

CREWKERNE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a CREWKERNE TOWN COUNCIL meeting held remotely on Monday 9 November 2020 at 7.15 p.m.

PRESENT

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

In Attendance

Town Clerk P. Davidson, Deputy Clerk L. Gowers and approximately 10 members of the public (via Zoom and YouTube).

130 TO NOTE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

20/21

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. J. Roberts (unwell).

131 OPEN FORUM

20/21

- A member of the SPACE4 Crewkerne community group spoke about the Climate Change fund application regarding car sharing. He expressed the view that each car club car replaced seven cars on the road. He also highlighted the lack of dedicated parking in the town.
- Four members of the public spoke regarding the trial one-way system proposed by the SPACE4 Crewkerne group. One person spoke in favour of the proposal and three people expressed their objections to the proposal.
- A member of the public requested that all reports appertaining to Council agendas were put on the Council's website.

132 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

20/21

on items on the agenda

Cllrs. Aslett and Head declared a personal interest in agenda item 7 (Climate Change funding applications).

133 FUTURE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN SOMERSET

20/21

To consider the relative merits of the two proposals tabled for the reform of local government in Somerset, namely the "One Somerset" and the "Stronger Somerset" proposals

A number of Councillors remarked on how impressed they had been with the Stronger Somerset proposal, in particular the level of detail that the proposal contained, the innovative approach adopted and the strategic breadth of the proposal.

After discussion, it was **AGREED that the Town Council would declare its full support to the Stronger Somerset proposal and the Clerk was asked to write a letter to SSDC accordingly.**

Cllr. Pailthorpe pointed out that Stronger Somerset leaflets were available from SSDC and he proposed that these be distributed with the newsletter. This would involve a small additional cost of £300, although he had already requested that this cost be borne by SSDC. Councillors supported Cllr. Pailthorpe's proposal.

134
20/21

PROPOSED REORGANISATION OF LOCAL SCHOOLS

To consider the Somerset County Council proposal for the reorganisation of local schools from a 3-tier to a 2-tier system

Cllr. Best reported that proposals drawn up by Somerset County Council to change from the current 3-tier system school system to a 2-tier system, would have a dramatic effect on the schools in the Crewkerne and Ilminster area.

Councillors discussed the proposed school reorganisation and were agreed that the current proposals would not be in the best long-term interests of Crewkerne and the surrounding villages. They were concerned that the proposals focussed on short term issues of pupil numbers and did not take into account the major housing developments in the pipeline for Crewkerne, which would see a large increase in the number of families living in the Crewkerne area. Councillors were also concerned that the proposals would result in the senior schools being saved at the expense of the junior schools and that the timing of this proposal was not appropriate, as it had come at a time when the whole future of local government in Somerset was under review.

It was **AGREED to write to the County Council, expressing the Town Council's grave concerns over the current proposals.**

135
20/21

TOWN WEBSITE

To consider the quotations received for the development of a new integrated website for the Town, to replace the separate Local Information Centre and Town Council websites

Agenda item deferred.

136
20/21

CLIMATE CHANGE FUNDING APPLICATIONS

To consider the three applications received from the "Space4 Crewkerne" group, which they wish the Town Council to submit to Somerset County Council's Climate Emergency Community Fund

Councillors considered each application in turn:

Temporary one-way system on Market Street

Councillors were in agreement that a one-way system on Market Street did not represent a viable scheme to tackle climate change and that the proposal would merely shift the problem of traffic congestion to other parts of the town centre. Nevertheless, Councillors agreed that the proposal to install an air quality monitoring system in the town centre was sensible, as this would provide ongoing evidence of improvements or otherwise in traffic pollution.

It was therefore **AGREED that the original proposal for a temporary one-way system would not be submitted to the County Council Climate Change Emergency Community Fund. Rather, a modified grant application would be submitted, focussed solely on the provision of an air quality monitoring system for the town centre.**

Cllr. Best reminded Councillors that the scheme for a one-way system for North Street was already drawn up and ready to go, but had been shelved by Highways, pending CLR and the building of the link road. He suggested that the Council could request Highways to bring forward the scheme.

Cllr. Best also reported that the Small Improvement Scheme for the Market Street/South Street junction had been approved. This scheme involved the removal of the bollards at the junction and the application of revised road markings, which should make it easier for traffic to turn onto Market Street.

Car sharing scheme

Councillors fully supported the proposal for a car share scheme for Crewkerne. It was accordingly **AGREED to submit the car share scheme application to the County Council Climate Change Emergency Community Fund.**

Cllr. Best pointed out that the proposal called for the installation of an EV charging point outside the front of the Town Hall, which would be problematic at times when the fair was being held. He added that a better location for the charging point would be at the rear of the Town Hall where there was a parking bay.

Bus feasibility study

Cllrs. Pailthorpe and Best pointed out that SSDC already had local transport on their chapter for Area West. The Climate Emergency Fund application to County therefore risked duplicating effort already underway at SSDC.

In view of this, it was **AGREED not to submit the bus feasibility study application to the County Council Climate Change Emergency Community Fund for the time being, to allow clarification of the SSDC actions underway.**

137 FENCING AT SEVERALLS TENNIS COURTS GROUNDS

20/21 To ratify the decision of the War Commemoration Trust that the fencing bordering Lang Road should be repaired and that new fencing should be installed behind the tennis courts

It was **AGREED to ratify the decision of the War Commemoration Trust that the fencing bordering Lang Road should be repaired and that new fencing should be erected behind the tennis courts.**

It was accordingly **AGREED to approve the quotation received from Guy Trevor Jones Fencing, for the repair of the fencing bordering Lang Road at a cost of £930 (+ VAT), and for the erection of fencing at the rear of the tennis courts at a cost of £2,395 (+ VAT), funds to be taken from General Reserves.**

138 NEWSLETTER

20/21 To consider the draft newsletter

It was **AGREED to approve the draft newsletter.**

139 TO RECEIVE ANY MATTERS OF REPORT

20/21

None.

The meeting closed at 8.16 p.m.

Signed:

Dated:

tc09Nov2020