. Documents are available in large print by request.
- Recording of meetings is permitted under the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014; please refer to the Council's Policy on Audio/Visual Recording & Photography at Meetings ([Recording-Meetings-policy-Feb-2022.pdf \(crewkerne-tc.gov.uk\)](#)).
- Public participation is welcome during the allocated Public Open Forum session, please refer to Section 3 of the Council's Standing Orders ([Standing-Orders-May-2024.pdf \(crewkerne-tc.gov.uk\)](#)).

Gemma Hughes, Town Clerk (signed on original)  
16 September 2025

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# Agenda

- 049/2526**      **To receive and approve apologies for absence.**  
a. To record members present:  
Schedule 12 of the Local Government Act 1972 requires:
  - a record be kept of the members in attendance.
  - this record forms part of the minutes of the meeting.
  - Members who are unable attend a meeting should tender apologies in advance to the Town Clerk and the grounds for apologies tendered will also be recorded.b. To approve any apologies for absence:  
Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 requires:
  - Members present to decide if the reason(s) for a member's absence are acceptable.
- 050/2526**      **To receive declarations of pecuniary or personal interests in items on the agenda and any dispensations.**  
The Localism Act 2011 and the Council's Code of Conduct requires:
  - Members to declare any interests not currently recorded in the Member's Register of Interests or not notified to the Monitoring Officer of it.
  - Requests for Dispensations should be made in writing to the Clerk in advance of the meeting.
- 051/2526**      **To approve the minutes of the Town Council meeting** held on 28 July 2025 and the extraordinary meeting on 8 August 2025.
- 052/2526**      **Honoured Citizens** – To note the passing of David Cuthbertson (Honoured Citizen 2015) and Eleanor Dixon (Honoured Citizen 2003), and to observe a one-minute silence in their memory.
- 053/2526**      **Public Open Forum:** Questions may be put to the Council in person during this public participation

session of up to 15 minutes and a maximum of 3 minutes per person. Issues notified to the Clerk a minimum of 3 working days before the meeting (i.e., by 5pm on the preceding Wednesday) will receive a response during this session. Issues raised in this session without prior notice may be referred to the Clerk to respond to within 10 working days or listed on a subsequent agenda. The Mayor reserves the right to vary or extend these time limits.

- 054/2526 To receive reports from:**
- a) Somerset Council.
  - b) Crewkerne & Ilminster Local Community Network.
  - c) Crewkerne Neighbourhood Policing Team.
- 055/2526 Clerk's progress report:** to receive a verbal update report (for information only).
- 056/2526 Finance & Procedure:**
- a) To approve the accounts for payment for August 2025 as listed.
  - b) To report the bank reconciliation for July and August 2025 have been completed.
  - c) To note the monthly accounts for the War Memorial Commemoration Trust have been checked.
- 057/2526 Planning:** to consider applications requiring comment before the next Planning and Highways Committee meeting:
- a) 25/02024/HOU 69 Hermitage Street Crewkerne Somerset TA18 8EX  
Removal of existing conservatory and erection of a replacement single storey extension to rear of dwelling, replace garage doors to provide a workshop and associated internal alterations
  - b) 24/00639/FUL Blacknell Lane Trading Estate Blacknell Lane Crewkerne Somerset TA18 7HE  
Demolition of existing building and erection of 3 no. industrial buildings (Revised Plans)
  - c) 25/02256/NMA Crewkerne Key Site 1 Land East Of Crewkerne Between A30 And A356 Yeovil Road Crewkerne Somerset TA18 7HE  
Non Material Amendment to approved application 23/00006/REM to simply rotate Plot 125 so that it fronts onto the highway
- 058/2526 Crewkerne Hospital** – To note the response received from Andy Heron, Chief Operating Officer.
- 059/2526 Town Crier** – To consider a request from the Town Crier for an annual honorarium.
- 060/2526 Youth Provision** – To note the termination of the ALS contract from 31 October 25.
- 061/2526 National Pay Settlement 2025/26** – To note the conclusion of pay negotiations for the current financial year, backdated to 1 April 2025, for all employees on NJC pay scales.
- 062/2526 Staffing** – To note the appointments of the new Finance Officer and Town Clerk.
- 063/2526 To receive the following minutes:**
- a) Reports from Town Council representatives to outside bodies.
  - b) Youth Service Steering Group minutes: 10 April 2025, 8 July 2025.
  - c) Staffing committee minutes: 7 May 2025, 16 June 2025, 20 June 2025 and 18 July 2025
- 064/2526 To receive Matters of Report** (verbal reports for information only).
- 065/2526 Next meeting:** Monday 27 October 2025, 18.45, Council Chamber, Town Hall.

*In accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 s 1(2), to resolve that the press and member of the public be excluded from following items having regard to the confidential issues to be discussed.*

**Confidential Session:** Exclusion of the Press & Public – Contractual, staffing and commercially sensitive information.

- 066/2526**      **Staffing matter:** To consider salary arrangements for additional responsibilities undertaken by staff.
- 067/2526**      **Staffing matter:** To consider a request relating to time off in lieu arrangements

# ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT - 31st August 2025

Checked by:.....

Date: .....

Payment Ref	Gross	Vat	Net	Payee	Description
O P Aug 1	£62.58	£10.43	£52.15	Viking	Stationery
O P Aug 2	£1,363.20	£227.20	£1,136.00	Knight Electrical	Town Hall EICR remedial works
O P Aug 3	£538.43	£89.74	£448.69	Sovereign Fire & Security	GRC Emergency lighting works
O P Aug 4	£526.00	£87.66	£438.34	Allen Computer Services	Replacement laptop
O P Aug 4	£54.00	£9.00	£45.00	Allen Computer Services	Printer cartridge
O P Aug 5	£107.99	£18.00	£89.99	Boilerman Ltd	Lodge office boiler service
O P Aug 6	£154.44	£23.76	£130.68	Cross, A	Expenses
O P Aug 7	£6,215.04	£1,035.84	£5,179.20	Fern Garden Tree Services	Cemetery tree removal
O P Aug 8	£35.39		£35.39	Awe & Wonder	Transfer of remaining grant fund
O P Aug 9	£3,907.93		£3,907.93	HM Revenue & Customs	Tax & NI Contributions Jul 25
O P Aug 10	£4,194.78		£4,194.78	SCC Pension Fund	Pension Contributions Jul 25
DD22	£8.60	£0.41	£8.19	British Gas Business	Gas Victoria Hall 16/6 - 16/7/25
DD59	£1,269.90	£60.47	£1,209.43	British Gas Business	Gas GRC 17/2 - 19/7/25
DD59	-£1,615.66	-£221.82	-£1,393.84	British Gas Business	Gas GRC CREDIT 17/2 - 19/6/25
DD30	£146.71	£6.99	£139.72	British Gas Business	Electricity Public Toilets 21/6 - 21/7/25
DD33 C.Card	£40.00		£40.00	Lloyds Bank	Corporate card annual fee
DD33 C.Card	£17.96	£2.99	£14.97	Mailchimp	Digital newsletter Jun 25
DD33 C.Card	£18.00	£3.00	£15.00	Mailchimp	Digital newsletter Jul 25
DD33 C.Card	£3.90		£3.90	Amazon Marketplace	Stationery
DD33 C.Card	-£7.20	-£1.20	-£6.00	Amazon Marketplace	Stationery
O P Aug 11	£322.50		£322.50	Rotary Club of Crewkerne District	Contribution to cost of TTRO 2025/26
O P Aug 12	£1,791.25		£1,791.25	Active Learning & Skills	Provision of Youth Service Jul 25
O P Aug 13	£84.00	£14.00	£70.00	Fern Garden Tree Services	Barn Street Rec. tree watering 14/7/25
O P Aug 13	£84.00	£14.00	£70.00	Fern Garden Tree Services	Barn Street Rec. tree watering 10/6/25
O P Aug 14	£2,205.79	£367.63	£1,838.16	Somerset Council	Collection & disposal of street waste 28/4 - 30/6/25
O P Aug 15	£198.38	£33.06	£165.32	Loxston Groundcare Ltd	Ride on mower wheel replacement
O P Aug 16	£261.58	£43.60	£217.98	Hoistway	GRC lift maintenance 28/8/25 - 27/8/26
O P Aug 17	£252.00	£42.00	£210.00	Parish Online	Mapping software 26/7/25 - 26/7/2026
O P Aug 18	£2,000.00		£2,000.00	Severalls Bowling Club	Bowling Green maintenance grant
O P Aug 19	£148.19	£24.70	£123.49	Crewkerne Horticultural	Brushcutter repair
O P Aug 19	£60.00	£10.00	£50.00	Crewkerne Horticultural	Generater repair
O P Aug 20	£275.00		£275.00	M C Commercial Cleaning	GRC Cleaning Jul 25
O P Aug 20	£1,433.00		£1,433.00	M C Commercial Cleaning	Cleaning Jul 25
O P Aug 21	£30.00		£30.00	Town Criers Guild	Membership for Town Crier 25/26
O P Aug 22	£29.39	£4.90	£24.49	Hughes, G	Expenses
O P Aug 23	£84.00	£14.00	£70.00	Fern Garden Tree Services	Barn Street rec. tree watering 29/7
O P Aug 24	£406.80	£67.80	£339.00	Ricoh Uk Ltd	Printer rental Aug - Oct 25
O P Aug 25	£16.70		£16.70	Crewkerne Heritage Centre	Museum items for LIC
O P Aug 26	£1,200.00		£1,200.00	Rachel Akerman	Crewkerne interpretation board design
DD43	£15.52		£15.52	Lloyds Bank	Bank charges Jul 25
DD27	£471.87	£22.47	£449.40	E. O N	Electricity Victoria Hall July 25
DD50	£401.54	£66.92	£334.62	E. O N	Electricity GRC 1/6 - 31/7/25
DD17b	£16.62	£0.79	£15.83	Edf Energy 1 Ltd	Electricity Street lighting Henhayes Jul 25
DD17c	£18.52	£0.88	£17.64	Edf Energy 1 Ltd	Electricity Street lighting Middle Path Jul 25
DD57	£269.75	£44.96	£224.79	British Telecom	Telephone & broadband GRC/Lodge office Aug 25
DD46	£159.60	£26.60	£133.00	Somerset Web Services Lrd	Email hosting Aug 25
DD26	£37.83	£1.80	£36.03	British Gas Business	Gas Town Hall 30/6 - 1/8/25
DD42	£50.65	£2.41	£48.24	British Gas Business	Electricity Workshop/Cemetery Chapel 27/4 - 29/7/25
DD42	-£42.09	-£2.00	-£40.09	British Gas Business	Electricity Workshop/Cemetery Chapel CREDIT
DD33 C.Card	£38.22	£6.37	£31.85	Amazon Marketplace	Ink cartridges
DD51	£649.00		£649.00	Somerset Council	Rates GRC Aug 25
DD2	£1,360.00		£1,360.00	Somerset Council	Rates Town Hall/Victoria Hall Aug 25
DD55	£511.00		£511.00	Somerset Council	Rates Lodge Office Aug 25
DD20	£309.00		£309.00	Somerset Council	Rates Workshop/Cemetery Chapel Aug 25
DD13	£1,752.93		£1,752.93	Aviva Credit Services UK Ltd	Insurance Aug 25
DD33 C.Card	£6.98	£1.16	£5.82	Amazon Marketplace	Stationery
DD33 C.Card	£4.26	£0.71	£3.55	Amazon Marketplace	Stationery
DD33 C.Card	£9.53	£1.60	£7.93	Amazon Marketplace	Stationery
DD33 C.Card	£89.99	£15.00	£74.99	Amazon Marketplace	Hydraulic trolley jack
DD23	£220.64	£10.51	£210.13	British Gas Business	Electricity Town Hall 20/6 - 20/7/25

Signed:..... Date:.....

# ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT - 31st August 2025

Checked by:.....

Date: .....

DD21	-£92.87	-£4.42	-£88.45	British Gas Business	Electricity Happy Valley floodlights CREDIT
DD21	£67.20	£3.20	£64.00	British Gas Business	Electricity Happy Valley floodlights 23/3 - 22/7/25
O P Aug 27	£40.00		£40.00	McDonald, J	Refund for Christmas market
O P Aug 28	£84.00	£14.00	£70.00	Fern Garden Tree Services	Barn Street Rec. tree watering
O P Aug 29	£62.44	£10.43	£52.01	Wynnstay	Grounds PPE/Tree netting
O P Aug 30	£580.26	£96.71	£483.55	Sovereign Fire & Security	Fire alarm fault investigations
O P Aug 30	£199.20	£33.20	£166.00	Sovereign Fire & Security	Fire alarm repair
O P Aug 31	£400.00		£400.00	Active Learning & Skills	Provision of youth service Happy Valley skate jam
O P Aug 31	£350.00		£350.00	Active Learning & Skills	Provision of detached Youth Work Happy Valley Jul 25
O P Aug 31	£650.00		£650.00	Active Learning & Skills	Provision of fun time playday Henhayes 6/8/25
O P Aug 32	£1.20	£0.20	£1.00	Sheet Anchor Evolve Ltd	Public Toilet rent 1/9/24 - 31/8/25
O P Aug 33	£9.28	£1.55	£7.73	Bradford's	Grounds PPE
O P Aug 33	£132.77	£22.13	£110.64	Bradford's	Timber for Town Hall signage
O P Aug 34	£1.96	£0.33	£1.63	Prism	Year planner
O P Aug 35	£114.00	£19.00	£95.00	Sovereign Fire & Security	GRC Intruder/Fire alarm/CCTV maintenance Sep 25
O P Aug 36	£4,815.59		£4,815.59	SCC Pension Fund	Pension Contributions Aug 25
O P Aug 37	£4,992.49		£4,992.49	HM Revenue & Customs	Tax & NI Contributions Aug 25
O P Aug 38	£50.00		£50.00	Active Learning & Skills	Provision of detached youth work at Happy Valley 4/8/25
O P Aug 39	£84.00	£14.00	£70.00	Fern Garden Tree Services	Barn St Rec. tree watering 4/8
O P Aug 39	£1,488.00	£248.00	£1,240.00	Fern Garden Tree Services	Cemetery grass & hedge cutting July 25
O P Aug 40	£78.00	£13.00	£65.00	Paperchase Recycling	Cemetery general waste collection 30/6 - 3/8/25
O P Aug 40	£114.00	£19.00	£95.00	Paperchase Recycling	GRC general waste collection 30/6 - 3/8/25
O P Aug 41	£24.20	£4.03	£20.17	Yarcombe Woodland Products Ltd	Sawn timber - Henhayes
DD22	£8.88	£0.42	£8.46	British Gas Business	Gas Victoria Hall 16/7 - 16/8/25
DD44	£778.77		£778.77	Everfow Ltd	Water Rates Sep 25
DD33 C.Card	£12.98	£2.16	£10.82	Amazon Marketplace	Keysafe for GRC
DD30	-£441.70	-£21.04	-£420.66	British Gas Business	Electricity Public Toilets CREDIT
DD30	£223.41	£10.64	£212.77	British Gas Business	Electricity Public Toilets 20/4 - 19/8/25
DD33 C.Card	£11.99	£2.00	£9.99	Amazon Marketplace	Stationery
DD33 C.Card	£6.09	£1.02	£5.07	Amazon Marketplace	Stationery
DD33 C.Card	£23.99	£4.00	£19.99	Amazon Marketplace	Soap dispenser
DD33 C.Card	£17.94	£2.99	£14.95	Mailchimp	Digital newsletter Aug 25
DD59	£94.64	£4.51	£90.13	British Gas Business	Gas GRC 19/7 - 19/8/25
DD60	£153.17	£7.29	£145.88	British Gas Business	Gas Lodge Office 11/5 - 11/8/25
DD48	-£65.32	-£3.11	-£62.21	British Gas Business	Electricity Lodge Office CREDIT
DD48	£89.31	£4.25	£85.06	British Gas Business	Electricity Lodge Office 11/5 - 11/8/25
DD33 C.Card	£16.81	£2.80	£14.01	Amazon Marketplace	Stationery
DD50	£962.41	£160.40	£802.01	British Gas Business	Electricity GRC Jul 25
DD49	£167.04	£27.85	£139.19	The Business	Fuel Jul 25
DD52	£318.58	£53.10	£265.48	Gamma Business Communications Ltd	Telephone & broadband Aug 25
DD31	£21.60	£3.60	£18.00	Iris Business Software Ltd	Payroll software Jul 25
DD9	£70.73	£11.79	£58.94	Southern Communications	Mobile phone charges Aug 25
	£13,938.85		£13,938.85	Salaries	Aug 25
Total	£64,931.82	£2,957.37	£61,974.45		

Signed:..... Date:.....

<b>A</b>	<b>CREWKERNE TOWN COUNCIL</b> <b>BANK RECONCILIATION AS AT 31/07/2025</b>		
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2025 ADD		£451,622.97
	Receipts 01/04/2025 - 31/07/2025 SUBTRACT		£717,717.09
	Payments 01/04/2025 - 31/07/2025		£271,794.83
	<b>CASH IN HAND 31/07/2025</b> (per Cash Book)		£897,545.23
<b>B</b>	Cash in Hand per Bank Statements 31/07/2025		
	LLOYDS - Business Call Account	£656,369.25	
	LLOYDS - Current Account	£50,000.00	
	LLOYDS - Burial Account	£91,175.98	
	CCLA - Public Sector Deposit Fund	£100,000.00	
			£897,545.23
	<b>Less</b> unrepresented cheques		
			£0.00
	<b>Plus</b> unrepresented receipts		
	<b>ADJUSTED BANK BALANCE</b>		£897,545.23
	<b>A = B Checks out OK</b>		
	Town Clerk: .....		
	Date: .....		
	Checked by: .....		
	Date: .....		

<b>A</b>	<b>CREWKERNE TOWN COUNCIL</b> <b>BANK RECONCILIATION AS AT 31/08/2025</b>		
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2025 ADD		£451,622.97
	Receipts 01/04/2025 - 31/08/2025 SUBTRACT		£742,052.55
	Payments 01/04/2025 - 31/08/2025		£317,914.08
	<b>CASH IN HAND 31/08/2025</b> (per Cash Book)		£875,761.44
<b>B</b>	Cash in Hand per Bank Statements 31/08/2025		
	LLOYDS - Business Call Account	£634,570.46	
	LLOYDS - Current Account	£50,015.00	
	LLOYDS - Burial Account	£91,175.98	
	CCLA - Public Sector Deposit Fund	£100,000.00	
			£875,761.44
	<b>Less</b> unpresented cheques		
			£0.00
	<b>Plus</b> unpresented receipts		
	<b>ADJUSTED BANK BALANCE</b>		£875,761.44
	<b>A = B Checks out OK</b>		
	Town Clerk: .....		
	Date: .....		
	Checked by: .....		
	Date: .....		

<b>CREWKERNE TOWN COUNCIL WAR MEMORIAL          COMMEMORATION TRUST RECREATION GROUND          BANK RECONCILIATION AS AT 31/07/2025</b>			
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2025		£2,079.23
	ADD		
	Receipts 01/04/2025 - 31/07/2025		£3,571.75
	SUBTRACT		
	Payments 01/04/2025 - 31/07/2025		£34.00
<b>A</b>	<b>CASH IN HAND 31/07/2025</b>		£5,616.98
	(per Cash Book)		
	Cash in Hand per Bank Statements 31/07/2025		
	LLOYDS - Instant Access Account	£2,057.16	
	LLOYDS - Current Account	£3,559.82	
			£5,616.98
	<b>Less</b> unpresented cheques		
			£0.00
	<b>Plus</b> unpresented receipts		
<b>B</b>	<b>ADJUSTED BANK BALANCE</b>		£5,616.98
	<b>A = B Checks out OK</b>		
	<b>Town Clerk:</b> .....		
	<b>Date:</b> .....		
	<b>Checked by:</b> .....		
	<b>Date:</b> .....		



<b>A</b>	<b>CREWKERNE TOWN COUNCIL WAR MEMORIAL COMMEMORATION TRUST RECREATION GROUND BANK RECONCILIATION AS AT 31/08/2025</b>		
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2025		£2,079.23
	ADD		
	Receipts 01/04/2025 - 31/08/2025		£4,176.05
	SUBTRACT		
	Payments 01/04/2025 - 31/08/2025		£42.50
	<b>CASH IN HAND 31/08/2025</b>		<b>£6,212.78</b>
	(per Cash Book)		
<b>B</b>	Cash in Hand per Bank Statements 31/08/2025		
	LLOYDS - Instant Access Account	£2,268.46	
	LLOYDS - Current Account	£3,944.32	
	<b>Less</b> unpresented cheques		£6,212.78
	<b>Plus</b> unpresented receipts		£0.00
	<b>ADJUSTED BANK BALANCE</b>		<b>£6,212.78</b>
	<b>A = B Checks out OK</b>		
	Town Clerk: .....		
	Date: .....		
	Checked by: .....		
	Date: .....		

<b>Report subject</b>	To note the response received from Andy Heron, Chief Operating Officer, regarding Crewkerne Hospital.
<b>Committee name</b>	Full Council
<b>Meeting date</b>	Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> September
<b>Report author</b>	Gemma Hughes, Town Clerk
<b>Report contact details</b>	townclerk@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk
<b>Consultees</b>	n/a
<b>Decision required?</b>	No

### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1 To note the response received from Andy Heron, Chief Operating Officer, regarding the town council's concerns about potential changes to bedded capacity at Crewkerne Community Hospital.

### **2. Background information**

- 2.1 The Council previously wrote to Mr Heron expressing concern over possible reductions in community hospital beds and the impact this could have on local healthcare provision. Crewkerne Community Hospital provides vital services to the local population, and any change in bed numbers or services is of direct interest to the town council and residents.

### **3. Detailed Consideration**

- 3.1 Mr Heron confirms that Crewkerne Community Hospital remains central to NHS plans for delivering local services.
- 3.2 There may be temporary reductions in bedded capacity to create space for expanded outpatient and diagnostic services, including chemotherapy, cardiology, urology, and community midwifery.
- 3.3 Any changes would be based on local population health data and service usage, tested on a 'temporary test and learn' basis.
- 3.4 No decisions have been made to permanently reduce or close beds.
- 3.5 The hospital is part of a broader programme of transformation across Somerset community hospitals, aligned with the Government's 10 Year Health Plan.

3.6 Engagement with local groups and scrutiny committees is ongoing to ensure local views inform any changes.

#### **4. Financial implications**

4.1 There are no direct financial implications for the town council arising from this response. Any changes to service provision or bed numbers would be managed by NHS Somerset within their budget and operational planning.

#### **5. Equalities considerations**

5.1 Noting the response helps the council monitor potential impacts on equality of access to healthcare services for residents, including vulnerable groups who may rely on local community hospital provision.

#### **6. Crime and Disorder considerations**

N/A

#### **7. Council Action Plan objectives supported**

N/A

#### **8. Recommendation**

8.1. It is recommended that Council **NOTES** the response received from Andy Heron regarding the future plans for Crewkerne Community Hospital.

22 August 2025

Gemma Hughes  
Town Clerk  
Crewkerne Town Council  
Town Hall  
Market Square  
Crewkerne  
Somerset TA18 7LN

**Trust Management Office**  
**Yeovil District Hospital**  
Higher Kingston  
Yeovil  
BA21 4AT

[Andy.Heron@somersetft.nhs.uk](mailto:Andy.Heron@somersetft.nhs.uk)

Dear Gemma,

Many thanks for taking the time to write to me about Crewkerne Community Hospital and to make clear the town council's concern about a potential reduction in community hospital beds.

I would like to say from the outset that Crewkerne Community Hospital is central to our plans for delivering high quality NHS services to local people. We think there are exciting opportunities to make greater use of the community hospital to provide an expanded range of diagnostic services and treatments which could benefit many more local people, meaning that fewer local residents need to travel to one of our acute hospitals.

We have begun work with our Leagues of Friends, and with colleagues, discussing potentially reducing bedded capacity at Crewkerne Community Hospital in order to create more physical space for additional services such as additional outpatients, chemotherapy, cardiology, urology, and community midwifery.

We have begun engagement with local groups and people to understand their use of NHS services. If we temporarily reduce the number of beds at Crewkerne Community Hospital to free up space for additional services, the additional services we provide will be based on the information local people tell us about their use of services and population health data. If any changes are made, they will be made on a temporary test and learn basis and I would like to stress that no decisions have been made to permanently close community hospital beds.

These plans are part of a much broader programme of transformation for our community hospitals across the county. We regard our community hospitals as hugely important assets that make us ideally placed in Somerset to deliver the aspirations recently published in Government's 10-Year Health Plan. On 21 August we attended a meeting of Somerset Council's Scrutiny Committee for Adults and Health with colleagues from NHS Somerset where we described the work we are doing and responded to questions from councillors. The paper we submitted, describing this broader programme of work is on the council's website.

Thank you again for writing to me.

Yours sincerely



**ANDY HERON**  
**CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER**



<b>Report subject</b>	To consider a request from the Town Crier for an annual honorarium
<b>Committee name</b>	Full Council
<b>Meeting date</b>	Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> September 2025
<b>Report author</b>	Gemma Hughes, Town Clerk
<b>Report contact details</b>	townclerk@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk
<b>Consultees</b>	n/a
<b>Decision required?</b>	Yes

## **1. Purpose**

- 1.1 To consider a request from the Town Crier for an annual honorarium to recognise the voluntary role and contributions made to the town council and wider community.

## **2. Background information**

- 2.1 The post of Town Crier is voluntary and unpaid.
- 2.2 The Town Crier represents Crewkerne Town Council at civic events, delivering announcements, proclamations, and news. The current Town Crier has attended events in the past year such as VJ Day, VE Day, Christmas Lights Switch On, the Family Fun Day at Henhayes, Crewkerne Charter Fair, and various school fairs and Brownie events.

## **3. Detailed Consideration**

- 3.1 The Town Crier may be asked to undertake duties including:
- Calling people to attention at Town Council organised civic events.
  - Announcing the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, or other honorary citizens as directed by the Mayor at civic events.
  - Making town or event announcements in the town centre.
  - Thanking people for attendance or support.
  - Posing for photographs at events.
- 3.2 The proposed honorarium is intended as recognition for voluntary service, and to contribute towards the costs of attire maintenance, travel, and membership fees, rather than as a salary.
- 3.3 Annual membership fee for the Ancient and Honourable Guild of Town Criers. The membership fee is currently paid for by the town council; if an honorarium is agreed, this would be covered from the honorarium.

**4. Financial implications**

4.1 The proposed amount for the honorarium would be £300. The payment represents a one-off annual cost and has minimal impact on overall council finances.

**5. Equalities considerations**

5.1 Offering an honorarium recognises the voluntary contribution of the Town Crier and ensures the role is accessible to individuals who may otherwise be unable to participate due to associated costs, such as travel, costume maintenance, or membership fees.

**6. Crime and Disorder considerations**

N/A

**7. Council Action Plan objectives supported**

N/A

**8. Recommendation**

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| <p>8.1. It is recommended that Council <b>AGREES</b> to consider approving an annual honorarium of £300 for the Town Crier in recognition of voluntary service and contributions to civic events.</p> |
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