

Minutes of a meeting of CREWKERNE TOWN COUNCIL held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Market Square commencing at 18.45 on Monday 28 April 2025.

**PRESENT**

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

In attendance: Deputy Clerk G. Hughes

**173 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

24/25

All Councillors were present.

**174 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

24/25

Councillor Head declared an interest in 180/2425 relating to planning applications 25/00741/HOU and 25/00742/LBC due to living in the vicinity. Councillor Rawe declared an interest in 179/2425 concerning a grant application by virtue of her position as a Trustee of the Speedwell Hall.

**175 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 24 MARCH 2025**

24/25

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 March 2025 were AGREED as a true and accurate record.

**176 PUBLIC OPEN FORUM**

24/25

No members of the public were present.

**177 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM:**

24/25

a. Somerset Councillors

Cllr. Ashton reported that the top deck of the Waitrose car park was being resurfaced

b. Local Community Network (LCN) representative

Cllr Head reported that attendance at the last meeting had improved; however, progress remains slow. Upcoming meetings of the Active Travel Group and the Planning & Highways Committee are scheduled.

c. Crewkerne Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT)

The figures for April are not yet available, as the reporting period has not concluded. They will be presented at the next meeting.

**178 CLERK'S PROGRESS REPORT**

24/25

The Deputy Clerk reported that:

- The banking hub is seeing increasing numbers each week. You can withdraw or deposit cash, deposit cheques, pay utility bills or check your account balance Monday-Friday 9-5pm
- From the 12<sup>th</sup> May Lloyds will be represented on a Monday, NatWest on Tuesdays, Barclays on Wednesdays. HSBC will begin attendance on Thursdays from this week, and Fridays is to be confirmed.

- On 14th May, there will be a Wessex Water drop-in session from 10am, followed by a Police drop-in session from 11am. Both sessions will take place in the Local Information Centre.
- There have been several incidences of anti-social behaviour around the area of the tennis courts and Severalls allotments. Please do encourage anyone who witnesses such behaviour to report it directly to the police at the time they see it happening, or as soon as possible thereafter.
- The repointing, guttering and window repair works at the lodge is now complete, and the scaffolding is awaiting removal. The cemetery paths in the new section will have the tarmac applied this weekend.

179 **FINANCE**

24/25

- a. To approve the accounts for payment for April 2025 as listed

The Deputy Clerk reported that Cllr. Head had verified the accounts for payment in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations. Accounts for payment for 28<sup>th</sup> April 2025 in the sum of £127,171.73 were APPROVED.

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

The Deputy Clerk reported that Cllr. Head had verified the bank reconciliation for March 2025. It was noted that cash in hand as of 31 March 2025 was £451,622.97.

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

The Deputy Clerk reported that Cllr. Head had verified the Trust accounts and that cash in hand as of 31 March 2025 was £2,079.23.

Councillor Rawe left the room.

- d. To consider a grant application from the Bluebirds Theatre Company

An application to support a theatre company with bringing an opera to the Speedwell Hall Gardens was considered. Councillors discussed whether the organisers had a wet weather contingency plan in place. It was AGREED to award this grant funding and take funds from unallocated reserves if required.

Councillor Rawe returned to the room.

180 **PLANNING**

24/25

To consider applications requiring comments before the next meeting of the Planning and Highways Committee meeting:

- a) **25/00546/HOU 11 Langmead Road Crewkerne Somerset TA18 8DY**  
Single storey extension, raised patio at the rear and conversion of existing double garage into habitable space

Councillors expressed concerns that the proposed office could potentially be used as a bedroom in the future. There were also queries regarding the unconventional parking layout, although it was noted that this would not have an impact on the adjacent road. It was requested that comments only were submitted to this effect.

b) **25/00840/TPO 8 Jasmine Close Crewkerne Somerset TA18 7DB**

*Notification only* - Application to carry out Tree Surgery Works to No. 2 Trees as shown within the South Somerset District Council (CREW 1) 1988 and (CREW 1) 2007 Tree Preservation Orders. T1 Field Maple – Crown Reduction and T2 Crab Apple – Crown Reduction.

It was noted that the works constituted routine maintenance and were a repetition of previous activity.

Councillor Head left the room.

c) **25/00741/HOU 12 Church Street Crewkerne Somerset TA18 7HU**

Proposed single storey rear extension; Alterations to house and alterations to outbuilding

d) **25/00742/LBC 12 Church Street Crewkerne Somerset TA18 7HU**

Proposed single storey rear extension; Alterations to house and alterations to outbuilding

Councillors noted that there was a history of an outbuilding at this location and that the application was sympathetic. Concerns were raised regarding the proposed garden room and the potential for it to become a residential property in the future. It was agreed to support the external works, while commenting that use of the structure as a dwelling would be inappropriate.

Councillor Head returned to the room.

e) **25/00772/DOC1 Westover House Poples Well Crewkerne Somerset TA18 8ES**

*Notification only* – Discharge of conditions Numbers 3 (Repointing) and 4 (Stone Sample Panel and Mortar) of planning application 21/02651/LBC

f) **25/00703/DOC2 2 The Pyjama Factory Abbey Street Crewkerne Somerset TA18 7HY**

*Notification only* – Discharge of conditions No. 4 (Allocation Certificate) of planning application 24/01166/COU

g) **25/00878/NMA Crewkerne Key Site 1 Land East of Crewkerne Between A30 and A356 Yeovil Road Crewkerne Somerset TA18 7HE**

*Notification only* - Non-Material Amendment to planning permission 21/03005/S73 (as amended by 21/01152/NMA, which amended 19/03482/S73 and 05/00661/OUT) for the realignment of the western footway, minor changes to the layout of the carriageway and removal of two lime trees.

h) **25/00879/NMA Crewkerne Key Site 1 Land East of Crewkerne Between A30 and A356 Yeovil Road Crewkerne Somerset TA18 7HE**

*Please note the validation date of 7<sup>th</sup> July 2025*

*Notification only* - Non-Material Amendment to planning permission 19/03483/S73 (as amended by 21/01152/NMA and which amended 14/02141/OUT) for the realignment of the western footway, minor changes to the layout of the carriageway and removal of two lime trees.

The Deputy Clerk commented that:

- Somerset Council have advised there are no consultees for a non-material amendment application. This is because they are for minor changes in the permission which do not breach any conditions.
- The validation date for 25/00879/NMA was an error on the planning portal which has now been corrected.

Councillors discussed that the removal of two mature lime trees should not be considered a minor change to the original application. They enquired whether there is compelling evidence from Highways that shows that the traffic would build up without a slip road. It was strongly felt that these applications should not be processed as a non-material amendment and was agreed that the Deputy Clerk should approach Somerset Council, whilst Councillors Ashton and Best liaise with the relevant portfolio holders.

**181 PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDERS (PSPO)**

**24/25 To consider a response to a consultation from Somerset Council.**

Councillors remarked that legislation needs to be in place before any enforcement can take place. Prosecution is carried out, but incidents need to be reported. It was agreed to submit a response to the consultation in support of extending the PSPO restrictions for the maximum of three years.

**182 NEWSLETTER**

**24/25 To review current arrangements and consider trialling a digital monthly bulletin.**

Some discussion took place around the following points:

- The long term approach should be to produce a digital edition, as printing costs are too high.
- It was acknowledged that older residents may still prefer a hard copy.
- The printed edition should strongly promote the availability of the online version.
- A monthly publication was considered too frequent, however equally a rigid schedule may not be beneficial

It was agreed to continue distributing a hard copy to all households twice a year, and to produce a digital edition in alternate quarters to replace the smaller print runs.

**183 COUNCIL PLAN REFRESH**

**24/25 To receive initial feedback from the consultation on the Council Action Plan**

The progress to date was noted.

**184 ASHLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**24/25 To note that this listing as an Asset of Community Value has expired, and consider whether to reapply**

Councillors noted that this site was originally listed when Ashlands School was due to relocate as part of the CLR project. As this is no longer the case, it was agreed that there was no reason to reapply.

**185 WATERMARK STATUS 2026**

**24/25 To confirm that Crewkerne has been allocated a place on the Wessex WaterMark Scheme for 2026.**

Councillors felt that this was a positive move with no financial implications and agreed to work towards this status.

**186 TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING MINUTES AND APPROVE ANY RECOMMENDATIONS THEREIN:**

24/25

- a. Planning and Planning and Highways Committee 10 March 2025.
- b. Amenities Committee 10 March 2025.
- c. Joint Burial Committee 4 February 2025.
- d. Youth Service Steering Group 27 January 2025.
- e. Neighbourhood plan Steering Group 25 February 2025.
- f. Staffing sub-Committee 27 September 2024 and 12 April 2024.
- g. Reports from Town Council representatives to outside bodies.

It was noted that the Joint Burial Committee meeting was moved from 4<sup>th</sup> February to 11<sup>th</sup> Feb, and that Staffing sub-committee minutes were unable to be circulated.

All minutes above (with the exception of the Staffing sub-committee) were duly noted and any recommendations contained therein AGREED. The Staffing sub-committee minutes were deferred. No reports from representatives to Outside Bodies were received.

**187 MATTERS OF REPORT**

24/25

Councillors raised the following points:

- A number of road signs have been left around the town following recent works. Please report these to the Deputy Clerk and the removal of these will be arranged.
- A recent Supreme Court judgement on women's only spaces was discussed and how this would affect council buildings. The Deputy Clerk was asked to make further enquiries.
- There were positive comments regarding the level of community engagement and youth community that the town benefits from.
- It was noted that residents are using public litter bins to dispose of household waste. Councillors were reminded to report and overflowing bins or incidences of fly tipping to Somerset Council. Members of the public who regularly litter pick in the town were also thanked.
- There has been more graffiti on play equipment at Henhayes and Happy Valley. The Operations Manager is aware of this and will arrange for it to be removed as soon as possible.
- It was suggested that a letter of appreciation was drafted to Somerset Council's Highways Manager to thank him for his work.
- There has been some anti-social behaviour incidences of fire lighting at Happy Valley and at Bincombe Beeches recently.

**188 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

24/25

Monday 19 May 2025, 18.45, Council Chamber, Town Hall.

Councillor Ashton left the meeting and did not return.

**189 GEORGE REYNOLDS CENTRE MANAGEMENT**

24/25

To consider a report from Cllr. Best on the proposed independent management of the GRC and determine next steps

In light of the current economic climate, concerns have been raised regarding the financial viability of the proposal. It is therefore recommended that the Town Council delay the transfer of the GRC into management by a company limited by guarantee at this stage. The allocated funds should be ring-fenced, and the Council should take a proactive role in developing the GRC business so that, when conditions are more favourable, the transfer can proceed with a prepared and sustainable company in place.

The meeting closed at 20.02.

**Signed:** .....

**Dated:** .....

TC28April2025