

Minutes of a meeting of CREWKERNE TOWN COUNCIL held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Market Square on Monday 23 June 2025, following a meeting of the Trustees of the Crewkerne War Memorial Commemoration Trust Recreation Ground.

PRESENT

Cllrs. S. Ashton, M. Best, N. Draycott, K. Head, D. Livesley, P. Maxwell, J. Morris, J. Nathan, C. Rawe, A. Samuel, A. Stuart, and S. Woodland.

In attendance: Deputy Clerk G. Hughes.

No members of the public were present.

017 TO NOTE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
25/26

All Councillors were present.

018 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
25/26

None.

019 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 19 MAY 2025
25/26

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 May 2025 were AGREED.

020 PUBLIC OPEN FORUM
25/26

No members of the public were in attendance.

021 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM:
25/26

a. Somerset Councillors

Cllrs. Ashton and Best reported that LGBCE is consulting on new electoral arrangements for the area and noted that it would be more effective and representative if smaller parishes were grouped together. The Government have granted an extension on the rule that stops SEND deficits from being counted on council balance sheets.

b. Local Community Network (LCN) representative

Cllr. Head reported that emergency issues such as flooding, food shortages and IT were being worked on in small groups. A meeting including the Highways and Active Travel subgroups is due to be arranged.

c. Crewkerne Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT)

A written report had been circulated. It was noted that antisocial behaviour has plateaued. Councillors requested that the police be invited to the next Full Council meeting. Cllr Nathan reported several instances of such behaviour at the youth group, with police attendance dependent on resource availability. The Deputy Clerk was asked to contact Glastonbury Town Council to enquire how they have secured additional police resources in response to antisocial behaviour.

022 **CLERK'S PROGRESS REPORT**

25/26

The Deputy Clerk reported that:

- There is a rotten Holm Oak at the cemetery alongside the A30 which will be felled as it has been considered dangerous.
- At Henhayes park the rope bridge is out of action as it needs some repairs. Quotations are currently being sought.
- At St. Bartholomew's Churchyard there is some overhanging branches from trees in the far corner and the Grounds Team are unable to get the mower underneath. Planning consent has been granted to reduce the branches and the work will take place on 8th July.
- The craft market upstairs in Victoria Hall has drawn to an end but some traders will continue outside.
- The Government have announced that they will not continue the Neighbourhood Plan funding, and other options will need to be explored for the towns upcoming plan.
- This weekend Crewkerne Museum will display an Ariel Atom outside the Town Hall, this will form part of the Museum's exhibitions on Modern Local Industries.

023 **FINANCE**

25/26

a. To approve the accounts for payment for June 2025 as listed

Cllr. Nathan verified the accounts for payment in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations. Accounts for payment for 23 June 2025 in the sum of £66,443.39 were APPROVED.

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

Cllr. Nathan verified the bank reconciliation for May 2025. It was noted that cash in hand as of 31 May 2025 was £985,183.35.

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

Cllr. Nathan verified the Trust accounts and it was noted that cash in hand as of 31 May 2025 was £4,448.16.

d. To receive and approve the second report of the Internal Auditor and note no matters of concern raised

The report of the Internal Auditor was APPROVED. The Mayor extended thanks to the officers involved in the audit process.

e. To formally approve the internally audited accounts for 2024/25

The accounts for the 2024/2025 financial year were APPROVED.

f. To approve the Annual Return for the year ending 31 March 2025.

i. Section 1: to approve the Annual Governance Statements.

The Annual Governance Statements were APPROVED.

ii. Section 2: to approve the Accounting Statements

The Accounting Statements were APPROVED.

iii. To authorise signing of the Annual Return.

The Annual Return was AGREED for signature by the Mayor.

iv. To note that the period of elector's rights will commence on Tuesday 24 June 2025 and finish on Monday 4 August 2025.

The period of inspection rights was noted. Notifications would be placed on noticeboards and on the website.

g. To consider an updated allotment policy

Councillors commented that they were pleased to see a deposit scheme being introduced. The updated policy was APPROVED.

024 COUNCIL SURGERIES

25/26 To identify Councillor support for July, September and October surgeries.

Cllrs. Rawe and Stuart volunteered for July, Cllrs. Head and Samuel for September and Cllrs. Nathan and Rawe for October.

025 LGBCE CONSULTATION

25/26 To consider any further response to proposed changes to warding in Crewkerne.

Councillors discussed the following points regarding the proposal:

- It does not consider Crewkerne as a single entity
- The scheme fails to represent the town identity
- No consideration has been given to new housing developments
- It would be more effective if towns of a similar size were grouped together

026 TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING MINUTES AND APPROVE ANY RECOMMENDATIONS THEREIN

25/26

- a. Planning and Highways Committee 12 May 2025
- b. Policy and Resources Committee 10 February 2025
- c. Joint Burial Committee 8 April 2025
- d. Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group 22 April 2025
- e. Staffing sub-committee 15 April 2025
- f. Reports from Town Council representatives to outside bodies

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

027 TO RECEIVE MATTERS OF REPORT (for information only)

25/26

Councillors raised the following issues:

- Concerns of a rough sleeper seen at Barn Street and Happy Valley.
- The Deputy Clerk was asked to check on the newly planted trees at Barn Street and 2024 plantings at Bincombe due to dry weather.

- Members of the public have been observed walking their dogs and using a metal detector at Barn Street.
- Overhanging vegetation along Gouldsbrook Terrace is forcing pedestrians into the road; and damaged overhanging branches were reported on East Street — both areas are privately owned.
- A desire for improved communication with the planning authority was expressed; it was suggested to write to the Planning Officer for Taylor Wimpey to request updates.
- A tree branch has fallen from Bincombe into a neighbouring garden — this is already under investigation by the Operations Manager.
- Overgrown vegetation was reported along the path to Bincombe allotments.
- There was a suggestion to plant more trees at Happy Valley — this could be considered by the Happy Valley Working Group.
- Somerset Council's review of planning committee sizes is on hold; new Government legislation may limit delegation for small developments.
- Cllr. Samuel reported that David Craner the Town Crier wishes to represent us in the World Town Crying Championships in Devon.

028 **NEXT MEETING**

25/26

Monday 28 July 2025, 18.45, Council Chamber, Town Hall, Market Square, Crewkerne.

029 **SOMERSET COUNCIL CHAIR'S AWARDS**

25/26

To consider nominations and select a nominee for considerations by Somerset Council

Potential submissions were discussed and a nominee was AGREED.

030 **MOWER EXCHANGE**

25/26

To agree an exchange of mowers and agree a dispensation

It was AGREED to proceed with the exchange of the mowers, with the associated credit to be allocated towards parts and labour costs for both the new and the existing mower. It was noted that a more structured approach to operational changes will be adopted going forward.

031 **GRC MANAGER**

25/26

To agree the recommendation of the Staffing Sub-Committee

It was AGREED to defer this item to the next Full Council meeting as the relevant documents were not able to be circulated in time.

032 **YOUTH SERVICE**

25/26

To receive an update on the Youth Service contract and associated issues.

An update was received regarding the Youth Service contract and associated matters. It was noted, and further discussion will take place as appropriate.

033 **LEAGUE OF FRIENDS CREWKERNE HOSPITAL**

25/26

To receive a verbal update from Cllr. Head.

A verbal update was received and noted.

The meeting closed at 20.00.

Signed:

Dated:

TC23June2025

DRAFT