

Minutes of a meeting of CREWKERNE TOWN COUNCIL held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Market Square, Crewkerne on Monday 23 March 2026.

PRESENT

Cllrs. S. Ashton, M. Best, N. Draycott, K. Head, J. Morris, J. Nathan, C. Rawe and A. Samuel

In attendance: Town Clerk G. Hughes, Deputy Clerk S. Syeda Bowen and one member of the public.

133
25/26 **TO NOTE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillors D. Livesley, P. Maxwell and A. Stuart (personal).

134
25/26 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Samuel declared an interest in planning applications 26/00435/REM and 26/000436/REM due to living in the vicinity. Councillor Nathan declared an interest in planning application 26/00476/FUL as the applicant is an acquaintance.

135
25/26 **MINUTES**
To confirm the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 23 February 2026

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 February 2026 were AGREED.

136
25/26 **PUBLIC OPEN FORUM**

A member of the public spoke in support of planning application 26/00476/FUL. He advised that the plans had been revised following consideration of previous comments made by Councillors. He stated that the proposal seeks to improve the aesthetics of the area and noted that seven people already park at the location.

137
25/26 **TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM:**

a. Somerset Councillors

- The Local Government Boundary division has been finalised and is awaiting Government approval. Once approved, Crewkerne will be split into north and south wards, encompassing several outlying villages.
- The new three-year transport plan has been published, with a primary focus on improving bus services.
- Further briefings on the Local Plan have taken place. Somerset needs provision for 75,000 new homes, with spatial planning considering proximity to employment and transport links.
- Rising oil prices are impacting community members. Councillors suggested that oil should be covered under the ombudsman. Emergency funding from the Government will be available to Somerset Council from 1st April.

b. Local Community Network (LCN) representative

Cllr. Head reported that a recent meeting had taken place, featuring presentations from Taylor Wimpey, the Somerset Bus Partnership, Be A Good Neighbour, a private healthcare company, and an update on Crewkerne Hospital. There was also a report from Adam Dance MP's office, as well as an

update on flooding and recovery. The Clerk advised Councillors that she would forward the Taylor Wimpey presentation.

c. Crewkerne Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT)

The Clerk is working with the new beat manager, to obtain the updated statistics.

138
25/26

CLERK'S PROGRESS REPORT

The Town Clerk reported that:

- The Councillor vacancy can now be filled by co-option. Candidates have until 17th April to apply. The application form is available on the Council's website.
- Two new bleed kits have been installed at Wadham Sports Centre and The George Shopping Centre, kindly donated by Avon & Somerset Police.
- All residents of Crewkerne are invited to attend the Community Engagement evening on Monday 30th March at 7pm in Victoria Hall.
- Taylor Wimpey has begun installing dropped kerbs at the edge of the Wool Gardens site.

139
25/26

FINANCE

a. To approve the accounts for payment for February 2026 as listed.

Cllr. Best verified the accounts for payment in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations. Accounts for payment for 28 February 2026 in the sum of £13,722.62 were APPROVED.

Councillor Nathan commented on the purchase of plants for the Aqua Centre. The Clerk explained that the rotting logs had been removed, the bank graded, and self-binding plants introduced to stabilise the area.

b. To report that the bank reconciliation for February 2026 has been completed

Cllr. Best verified the bank reconciliations for February 2026. It was noted that cash in hand as of 28 February 2026 was £623,371.22.

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

Cllr. Best verified the Trust accounts and it was noted that cash in hand as of 28 February 2026 was £7,719.33.

Councillors noted that there was a discrepancy of £1. The Clerk will ask the Finance Officer to review this.

140
25/26

TO CONSIDER NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS

26/00435/REM

Unit 3 Holly Tree Farm Longstrings Lane Crewkerne Somerset TA18 7EA
Reserved Matters Application for the approval of Appearance, Landscaping, Layout and Scale for the erection of 1 self-build dwelling (Unit 3, Phase One) following outline approval 24/00735/OUT; Erection of 2 No. dwellings with access and landscaping, allowed on Appeal with modifications

26/00436/REM **Unit 4 Holly Tree Farm Longstrings Lane Crewkerne Somerset TA18 7EA**
Reserved Matters Application for the approval of Appearance, Landscaping, Layout and Scale for the erection of 1 self-build dwelling (Unit 4, Phase Two) following outline approval 24/00735/OUT; Erection of 2 No. dwellings with access and landscaping, allowed on Appeal with modifications

Councillors provided feedback on the two applications for Holly Tree Farm. They expressed that they had hoped to see a design more in keeping with the character of the surrounding area. Additionally, they noted that the proposed flat roof appeared to be less practical. However, they acknowledged that the buildings would not be visible from the main road.

Recommend: APPROVAL for both applications

26/00369/TCA **33 Lyme Road Crewkerne Somerset TA18 8HE**
Notification only - Notification of intent to Fell No. 1 Tree within a Conservation Area. T1 - Norway maple, it has become very large with branches growing over the footpath at the rear and over into the garden of a neighbouring property. I would like to fell the tree to avoid future issues again. The tree is touching the fencing, so is not in an ideal location.

Councillors wished to comment that they would like to see a replacement tree planted.

26/00406/P3MA **129A South Street Crewkerne Somerset TA18 8AA**
Notification only - Proposed change of use to C3 dwelling

26/00275/DPO **45 Oak Drive Crewkerne Somerset TA18 7DN**
Notification only - Application to Discharge a S106 agreement between Charles Bishop Limited and Others and South Somerset District Council dated 16th day of April 2003 to discharge the 80% restriction on the shared ownership title relating to planning reference number 98/00567/FUL

Councillor Best noted that he had raised a concern with the planning officer that removing the part-ownership element could set a precedent for other properties, potentially leading to a decline in affordable housing.

26/00256/TPO **5 Alder Grove Crewkerne Somerset TA18 7DJ**
Notification only - Application to carry out Tree Surgery works to No. 1 Tree as shown within the South Somerset District Council (CREW 1) 2007 Tree Preservation Order. T1 - Fraxinus Excelsior - Pollard to Approx 3M from ground level due to Hymenoscyphus Fraxineus.

26/00476/FUL **Land Rear Of 20 Market Street Crewkerne Somerset TA18 7LA**
Demolition of detached timber frame storage building and prefabricated garage building. Change of use and the construction of a terrace of 3No. two storey dwelling houses with amenity areas and car port for parking. Improvements to existing parking area (re-submission of 24/02221/FUL)

The Clerk explained to Councillors that this application was originally submitted in 2024 but was withdrawn to allow adjustments to the design concerning the heritage aspects and the size of the

properties. Councillors discussed the number of parking spaces and the waste collection arrangements. They also noted that the development would tidy the area and make use of a brownfield site.

Recommend: APPROVAL

141
25/26

TO RECEIVE PLANNING AND APEAL DECISIONS NOTICES FROM SOMERSET COUNCIL

Appeal Decisions:

Appeal Ref: APP/E3335/W/25/3373197
Holly Tree Farm Longstrings Lane Crewkerne Somerset TA18 7EA
 Decision: The appeal is allowed and the planning permission Ref 24/00735/OUT for Outline application with some matters reserved for the erection of 2 No. dwellings with access and landscaping at Holly Tree Farm, Longstrings Lane, Crewkerne, TA18 7EA granted on 18 July 2025 by Somerset Council, is varied by deleting conditions 5, 16 & 17, and amending the description of development proposed to ‘the erection of 2 No. dwellings’.

Councillors noted that not all the conditions were permitted.

Costs application: APP/E3335/W/25/3373197
Holly Tree Farm, Longstrings Lane, Crewkerne, Somerset TA18 7EA
 The application for an award of costs is allowed.

Planning Decisions:

26/00236/NMA **69 Hermitage Street Crewkerne Somerset TA18 8EX**
 Non Material Amendment to approved Application 25/02024/HOU to change position of windows to extension and amend rooflight.

APPLICATION PERMITTED

26/00201/LBC **M & Co 9 Market Street Crewkerne Somerset TA18 7JP**
 Subdivision of a single retail shop unit into three, including reinstatement of the original shop front, along with the conversion of the first floor storage areas into 4 office suites with shared facilities

APPLICATION PERMITTED WITH CONDITIONS

26/00200/FUL **M & Co 9 Market Street Crewkerne Somerset TA18 7JP**
 Subdivision of a single retail shop unit into three, including reinstatement of the original shop front, along with the conversion of the first floor storage areas into 4 office suites with shared facilities

APPLICATION PERMITTED WITH CONDITIONS

26/00210/DOC1 **Land Adjacent Cloudshill Hewish Lane Crewkerne Somerset**
 Discharge of conditions No.05 (Nesting Birds), No.06 (Badgers) and No.16 (Tree Planting Scheme) of planning application 25/01453/S73

CONDITIONS DISCHARGED

25/01693/FUL

Land At 346017 109612 Higher Easthams Lane Crewkerne Somerset (GR:346017/109612)

Creation of a wetland with associated development including construction of an in-take/out-take to the Viney Brook, earthworks and landscaping and excavation of land. LOCATION: Land At 34601

PERMISSION REFUSED FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

Contrary to the requirements of the Environment Act 2021 and Schedule 7A to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended), and Regulation 7 of the Biodiversity Gain Requirements (Exemptions) Regulations 2024 it has not been demonstrated that the proposal will deliver a biodiversity gain site development undertaken solely or mainly for the purpose of fulfilling, in whole or in part, biodiversity gain requirements for other developments. In addition, without an approved and appropriately secured HMMP, the proposal cannot be treated as a Biodiversity Gain Site and is BNG liable, and a BNG Statement, Metric, and plans showing how 10% net gain has not been provided.

Councillor Ashton commented that he has proposed that Somerset Council take responsibility for maintaining the site in the future.

25/02970/DOC1

Land South Of Kithill Crewkerne Somerset

Discharge of Condition No. 3 (Protection of Trees and Hedges) of Planning Application 23/01295/REM.

CONDITIONS DISCHARGED

142
25/26

TO APPROVE QUOTATIONS FOR A REPLACEMENT FLAT ROOF SECTION ON VICTORIA HALL

Councillors approved the appointment of JS Hannam in the sum of £6100 + VAT to replace the flat roof, and Elliot Environmental in the sum of £2679 + VAT for the removal, storage and reinstallation of the air conditioning units.

143
25/26

TO REVIEW QUOTATIONS FOR REPLACEMENT WINDOWS AT THE GEORGE REYNOLDS CENTRE

Councillors agreed to appoint Allglass & Glazing Limited in the sum of £1,792.25 + VAT to replace two cracked windows in the George Reynolds Centre.

144
25/26

TO CONSIDER QUOTATIONS FOR A CLEANER FOR THE GEORGE REYNOLDS CENTRE

Councillors resolved the appointment of D Cleaning Solutions at a cost of £170 per week, noting that their quotation seemed to provide a more thorough service.

145
25/26

PLANTS AND GARDENS FESTIVAL

To determine a request to use the George Reynolds Centre for a Plants and Gardens Festival

Councillors noted that the event, scheduled for Monday 25th May, had been approved in previous years but did not take place. It was AGREED to support the event, with the use of the centre free of charge, and to review similar requests in future years. Councillors also noted that the event benefits the community and that the centre is unlikely to be booked on that day, as it is a bank holiday.

146 **TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

25/26 To approve updated Terms and Conditions for the Victoria Hall and the George Reynolds Centre

Councillors recommended that, for the George Reynolds Centre, point 22 be amended to reflect that the wheelchair refuge is located at the top of the stairs. With this amendment, the updated terms and conditions were APPROVED.

147 **TO ADOPT THE UPDATED TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE STAFFING SUB-COMMITTEE**

25/26

Councillors noted the changes and AGREED to adopt the Terms of Reference.

148 **TO REVIEW AND APPROVE THE UPDATED ASSET REGISTER**

25/26

Councillors AGREED to approve the updated asset register.

149 **TO IDENTIFY COUNCILLOR SUPPORT FOR UPCOMING SURGERIES**

25/26

Councillor attendance for the surgeries was noted as follows:

- Saturday 25th April – Councillors Ashton and Nathan
- Saturday 23rd May – Councillors Best and Head
- Saturday 27th June – Councillors Morris and Rawe

150 **TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING MINUTES**

25/26

- a) Reports from Town Council representatives to outside bodies
- b) Bincombe Beeches Working Group: 15 October 2025
- c) Staffing Sub-Committee: 29 January 2026

All minutes above were duly noted and AGREED.

151 **TO RECEIVE MATTERS OF REPORT (for information only)**

25/26

Councillors discussed the following points:

- A tree has been planted by Crewkerne in Bloom at the Rotary stone on behalf of the Twinning Association.
- Councillor Nathan reported that she had raised several issues with Somerset Council which have not yet been addressed.
- It was noted that a Somerset Rivers Authority resilience day is being planned for May/June at Clapton Village Hall.
- The Severalls Tea Party organised by the Royal British Legion will now take place on 4th July.
- Reports of anti-social behaviour at the War Memorial Gardens were noted; these have been reported to the police.

152 **NEXT MEETING**

25/26

Monday 27 April 2026, 18.45, Council Chamber, Town Hall, Market Square, Crewkerne.

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 – Staffing Matters.

153 **STAFFING MATTERS**

25/26 To approve the recommendations of the Staffing Sub-Committee

Councillors considered the recommendations of the Staffing Sub-Committee in relation to staffing matters. Owing to the confidential nature of the item, detailed discussion is not recorded.

It was RESOLVED to approve the recommendations of the Staffing Sub-Committee, namely:

- a) To join an eyecare scheme to provide vouchers for employee eye tests and contributions towards work-related eyewear;
- b) To approve a flexible working request;
- c) To approve the updated staffing structure; and
- d) To approve the updated Staff Handbook.

154 **TO APPROVE AN UPDATED USE OF COUNCIL VEHICLES POLICY**

25/26

Councillors considered an updated Use of Council Vehicles Policy, linked to the previously considered staffing matters. Owing to this, detailed discussion is not recorded. It was AGREED to approve the updated policy.

The meeting closed at 20.06

Signed:

Dated:

TC23March2026