

### The Mayor's Report

Welcome to the 2024/25 edition of Crewkerne Town Council's Annual Report – our yearly opportunity to update residents on the work we've been doing on your behalf.

Inside this report, you'll find updates from each of the Council's Committees, a summary of our financial position, and highlights of what we've achieved over the past year. As Somerset Council continues to face significant financial challenges, Crewkerne Town Council has stepped in to support several services that can no longer be provided at county level.

This year, we also reflect with sadness on the loss of the late Cllr. Teresa Bond. Her tireless service and deep commitment to our community will not be forgotten. We were pleased to welcome back Cllr. Paul Maxwell and now look ahead to a new year filled with both opportunities and challenges.

**Cllr. Alice Samuel, Mayor of Crewkerne**



### HONOURED CITIZENS, MAYOR'S COMMENDATION & YOUNG CREWKERNIAN AWARDS 2025



Cllr. Samuel was proud to present awards to a number of outstanding individuals in recognition of their significant contributions to the town.

The Honoured Citizen Award is given to those nominated by residents for their long-standing and dedicated service to Crewkerne. The Mayor's Commendation is awarded at the Mayor's discretion to acknowledge individuals who have made a notable impact on the community. This year also marked the introduction of the Young Crewkernian Award, celebrating the valuable contributions made by young people to the life of our town.

**Honoured Citizens 2025** - Rev. Stephen Gray and Stuart Prince

**Mayor's Commendation 2025** - Sylvia Murphy

**Young Crewkernian Award 2025** - Lara Deakin



**Cllr. Mike Best,  
Chair, Amenities  
Committee**

### Amenities Committee

Over the past year, the Amenities Committee has been working diligently behind the scenes to maintain and enhance our community facilities.

We are pleased to report that the final phase of external works to the Lodge has been completed. This included the restoration and painting of the windows, repointing of the brickwork, and repairs to the guttering. Initial work was also carried out to ensure the roof remains watertight; however, it is likely that a full roof replacement will be necessary within the next year or two.

Inside the workshop chapel, progress has also been made. The walls have been plastered and await a final skim coat before repainting can take place.

Our weekly Wednesday Market, now in its second year, continues to thrive. Upstairs in the Victoria Hall, a collective of local crafters are now selling handmade gifts and goods, adding a new creative dimension to the space. We are also delighted to have launched the 'Mini Makers Mid-Week Market' during school holidays. This family-friendly initiative has brought great energy to the market, with activities including stilt walkers, balloon modelling, magic shows, and slime workshops—something for all ages to enjoy!

The Town Council ran a successful family fun day in the summer, and continues to provide summer play days free of charge to local families. Behind the scenes, a raft of unseen activities such as health and safety, electrical and lift inspections take place on a daily basis to ensure all our open spaces and community buildings are safe to enjoy. We have also worked hard with our partners at Crewkerne Post Office and Cash Access to establish the temporary banking hub now open at Town Hall.

### Planning & Highways Committee

The Planning & Highways Committee has considered 30 applications this year to date, with another 23 going to Full Council for consideration. We have continued to hold 'walk around' meetings with Somerset Council officers to discuss highways issues and increasingly are pressing for the stretched County budgets to be targeted to the areas of highest need in the town. This approach has seen a number of much-needed repairs and repainting of road markings, but we know there is more to be done. Many P&H issues come up through council surgeries - held on the fourth Saturday of each month - details on the CTC website if you'd like to come along and raise something.



**Cllr. Jan Nathan,  
Chair, P&H Committee**

### Policy & Resources Committee



**Cllr. Andrea Stuart,  
Chair,  
Policy & Resources  
Committee**

The Policy & Resources Committee has continued its core work of reviewing all Council policies and procedures in line with the review schedule.

Over the past year, we have adopted a new set of model Financial Regulations, modernising our approach and ensuring compliance with the latest standards. We also introduced a new Allotments Policy, providing clearer guidance for our plot holders. Looking ahead, we will be focusing on the allocation of memorial benches and trees in our open spaces, aiming to introduce a clear and consistent policy, supported by a formal application process.

One of the Committee's most significant responsibilities each year is the oversight of the Council's budget. We welcome suggestions from residents, and budget discussions take place in public meetings. Community input is vital, and we continue to value the views and ideas shared with us.



## Finance Report

The accounts for the current year, which ended 31 March 2025, will not be audited until later in the year. The final accounts will be approved at the June meeting of the Town Council. Members of the public will have the opportunity to examine the full accounts on request. Please see opposite for last year's audited statement of accounts ----->

Income and Expenditure for the year ending 31 March 2025 is as follows:

	Income £
Aqua Centre	1,000
Allotments	333
Bank Interest	6,503
Cemetery Income	27,950
CIL Funds	2,682
Events	10,043
George Reynolds Centre	22,217
Grounds Maintenance	4,524
Misc.	334
Henhayes Car Park	6,799
Precept	637,714
Projects	11,248
Town Hall	1,131
Victoria Hall	10,866
War Memorial Grounds Cont	5,662
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>749,006</b>
	Expenditure £
Aqua Centre	0
Cemetery	53,269
Events	22,107
General Administration	61,464
George Reynolds Centre	49,066
Grants	10,279
Grounds Maintenance	138,860
Projects	17,911
Public Toilets	14,697
Salaries	236,621
Town Hall	45,063
Victoria Hall	21,299
War Memorial Grounds	4,926
Youth Service	20,449
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>696,011</b>

## Statement of Accounts for year ending 31st March 2024

	31 March 2023	31 March 2024
	£	£
Balances b/fwd	289,899	315,952
Annual Precept	466,525	527,656
Total other Receipts	109,976	101,693
Staff Costs	219,415	238,525
Loan Int/Capital Repay't.	0	0
Total other Payments	331,032	350,977
Balances c/fwd	315,952	355,800
Total Cash & Investments	353,547	382,829
Total Fixed Assets	6,909,581	6,936,876
Total Borrowings	0	0

The External Auditor raised no matters of concern

## Crewkerne and West Crewkerne Joint Burial Committee (JBC)

The management of Townsend Cemetery is overseen by West Crewkerne Parish Council and Crewkerne Town Council jointly via the Joint Burial Committee (JBC).

The Committee is responsible for overseeing the grounds maintenance, memorials and burials. In the past year we have opened two new sections, one for full burials and one for ashes interments. New pathways have been laid to access these areas and all the remaining paths in the new section of the cemetery have been upgraded. In the older section we are trialling different ways of improving path surfaces as well.

In May we commemorated the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day by unveiling a specially commissioned plaque illustrating the location of the Commonwealth War Graves in the cemetery.

During the past year there have been 37 interments, which includes both full burials and ashes burials. 14 grave plots have been purchased.

Cllr. Mike Best, Chair, Joint Burial Committee.



## Awards to the Community - Grant Awards 2025-26

Crewkerne Town Council's Community Grant Awards scheme opens for applications each year in September. The Town Council recognises that Community Groups find themselves facing unexpected pressures outside of this cycle and reserves a portion of the grant fund for groups to apply for this during the year. For further details please contact the Council offices.

ORGANISATION/COMMUNITY GROUP	GRANT AWARDED
Crewkerne & District Museum & Heritage Centre	500
Crewkerne in Bloom	650
Henhayes Community Centre	500
Merriott Majorettes	500
Citizens Advice South Somerset	1052
Crewkerne & District Shed	1000
1st Crewkerne Scout Group	2000
Crewkerne Pegasus Karate Club	1000
CUDOS	250
Crewkerne Boxing Club	1000
Severalls War Memorial Gardening Group	350
Crewkerne Gardening Club	200
Crewkerne & District Twinning Asc	500
Connect Somerset	975
Awe & Wonder – GRC Room hire to the value of	1537
Friends of Crewkerne Station	300
Crewkerne Allotment Team	500
Somerset Activity & Sports Part.	900
Crewkerne RFC - Youth	700
Timebanking Uk	150
The Bluebirds Theatre Company	600
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15,164</b>

### Councillor contact details

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