

Minutes of a meeting of CREWKERNE TOWN COUNCIL held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Market Square, Crewkerne on Monday 22 June 2026.

PRESENT

Cllrs. M. Best, N. Draycott, K. Head, D. Livesley, J. Morris, J. Nathan, C. Rawe and A. Samuel (Mayor).

In attendance: Town Clerk G. Hughes, Deputy Clerk S. Syeda Bowen, Finance Officer P. Martin-Hamblin, Admin Officer A. Legg and two members of the public.

020 TO NOTE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

26/27

Councillors S. Ashton (work commitments), P. Maxwell and A. Stuart (personal).

021 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

26/27

Councillor Head declared an interest in 030 26/27 CUDOS licence and 032 26/27 Garden Maintenance as members of the relevant groups. Councillor Livesley declared an interest in 031/2627 Boundary Wall, Bincombe as he has an allotment on the site.

022 MINUTES

26/27

To confirm the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 18 May 2026

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 May 2026 were AGREED.

023 PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

26/27

A member of the public made the following comments:

- Expressed thanks to Councillors and the Town Clerk for supporting the recent residents' planning meeting.
- Raised concerns regarding planning application 26/01275/S73, stating that if approved and implemented it could reduce available pedestrian routes and increase risks to pedestrians. Reference was made to previous comments from Network Rail that increased use of crossings can increase risk.

024 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM:

26/27

a. Somerset Councillors

Councillor Best raised the following points:

- An inspection of SEND services had identified areas requiring improvement; however, there was a lack of funding available to support the necessary changes.
- From September 2026, planning rules will change. Applications for fewer than 10 dwellings will no longer be determined by the Planning Committee, while applications for more than 150 dwellings will automatically be referred to the Secretary of State. These changes will apply only to new applications.
- As a result, fewer Planning Committee meetings are expected to be required, and there are proposals to reduce the number of Planning Committees from four to two.

b. Local Community Network (LCN) representative

Councillor Head reported that the AGM is scheduled for 30 June and an Active Travel meeting is planned for early August.

c. Crewkerne Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT)

The Clerk is working with the new beat manager, to obtain the updated statistics.

025 **CLERK'S PROGRESS REPORT**

26/27

The Town Clerk reported that:

- Somerset Council has opened its consultation on the Local Plan. Members of the public are invited to submit comments. The consultation will be advertised on social media, and the matter will be brought to Councillors at the next Planning & Highways Committee meeting.
- The light in the churchyard has now been replaced.
- The flat roof works at the Town Hall have been completed. The Council is awaiting the contractor to reinstall the air conditioning units.

026 **FINANCE**

26/27

a. To approve the accounts for payment for April and May 2026 as listed.

Cllr. Head verified the accounts for payment in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations. Accounts for payment for 30 April 2026 in the sum of £14,196.50 and 31 May 2026 in the sum of £14,054.21 were APPROVED.

b. To report that the bank reconciliation for April and May 2026 have been completed

Cllr. Head verified the bank reconciliations for April and May 2026. It was noted that cash in hand as of 30 April 2026 was £891,469.28 and 31 May 2026 was £846,964.55.

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 30 April 2026 was £8,745.44 and 31 May 2026 was £10,099.24.

d. To formally receive and approve the second report of the Internal Auditor

The report of the Internal Auditor was APPROVED.

e. To approve the internally audited accounts for 2025/26

The accounts for the 2025/26 financial year were APPROVED.

f. To approve the Annual Return for the year ending 21 March 2026.

i. Section 1: to approve the Annual Governance Statements

The Annual Governance Statements were APPROVED.

ii. Section 2: to approve the Accounting Statements

The Accounting Statements were APPROVED.

iii. To authorise signing of the Annual Return

The annual return was approved and AGREED for signature by the Mayor.

iv. To note that the period of elector's rights will commence on Tuesday 23 June 2026 and finish on Monday 3 August 2026.

The period of inspection rights was noted. Notifications will be placed on noticeboards and the website.

027

PLANNING

26/27

To receive planning appeal and decision notices from Somerset Council

a) **26/01275/S73 Land Off Lang Road Crewkerne Somerset**

S73 Application to vary Condition 19 to amend the wording to allow the development to commence on site ahead of the pedestrian railway crossing being stopped up and made not available for use by the public relating to 18/01737/OUT; Outline application for residential development of up to 150 dwellings, public open space, landscaping and associated works with access from Lang Road, Allowed on Appeal 17.6.20

Councillors considered it unreasonable to expect pedestrians to use this narrow road, which offers little separation from fast-moving traffic. Members noted that the Planning Inspector had advised that Cathole Bridge Road should be widened before development proceeds to ensure the safety of pedestrians and other road users.

Councillors resolved to OBJECT to the application.

b) **26/01273/FUL Land At Falkland Square Market Street Crewkerne Somerset**

Installation of stand-alone frame with defibrillator and bleed kit cabinets for community use

Councillors felt it was unclear who would be responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the defibrillator and the replacement of consumable items following use. Concerns were also expressed about the proposed location, noting its proximity to existing defibrillators in the area.

Councillors resolved to SUPPORT the application in principle, subject to comments being submitted in accordance with the concerns outlined above regarding maintenance arrangements and the proposed location.

028

PRECEPT MINUTE

26/27

Councillors noted that the precept approved by the Council in January 2026 was £705,926.

029

RISK REGISTER

26/27

The Strategic and Financial Risk Register was APPROVED.

030

CUDOS LICENCE

26/27

- a) The annual licence fee for 2025/26 of £3407.37 + VAT was noted.
- b) The annual licence fee for 2026/27 of £3553.89 + VAT was noted.
- c) Councillor Best commented that he will chase the progress on the lease.

031 **BOUNDARY WALL, BINCOMBE**
26/27 **To review a quotation for repairs**

As one contractor wished to revise their quotation and a further contractor had agreed to provide a quotation, it was RESOLVED to defer this item until the July Full Council meeting.

032 **GARDEN MAINTENANCE**
26/27 **To determine a request for plant replacement**

Councillors discussed the two gardens located at the entrance to the Waitrose car park on South Street, which are currently maintained by a volunteer contractor at no cost to the Council. The contractor had requested that replacement planting be undertaken to replace some of the existing shrubs.

Members noted that the planting in these gardens had not previously been replaced and commented that, due to the difficulty of watering the area, any new planting should be drought-tolerant and suitable for periods of hot weather.

It was AGREED to allocate an initial budget of £1,000 for replacement planting. Should additional funding be required, a further request must be brought before Council for consideration.

033 **SOMERSET CHAIR AWARDS**
26/27 **To approve a nominee**

It was AGREED to submit a nomination for this year's Chair's Awards. Councillors were invited to forward their nominations for either an individual or a group to the Clerk for consideration.

034 **VICTORIA HALL**
26/27 **To review an out of hours hire request**

Councillors considered a request to hire Victoria Hall for a paranormal investigation event between 8.00pm and 1.00am or 2.00am. Members noted that the nature of the event was unlikely to result in excessive noise or disturbance to nearby residents. It was AGREED to charge £20 per hour plus VAT for any hire extending beyond midnight, both for this event and for any similar future bookings.

035 **CHRISTCHURCH COURT**
26/27 **To consider correspondence regarding the tree**

Councillors discussed concerns regarding a large tree on privately owned land which overhangs the pavement. It was noted that fallen needles accumulate on the footway and can become slippery in wet conditions. It was AGREED that the Clerk should write to the landowner to establish whether a management company is responsible for the site and to request that any necessary maintenance works be undertaken.

036 **CITIZENS ADVICE**
26/27 **To note the annual report**

Councillors noted the annual report.

037 **COUNCILLOR SURGERIES**

26/27 To identify Councillor support for July and September

It was AGREED that Councillors Best and Rawe would undertake the July Councillor Surgery, and that Councillors Cosgrove, Nathan and Samuel would undertake the September Councillor Surgery.

038 **HMRC MILEAGE CLAIMS AND FUEL ALLOWANCE RATES**

26/27

It was NOTED that the rates have been updated nationally from 45p to 55p a mile. The Council's reimbursement arrangements will continue to align with the prevailing HMRC rates.

039 **GRC NEWSLETTER**

26/27

Councillors voiced some concerns over the World Cup Final Event and would like more information. It was AGREED to approve the draft newsletter.

040 **TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING MINUTES:**

26/27

- a) Reports from Town Council representatives to outside bodies
- b) Amenities Committee: 12 January 2026
- c) Joint Burial Committee: 21 April 2026
- d) Planning & Highways Committee: 11 May 2026
- e) Policy & Resources Committee: 9 February 2026
- f) Staffing Sub-Committee: 2 March 2026, 23 March 2026

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

26/27

Councillors discussed the following matters:

- The potholes at the junction serving the Waitrose site have now been repaired. The Clerk is investigating ownership of the area surrounding a further pothole nearby.
- Members noted a recent road traffic incident at the yellow box junction and discussed the importance of driver awareness of the road markings.
- Fly-tipping has been reported on the green at Barn Close.
- The trees within the churchyard were discussed. It was noted that the Wardens are undertaking a review of trees in the area and will report their findings to the Council.
- Councillor Best provided an update on efforts to progress works to the dead walnut tree adjacent to the Henhayes Centre.
- Concerns were raised regarding bins being left permanently on the pavements in West Street and North Street. Somerset Highways have been contacted but are unable to take action. The Clerk was requested to publish a social media post reminding residents of their responsibilities.
- Councillor Best advised that refuse collections are currently commencing from 5.30am during periods of hot weather.

042 **NEXT MEETING**

26/27

Monday 22 June 2026, 18.45, Council Chamber, Town Hall, Market Square, Crewkerne.

The meeting closed at 19.57

Signed:

Dated:

TC22June2026