

Minutes of a meeting of CREWKERNE TOWN COUNCIL held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Market Square, Crewkerne on Monday 26 January 2026.

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: Town Clerk G. Hughes, Deputy Clerk S. Syeda Bowen

101 **TO NOTE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

25/26

All Councillors were present.

102 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

25/26

Cllr. Head declared an interest in the November accounts for payment.

103 **MINUTES**

25/26

To confirm the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 8 December 2025

Minor corrections were requested by Councillor Nathan, and the minutes of the meeting held on 8 December 2025 were AGREED subject to amendment.

104 **PUBLIC OPEN FORUM**

25/26

No members of the public were present.

105 **TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM:**

25/26

a. Somerset Councillors

- **Somerset Council** has requested approval to borrow additional funds and to increase Council Tax by 5.9%. This request is considered extraordinary, as a similar request was made in the previous financial year.
- **Goldwell Farm** – The applicant has sought to amend the Section 106 agreement in relation to the provision of play spaces. Merriott Parish Council has submitted an objection to the proposed removal of this requirement. The applicant's response stated that the change was procedural; however, the lack of play provision in this area remains a significant concern.
- **Land off Station Road** – The applicant is reviewing the design and may resubmit a revised planning application. Should this occur, the application will be subject to a further consultation process.
- **Millers Garage** – No update was available. It is currently unclear whether this item will appear on the agenda for the February or March meeting.

Councillor Ashton commented that a planning application had been approved on the approach into Chard, noting that a Grampian condition has been imposed to secure the provision of a footpath.

b. Local Community Network (LCN) representative

Cllr. Head reported that an Active Travel meeting was trying to be arranged to discuss the provision of pavements to the Taylor Wimpey site.

c. Crewkerne Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT)

A new beat manager recently started in the town. The Clerk will make contact and ask for the updated statistics.

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25/26 **CLERK'S PROGRESS REPORT**

The Town Clerk reported that:

- She has now completed the CiLCA qualification, this supports the Council's ability to retain the General Power of Competence (GPC), subject to other qualifying criteria being met.
- The potholes at the bottom of Hermitage Street and outside the former Homefayre premises have been repaired.
- Middle Street, Misterton will be closed overnight (6.30pm–6.00am) from 29–30 January 2026 for Wessex Water repair works.

107
25/26 **FINANCE**

a. To approve the accounts for payment for November and December 2025 as listed.

Cllr. Best verified the accounts for payment in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations. Accounts for payment for 30 November 2025 in the sum of £44,576.26, and for 31st December 2025 in the sum of £14,057.08 were APPROVED.

b. To report that the bank reconciliation for November and December 2025 has been completed

Cllr. Best verified the bank reconciliations for November and December 2025. It was noted that cash in hand as of 30 November 2025 was £753,263.80, and for 31 December 2025 was £698,405.08.

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 30 November 2025 was £6,949.42, and for 31 December 2025 was £7,196.54.

d. To approve the recommendation of the Policy & Resources Committee for the setting of the budget for 2026/2027

The recommendation was AGREED.

e. To approve the overall precept for 2026/27

The overall precept was AGREED.

f. To note the quarterly investment performance report

The investment report was noted.

108
25/26 **ANNUAL TOWN MEETING OF ELECTORS**
To consider a change to the date from 13th April to 30th March 2026

The change of date to 30th March 2026 was AGREED.

109 **MEETING DATES**

25/26 To consider the meeting dates for the municipal year 2026/2027

The Clerk advised of minor amendments to the calendar compared to previous years, and the meeting dates were AGREED.

110 **UTILITY RENEWAL OPTIONS**

25/26 To consider utility renewal options for the Happy Valley floodlights

Councillors noted that it may be beneficial to consider longer-term contracts where there is no significant price difference, and that obtaining quotations direct from suppliers (rather than always using a broker) may be worthwhile.

It was AGREED to:

- a) approve the utility contract renewal for 1 year;
- b) delegate authority to the Finance Officer, in consultation with the Clerk, to seek the most cost-effective options in future; and
- c) authorise the Finance Officer to include the George Reynolds Centre water account within the broker's scope.

111 **TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING MINUTES**

25/26

- a) Reports from Town Council representatives to outside bodies
- b) Amenities Committee: 10 November 2025
- c) Planning & Highways Committee: 10 November 2025
- d) Policy & Resources Committee: 13 October 2025
- e) Staffing Sub-Committee: 8 August 2025, 28 August 2025, 2 September 2025, 15 October 2025

All minutes above were duly noted and AGREED.

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

25/26

Councillors discussed the following points:

- **Happy Valley floodlights:** Once weather conditions improve, the angle of the lights will be adjusted to deflect light away from nearby properties.
- **Potholes:** The pothole on the corner turning into Waitrose has been temporarily filled. Clarification had to be sought over ownership, Somerset Council is considering resurfacing this section.
- **Grounds Team:** Cllr Livesley queried why the Grounds Team park on the hard standing outside the Town Hall. The Clerk explained this occurs when parking cannot be found and staff are working in the building.
- **Clammer Hill Lane:** The path at the top is slippery due to debris from Bincombe. The footpath is Somerset Council's responsibility; however the debris is coming from Council land.
- **Parking/charges:** Cllr Ashton reported Somerset Council will be undertaking a countywide survey of car parks and on-street parking to assess the effect of raising charges on displacement. He also suggested investigating options for road closures due to flooding via a three-year TTRO, in conjunction with the SRA.

- **Hermitage Street obstruction:** It was noted that vehicles continue to park at the bottom of Hermitage Street causing obstruction. The Clerk will review previous minutes and include on the next Planning & Highways agenda if further decisions are required.
- **Gullies:** Some Councillors have checked gullies in their areas. The Deputy Clerk clarified a gully is classed as blocked if the bottom of the gully cannot be seen. All blocked gullies will be reported to Somerset Council.
- **Road signs:** The Clerk was asked to instruct the Grounds Team to collect a road closed sign at the bottom of Brickyard Lane and a diversion sign at 7–9 North Street.
- **Double yellow lines:** Cllr Head reported a request for double yellow lines raised at Councillors' Surgery. The Clerk advised that any formal request would be considered by the Roads, Markings & Parking Group.
- **Abbey Street Car Park:** Cllr Best noted gullies in this area fall under the Car Parks Team and reported that the payment machine does not accept 50p coins, this will be addressed.

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25/26

NEXT MEETING

Monday 23 February 2025, 18.45, Council Chamber, Town Hall, Market Square, Crewkerne.

The meeting closed at 19.30.

Signed:

Dated:

TC26January2026