

CREWKERNE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a remote meeting of the AMENITIES COMMITTEE held on Monday 14 September 2020 at 7.22 p.m.

PRESENT:

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

In attendance: Town Clerk P. Davidson, Deputy Clerk L. Gowers, 5 members of the public and 1 member of the press.

01 TO NOTE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

20/21

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

02 OPEN FORUM

20/21

A member of the public spoke about the proposal for a community orchard at the Barn Street recreation ground. He reiterated his proposal for a modified, more sympathetic, layout of trees, which he believed better respected the principle of retaining the majority of the recreation ground as open space.

Cllr. Pailthorpe recited an email from a resident who was unable to attend the meeting but who had asked for her points to be read out at the meeting. The resident expressed her support for the concept of a community bus service, to bring people to and from the town centre. She also expressed concerns regarding the proposal for a community orchard at the Barn Street recreation ground and the potential loss of green space land. In response to the first point, Cllr. Best pointed out that the bus companies had shown no interest in the idea of a community bus service for the town, and that there were difficulties in operating a fare-paying service through the Crewkerne Voluntary Transport scheme.

03 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

20/21

It was **AGREED** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Amenities Committee held on Monday 9 March 2020 be **APPROVED**.

04 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

20/21

None.

05 USE OF THE GEORGE REYNOLDS CENTRE

20/21

- a) To receive and update from Cllr. Best regarding the ongoing and planned maintenance and repair tasks for the GRC

Cllr. Best updated Councillors on the latest status regarding the maintenance and repair tasks for the GRC, the key points of which were as follows:

- The Jigsaw pre-school group were now back in the building and operating. The new pathway to the rear entrance of the building was planned to be installed

imminently, which would provide a dedicated entrance for the pre-school group. Once the pathway was in place, then the suitability of the existing outside lighting adjacent to this entrance would need to be assessed.

- The work to establish a separate water supply for the GRC was now complete, with formal sign-off of the work due imminently.
- Work was due to commence imminently on the installation of a separate gas supply for the GRC.
- The emergency lighting was due to be tested shortly, although it was already known that a number of these lights were unserviceable.
- CSYAL was still listed on Companies House as an active company, which was preventing progress on items such as the reallocation of the alcohol license for the bar.

- b) To consider a request from Crewkerne Health Centre for use of the GRC hall and upstairs toilets as a base for their staff during the flu clinic weekend (see agenda item 11 a)

After discussion, it was **AGREED to approve the request from Crewkerne Health Centre for use of the GRC hall and upstairs toilets as a base for their staff during the flu clinic weekend, subject to clarification of how the GRC would be cleaned after use.**

- c) To consider when the GRC can be made available for use by Active Learning & Skills (ALS)

Cllr. Pailthorpe stressed the importance of re-establishing the youth club at the GRC as soon as possible. Cllr. Best pointed out that it would be essential to have the emergency lighting in full working order before ALS could use the building. He also expressed concern that the bringing together of children in the youth club might undermine the work being carried out by the schools regarding social distancing and containing groups of children within defined bubbles. He had made the Deputy Director of Education at Somerset County Council aware of his concern and was awaiting a response.

- d) To consider when the downstairs areas of the GRC can be made available for use by the sports clubs

Cllr. Best reported that he had been in discussion with both the cricket and football clubs, who had now signed Covid agreements, to allow them to use the GRC toilets. He added that he was currently in discussion with the rugby club to establish a similar agreement.

- e) To consider when the upstairs areas of the GRC (excluding the bar and the kitchen) can be made available for use by the sports clubs

This agenda item was considered under item f) below.

- f) To consider what steps are required to be put in place before the GRC could be fully opened by all users

The Chairman emphasised the need to proceed with caution when considering the opening of the building to all users, recognising the ongoing Covid-related

restrictions and bearing in mind that the GRC Management working group was currently considering the future management of the facility.

06 COMMUNITY ORCHARD AT BARN STREET RECREATION GROUND

20/21 To receive correspondence regarding the planting of a community orchard at Barn Street recreation ground and to consider the next steps

The correspondence, both for and against the proposed community orchard at the Barn Street recreation ground, was noted by Councillors. After considerable discussion, it was agreed that this agenda item would be deferred to a future Council meeting, to enable the various proposals to be tabled for consideration.

07 SOUTH SOMERSET DISTRICT COUNCIL MTIG AND COMMUNITY GRANT FUNDING PRIORITIES

20/21 To agree the funding priorities for submission to SSDC in support of their Market Towns Investment Group (MTIG) Capital Priority Projects and Community Grant funding schemes

The Chairman proposed and it was **AGREED that the renovation of the Falkland Square public toilets should be the priority for submission of grant funding support from SSDC's MTIG Capital Priority Projects fund.**

08 SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL "CLIMATE EMERGENCY" FUNDING

20/21 To consider whether the Council should bid for funding from Somerset County Council's "Climate Emergency Community Fund" and, if so, how best the Council should go about selecting suitable project(s)

The Chairman suggested that the Environmental Working Group should consider how best to capitalise on the funding opportunity presented by the SCC Climate Emergency Community Fund.

09 COMMUNITY FRIDGE

20/21 To consider a proposal from a resident to establish a community fridge

Councillors were supportive of the concept of a community fridge but considered that this was best managed as a community-led initiative.

10 SOUND SYSTEM FOR THE VICTORIA HALL

20/21 To consider the quotation received for a sound amplification system for use in Victoria Hall, to enable face-to-face Council meetings to be conducted

In view of the current coronavirus restrictions on use of the Victoria Hall and the likelihood that these would remain in place for some time to come, it was agreed that consideration of a sound system for the hall was best deferred for the present time.

11 USE OF HENHAYES CAR PARK AREA

20/21

a) **To consider a request from Crewkerne Health Centre for use of the Henhayes car park for the weekend of 3/4 October for use as a mass flu clinic**

After discussion, it was **AGREED to approve the request from Crewkerne Health Centre for use of the Henhayes car park for the weekend of 3/4 October for use as a mass flu clinic.**

- b) To consider a request from the Farmers Market for the use of the grassed area Adjacent to the Lucombe Oak to accommodate stalls during their September market

After discussion, it was **AGREED to approve the request from the Farmers Market for the use of the grassed area adjacent to the Lucombe Oak to accommodate stalls during their market, for a period of two months, after which a further review would be held.**

12 **TO RECEIVE ANY MATTERS OF REPORT**

20/21

The Deputy Clerk reported that the Christmas Committee had been considering the viability of holding this year's Christmas festivities in the light of the coronavirus-related restrictions of social gatherings. The Committee had come to the conclusion that, regrettably, it would not be viable to hold a lighting-up event and associated procession, lantern parade and Santa's grotto. The Christmas market was considered to be viable, provided the market stalls were suitably socially distanced, which could mean distributing them around the town centre.

13 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

20/21

Monday 9 November 2020 after the Planning and Highways Committee meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.34 p.m.

Signed:

Dated: