

CREWKERNE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the CREWKERNE TOWN COUNCIL meeting held in the Victoria Hall on Monday 23 March 2020 at 6.45 p.m.

PRESENT

Cllrs. K. Head (Chairman), C. Aslett, M. Best, R. Cottle, B. Hodgson, R. Pailthorpe, A. Stuart and D. Wakeman.

In attendance: Deputy Clerk L. Gowers.

In accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 s 1(2), to resolve that the press and members of the public be excluded from the meeting, having regard to public safety and the need to minimise the risk of the spread of the Coronavirus.

202 TO NOTE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

19/20

Apologies were received from Cllrs. J. Roundell Greene (unwell), A. Smith (unwell) and J. Roberts (personal).

203 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

19/20

It was **AGREED** that the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Monday 24 February 2020 be **APPROVED**.

204 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

19/20

on items on the agenda

None.

205 CORONAVIRUS

19/20

To ratify the measures adopted to minimise the risk of the spread of the coronavirus, including:

- Closure of the Town Hall office, LIC and Victoria Hall to the public
- Suspension of all future Council and Council committee meetings and the Annual Town Meeting of Electors
- Suspension of Councillor Surgeries and "Coffee with Councillor" events

It was **AGREED** to ratify the measures above, with the inclusion of:

- **Councillors would not attend any "Outside Body" meetings**
- **Approval of the use of remote or video meetings for the Town Council and Burial Board.**

206 DELEGATED AUTHORITY

19/20

To authorise the proposed delegated authorities to the Clerk and Deputy Clerk

It was **AGREED** to delegate authority to the Clerk and Deputy Clerk. Any decisions made should be recorded and ratified at the next Full Council meeting.

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GEORGE REYNOLDS CENTRE

To receive a briefing from Cllrs. Best and Cottle on the recent meeting held with CSYAL and to agree on any required actions

Cllrs. Best and Cottle reported on the outcome of the recent meetings with CSYAL. Due to continuing financial difficulties, CSYAL had regrettably made the decision to close the charity at the end of this financial year, ie 31 March 2020. Responsibility for the management of the GRC would therefore revert back to the Town Council with effect from 1 April. Cllr. Best explained that CSYAL had provided details of their current assets and had advised that the three employees would be offered redundancy payments. The accountant managing the financial aspects of the closure of CSYAL was in the process of calculating the overall year-end financial position, on the assumption that the Council would purchase CSYAL's assets. In addition, it was recognised that it might be necessary for the Council to make a financial contribution, to allow the charitable company to be closed down with no outstanding debts.

Following discussion, **it was AGREED that, in order to facilitate the transfer of responsibility for the management of the GRC from CSYAL to the Town Council as of 1 April 2020, the Council would undertake the following:**

- **Purchase of the assets and stock from CSYAL.**
- **Provide a financial contribution to ensure that the closure of CSYAL could be executed with no outstanding debts.**

It was noted that the GRC was closed until further notice due to the corona virus pandemic and that CSYAL were in the process of informing users both of the closure of the building and the winding up of the charitable company. In considering the future management of the building, it was **AGREED that the former GRC Manager was to be approached to explore the option of a 6 month rolling contract of 15 hours per week.**

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19/20

TO RECEIVE ANY MATTERS OF REPORT

Cllr. Best reported that the Aqua Centre had now closed due to the Coronavirus outbreak. Cllr. Head had received an email from Crewkerne and District Rotary who were taking the lead on co-ordinating volunteers during the pandemic. Councillors all agreed that the Town Council would support Rotary where they could.

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DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

To be advised.

The meeting closed at 7.55 p.m.

Signed: 

Dated: 23.5.2020

tc23Mar2020