



Crewkerne Town Council ANNUAL REPORT

Report No.23 -
May 2026

Crewkerne Town Council, Town Hall, Market Square, Crewkerne, Somerset TA18 7LN
Tel: 01460 74001 Email: towncouncil@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk

The Mayor's Report

Welcome to the 2025/26 edition of Crewkerne Town Council's Annual Report. Inside this report, you will find updates from each of the Council's Committees, a summary of our financial position, and highlights of the projects and initiatives completed over the past year. Crewkerne Town Council continues to play a key role in supporting local services, particularly as Somerset Council faces ongoing financial pressures.

This year, we are proud to have made progress on a number of community projects, maintained our public spaces and facilities, and responded to local needs with resilience and creativity. We also reflect with gratitude on the contributions of all our Councillors and staff, whose dedication ensures that our town remains a welcoming and vibrant place to live.

As ever, we welcome your comments and suggestions. Please do get in touch at towncouncil@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk – your feedback helps guide our work and priorities for the year ahead.



Clr. Alice Samuel, Mayor of Crewkerne

Honoured Citizens, Mayor's Commendation & Young Crewkernian Awards 2026



Honoured Citizen -
Chris Howard

Mayor's
Commendation -
Jeffrey Hutson

Young
Crewkernian -
Moken Mills

The Mayor, Clr. Samuel, was proud to present awards to a number of outstanding individuals in recognition of their valuable contributions to the town. The Honoured Citizen Award recognises individuals 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 those who have made a notable impact on the community. This year also marked the second year of the Young Crewkernian Award, which celebrates the important contributions made by young people to the life of our town.



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

Amenities Committee

Over the past year, the Amenities Committee has continued to focus on the upkeep, development and enhancement of our community buildings and public spaces, ensuring they remain welcoming, safe and well used.

A key development has been the appointment of a Centre Manager for the GRC. This has enabled a more proactive approach to programming and has already led to an increase in the use of the venue, helping to strengthen its role at the heart of the community.

We have also been delighted to support the launch of a new free youth club, open to all children, providing a valuable and inclusive space for young people to meet, take part in activities, and socialise safely. In addition, the transformation of the former telephone box into a community book booth has created another accessible and free resource for residents to enjoy.

Looking ahead, a number of important maintenance and improvement projects are planned. These include the replacement of a flat roof section at Crewkerne Town Hall to help preserve the building for future generations, repairs to a historic wall around Bincombe Allotments, and proposals to install additional play equipment at Happy Valley, further enhancing facilities for families and children.

The Committee remains committed to investing in our spaces and ensuring they continue to serve the community effectively, both now and in the years ahead.

Planning & Highways Committee

The Planning and Highways Committee has reviewed 41 planning applications this year, with a further 18 considered by Full Council. Councillors have continued regular site meetings with officers from Somerset Council to discuss ongoing highways concerns across the town. By highlighting priority areas and pressing for investment where it is most needed, we have seen progress on long-standing issues, including road surface repairs and refreshed road markings, although there is still more to do. Councillors have also continued to monitor concerns relating to speeding, parking, and pedestrian safety in a number of key locations. Ongoing communication with residents helps ensure that local priorities are regularly raised with the relevant authorities and agencies. Many issues raised by residents come through the Council's monthly surgeries on the fourth Saturday of each month, providing an opportunity to speak directly with councillors about local concerns and ideas for improvement.



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

Policy & Resources Committee

The Policy & Resources Committee has continued reviewing and updating Council policies and procedures in line with the agreed review schedule, helping to ensure that the Council remains effective, transparent and up to date in its governance.

During the past year, the Committee adopted a number of new policies, including a Volunteer Management Policy to support those giving their time to the community, a Martyn's Law Policy to strengthen awareness around public safety and preparedness, and a Memorial Bench and Tree Policy to provide a clear and consistent process for applications within our open spaces.

One of the Committee's key responsibilities each year is overseeing the Council's budget and ensuring that resources are managed carefully and responsibly. Budget discussions are held in public meetings, and we continue to welcome suggestions and feedback from residents.



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

Community input remains an important part of the decision-making process, and we value the ideas and views shared with us throughout the year.

Finance Report

The accounts for the current year, which ended 31 March 2026, 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 2026 is as follows:

| | Income £ |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Aqua Centre | 1,000 |
| Allotments | 331 |
| Bank Interest | 9,114 |
| Cemetery Income | 32,387 |
| CIL Funds | 0 |
| Events | 5,175 |
| George Reynolds Centre | 22,281 |
| Grounds Maintenance | 576 |
| Misc. | 590 |
| Henhayes Car Park | 10,272 |
| Precept | 663,503 |
| Projects | 1,977 |
| Town Hall | 9,340 |
| Victoria Hall | 8,262 |
| War Memorial Grounds Cont | 0* |
| TOTAL | 764,808 |
| | Expenditure £ |
| Aqua Centre | 311 |
| Cemetery | 39,762 |
| Events | 15,755 |
| General Administration | 60,290 |
| George Reynolds Centre | 44,338 |
| Grants | 13,627 |
| Grounds Maintenance | 55,134 |
| Projects | 3,949 |
| Public Toilets | 18,280 |
| Salaries | 262,572 |
| Town Hall | 29,906 |
| Victoria Hall | 20,101 |
| War Memorial Grounds | 7,027 |
| Youth Service | 16,988 |
| TOTAL | 588,038 |

*payment of £ 4352 will be made during the 26/27 financial year

Statement of Accounts for year ending 31st March 2025

| | 31 March 2024 | 31 March 2025 |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Balances b/fwd | 315,952 | 355,800 |
| Annual Precept | 527,656 | 637,714 |
| Total other Receipts | 101,693 | 111,292 |
| Staff Costs | 238,525 | 236,621 |
| Loan Int/Capital Repay't. | 0 | 0 |
| Total other Payments | 350,977 | 459,390 |
| Balances c/fwd | 355,800 | 408,795 |
| Total Cash & Investments | 382,829 | 451,623 |
| Total Fixed Assets | 6,936,876 | 6,926,654 |
| 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 jointly by West Crewkerne Parish Council and Crewkerne Town Council via the Joint Burial Committee (JBC).

The Committee is responsible for the overall management of the grounds, including maintenance of the cemetery, memorials, and the administration of burials. Over the past year, several improvements have been made across the site to enhance both accessibility and the visitor experience.

A memorial post box has been installed to provide a space for visitors to leave messages to their loved ones. A new tree has also been planted within the turning circle, contributing to the ongoing enhancement of the cemetery environment.

In addition, one of the chapels has been replastered, and the lodge has benefitted from refreshed guttering and exterior woodwork repainting.

During the past year there have been 37 interments, which includes both full burials and ashes burials. 27 grave plots have been purchased.

Cllr. Mike Best, Chair, Joint Burial Committee



2026/27 Precept information

You may have noticed a change in the Crewkerne Town Council element (the precept) of your Council Tax bill from April. The amount you pay depends on the Council Tax band of your property. For example, for a Band D property, the increase this year equates to approximately 16 pence per week towards the work of Crewkerne Town Council. For nearly nine in ten households in Crewkerne, the increase will be even less than this.

Overall, Crewkerne Town Council receives around 10p in every £1 of Council Tax paid, with the remainder going to Somerset Council, as well as funding for police, fire and other public services.

We do not take decisions to increase the precept lightly. However, it enables us to continue maintaining and investing in our historic assets, public buildings and sports facilities, supporting local community groups through our grants scheme, and delivering local events and services for residents.

Cllr. Alice Samuel, Mayor of Crewkerne

Awards to the Community - Grant Awards 2026-27

Crewkerne Town Council's Community Grant Awards scheme opens for applications each year in September. For further details please contact the Council offices.

| Community Group/Organisation | Grant Awarded |
|---|----------------|
| Crewkerne & District Museum & Heritage Centre | £500 |
| Crewkerne in Bloom | £1,000 |
| The Henhayes Centre | £1,500 |
| Merriott Majorettes | £500 |
| Somerset Farmers Market | £500 |
| Rotary Club of Crewkerne District | £500 |
| Citizens Advice Bureau South Somerset | £1,131 |
| Crewkerne & District Shed | £1,500 |
| Crewkerne Pegasus Karate Group | £500 |
| CUDOS | £170 |
| Severalls Jubilee Bowls Club | £500 |
| Severalls Gardening Group | £400 |
| Crewkerne & District Twinning Association | £500 |
| Awe & Wonder - GRC room hire to the value of | £1,577 |
| Friends of Crewkerne Station | £600 |
| Crewkerne Allotment Team | £250 |
| Crewkerne RFC Youth | £1,000 |
| Crewkerne & Distict u3a | £500 |
| Crewkerne Brownies | £500 |
| Crewkerne Cricket Club | £500 |
| Crewkerne Boxing Club | £1,000 |
| Total | £15,128 |

Councillor contact details

Cllr. Steve Ashton
07850 960605
steve.ashton@somerset.gov.uk

Cllr. Mike Best
(Chair-Amenities Committee)
01460 74245
mike.best@somerset.gov.uk

Cllr. Rosan Cosgrove
01460 74001
rosan.cosgrove@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk

Cllr. Nigel Draycott
(Vice Chair-Amenities Committee)
01460 74001
nigel.draycott@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk

Cllr. Kathy Head
07704 197469
kathy.head@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk

Cllr. David Livesley
01460 74001
david.livesley@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk

Cllr. Paul Maxwell
(Deputy Mayor and Vice Chair-Planning & Highways Committee)
01460 74001
paul.maxwell@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk

Cllr. Judith Morris
07809 404377
01460 271545
judith.morris@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk

Cllr. Jan Nathan
(Chair-Planning & Highways Committee)
07718 234421
jan.nathan@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk

Cllr. Christine Rawe
(Vice Chair-Policy & Resources Committee)
01460 74001
christine.rawe@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk

Cllr. Alice Samuel
(Mayor)
01460 74001
alice.samuel@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk

Cllr. Andrea Stuart
(Chair-Policy & Resources)
07776 414267
andrea.stuart@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk