

Minutes of a meeting of CREWKERNE TOWN COUNCIL held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Market Square, Crewkerne on Monday 8 December 2025.

PRESENT

Cllrs. 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 and seven members of the public.

082 TO NOTE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

25/26

Cllrs Ashton and Best (personal).

083 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

25/26

Cllr. Livesley declared an interest in the planning decision notice 25/02521/TCA.

084 MINUTES

25/26

To confirm the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 27 October 2025

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 October 2025 were AGREED.

Councillor Nathan asked for an update on the damaged lamp post in the churchyard. The Clerk reported that this was a Somerset Council asset and it will be repaired as part of an insurance claim.

085 PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

25/26

A member of the public addressed the meeting on behalf of residents who object to the Boxing Day Hunt. They expressed concerns regarding the health and safety implications of the event, specifically citing the absence of a road closure, the unpredictable behaviour of horses in a crowded environment, and the potential for hounds to carry diseases. They requested that the Council withdraw what they perceive to be the Council's tacit public approval of the event.

086 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM:

25/26

a. Somerset Councillors

As both the unitary Councillors were absent, the Clerk reported the following items on their behalf: The plan to introduce Sunday parking charges across the rest of Somerset has been postponed following the outcome of the consultation.

- The Boundary Commission has reopened its consultation on the proposed new division boundaries for Somerset Council. The consultation will run until 14 January 2026. This reopening follows a misunderstanding by the Commission of guidance previously issued by Somerset Council. Submissions already made will still be considered and do not need to be resubmitted.
- The budget remains challenging, but a £10 million reduction to the projected overspend has been achieved.
- Funding is available from the Somerset Rivers Authority for large-scale flooding-related projects; however, it is time-limited and requires applicants to have clearly defined proposals.
- There are currently no updates on the Miller's Garage application.

b. Local Community Network (LCN) representative

Cllr. Head reported that there had been no recent meetings. There is an online meeting scheduled for 10th December which Councillor Maxwell confirmed he could attend.

c. Crewkerne Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT)

Councillors noted the updated crime statistics.

087
25/26

CLERK'S PROGRESS REPORT

The Town Clerk reported that:

- The wall in the chapel has now dried out, and the final skim is scheduled to be completed this week.
- The new 'Welcome to Crewkerne' boards have been installed at locations around the town.
- From 12–17th January, Wales & West Utilities will be undertaking remedial road works in South Street, affecting a 150-metre section between Kithill and Cropmead. During this period, HGVs will be diverted via Haselbury Plucknett.

088
25/26

FINANCE

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

Cllr. Head verified the accounts for payment in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations. Accounts for payment for 31 October 2025 in the sum of £59,832.73 were APPROVED.

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

Cllr. Head verified the bank reconciliation for October 2025. It was noted that cash in hand as of 31 October 2025 was £787,513.77.

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

Cllr. Head verified the Trust accounts and it was noted that cash in hand as of 31 October 2025 was £6,735.37.

d. To receive the internal audit report and note the recommendations

The audit report was noted. Councillors thanked the Clerk and the Finance Officer.

089
25/26

PLANNING

To consider new planning applications received

25/02852/DOC1

Southern Phase Of Crewkerne Key Site Off Station Road Crewkerne Somerset

Discharge of Condition no 16 (Bat and Artificial Lighting) of planning application

25/02870/TCA

Wyvern Court East Street Crewkerne Somerset TA18 7DE

Application to re-pollard No. 3 Rowan trees back to previous cut points within a Conservation Area.

Councillors commented that this application seemed reasonable.

090

PLANNING

25/26

To receive planning appeal and decision notices from Somerset Council

Appeal Decisions:

Appeal Ref: APP/E3335/W/24/3357969

Land South of Kithill, Crewkerne, Somerset TA18 8HJ

Decision: The appeal is allowed and the reserved matters are approved, namely the Appearance, Landscaping, Layout and Scale details submitted in pursuance of condition No 1 attached to planning permission Ref 18/01737/OUT dated 17 June 2020 (Appeal Ref APP/R3325/W/19/3240967), in accordance with the terms of the application Ref 23/01295/REM, subject to the conditions in the attached schedule.

Councillors expressed disappointment with the outcome of the appeal, particularly regarding access. They considered that neither Cathole Bridge Lane nor Kithill is suitable for lorries and felt that the concerns raised by the Council had been dismissed by the Planning Inspectorate. The Clerk was asked to include this matter as an agenda item for the next Planning and Highways Committee meeting.

Planning Decisions:

25/02401/TPO

Merefield House 17 East Street Crewkerne Somerset TA18 7AG

Application to carry out Tree Surgery Works to No. 1 Tree as shown within the South Somerset District Council (CREW 1) 1993 Tree Preservation Order.

AMENDED SPECIFICATION 02/10/25: T1 YEW - Reduce in garden side by up to 1-1.5M. T1 - Yew - Reduce in garden side to allow more light into garden.

APPROVED

24/00639/FUL

Blacknell Lane Trading Estate Blacknell Lane Crewkerne Somerset TA18 7HE

Demolition of existing building and erection of 3no. industrial buildings (Revised Plans)

APPROVED

25/02795/NMA

Land South Of Kithill Crewkerne Somerset

Non-Material Amendment to approved Application 18/01737/OUT to make changes to the wording of Condition 19.

REFUSED

25/02521/TCA

The Old Bakery Bincombe Lane Crewkerne Somerset TA18 7LY

Notification of intent to Fell No. 1 Tree and carry out Tree surgery works to No. 2 Trees within a Conservation Area. 1) Remove ONE ASH tree which has ASH DIEBACK and is dead. Tree approx. 30 feet tall. Spruce tree already planted (6 foot tall) to fill the gap. 2) Pollard several branches of second ASH which so far remains largely healthy. 3) Pollard ONE MAPLE at crown has squirrel damage and is dead. Remove approx. 15 foot of tree and pollard/shape remainder of the healthy tree.
DECIDED

091 YEOVIL CRIME REDUCTION

25/26 To consider a proposal for a Littoralis Disk Platform

Councillors noted that the Yeovil Crime Reduction Team (YCRT) also operate the Pub Watch schemes in Crewkerne and Chard. It was highlighted that recent crime figures show an increase in anti-social behaviour and violence against the person.

A representative from YCRT explained that police statistics are often not fully accurate. He outlined that the platform allows businesses and community groups to collaborate and problem-solve. He also presented a proposal for Chard to participate in a 12-month trial using the radio link and disk system.

Councillors AGREED to delegate authority to the Clerk to investigate the proposal further.

092 TOWN HALL ROOF AND GUTTERS

25/26 To consider quotations for works

Councillors commented that not all the quotations were like for like, however it was felt that contractor C may provide a more comprehensive service.

Councillors AGREED to approve contractor C.

093 CREWKERNE HOSPITAL

25/26 To receive a verbal update from Councillor Head

Councillor Head reported that a meeting had taken place with the Somerset Foundation Trust, which is undertaking engagement and consulting on a variety of proposals. The public expressed a strong desire to retain beds and have more services provided at the hospital. If the proposals are implemented, consideration would need to be given to car parking. The meeting also provided an opportunity to discuss the town's concerns regarding Symphony Healthcare Services. It was suggested that the Clerk write to Andy Heron to thank him for attending and to maintain ongoing engagement.

Councillors also raised concerns regarding the merger of the four GP practices. There is a perception that patients who drive may be offered appointments outside the town.

094 DIGITAL NEWSLETTER

25/26 To approve the first edition

Councillors noted that the article on Sunday car parking charges will need to be rewritten in light of the recent announcement that Somerset Council has postponed the proposal.

With these amendments, Councillors APPROVED the newsletter.

095 LICENSING APPLICATION – ON THE PIAZZA
25/26 To consider whether to submit a representation

Councillor Head commented that it was previously a pub with a licence. She then declared an interest in this item and left the room.

Councillors noted that there is a designated smoking area, but had no objections to the application, and therefore did not wish to make a representation.

Councillor Head returned to the room.

096 SCREEN SOMERSET FILMING ENQUIRY
25/26 To consider a request to include the Town Hall in its directory of film-friendly locations

Councillors AGREED that they were happy for the Town Hall to be included in the directory.

097 COUNCILLORS SURGERIES
25/26 To note dates and identify Councillor support for surgeries in 2026

Councillors Morris and Head volunteered for 24 January, Councillors Stuart and Maxwell for 28 February, and Councillors Rawe and Samuel for 28 March. Councillor Nathan volunteered to act as a reserve.

098 TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING MINUTES
25/26

- a) Reports from Town Council representatives to outside bodies
- b) Planning and Highways Committee: 13 October 2025
- c) Joint Burial Committee: 3 June 2025
- d) Youth Service Steering Group: 27 August 2025
- e) Bincombe Beeches Working Group: 1 July 2025 and 26 August 2025
- f) Happy Valley Working Group: 31 March 2025

All minutes above were duly noted and AGREED.

099 TO RECEIVE MATTERS OF REPORT (for information only)
25/26

Councillors discussed the following points:

- It was noted that the number of full litter bins has decreased following the reduction in the number of bins.
- The Clerk was asked to enquire what constitutes a blocked gully, including clarification on acceptable water levels and whether a gully should be empty or have visible standing water.
- Councillor Nathan recently contacted the PCSO and no response was received.
- Whether cycling should be allowed in the churchyard. There is no signs to prohibit this.
- Councillor Maxwell explained that the planning application for Land off of Station Road may not go to Somerset Council's Planning Committee. He has emailed Adam Dance MP asking for clarification and will update at the next planning and Highways meeting.
- Thanks were expressed to the Councillors and employees for their work over the Christmas Lights Switch On weekend.

- Various paving slabs around the town are uneven. Councillors were asked to report these online to Somerset Council.

100
25/26

NEXT MEETING

Monday 26 January 2025, 18.45, Council Chamber, Town Hall, Market Square, Crewkerne.

The meeting closed at 19.45.

Signed:

Dated:

TC15December2025