

**CREWKERNE TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the CREWKERNE TOWN COUNCIL meeting held in the Council Chamber on Monday 10 October 2016 at 7.36 p.m.

**PRESENT:**

*P.D.*  
R. Pailthorpe  
Cllrs. ~~N. Sturtivant~~ (Chairman), Mrs S. Allman, Mrs K. Head, B. Hodgson, R. ~~Pailthorpe~~, Miss K. Pritchard and Mrs A. Singleton. *W. Sturtivant*

In Attendance:

The Clerk Mr P. Davidson, Deputy Clerk Ms L. Gowers and 1 member of the public.

**98 TO NOTE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

16/17

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. M. Best (personal), Ms J. Dawson (another commitment), Mrs R. Jackson (personal), Mrs A. Stuart (unwell) and D. Wakeman (personal).

**99 OPEN FORUM**

16/17

None

**100 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

16/17

The following Councillors declared a personal interest in agenda item 6 (grant application awards):

- Cllrs. Mrs Head, Cllrs. Hodgson and Sturtivant (members of CUDOS).
- Cllr. Miss Pritchard (member of the Rotary Club of Crewkerne District).

**101 QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER**

16/17

To approve the articles for the next edition

The suggested articles were **AGREED with the following additions:**

- Henhayes playground project update.
- Website development.
- Christmas opening times for the Town Council office.
- Town Councillor Surgery dates.

**102 GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION**

16/17

To consider a response to the Government's consultation on precept capping

Councillors considered the Government consultation paper and in particular the possible extension of the referendum principle to all town and parish councils wishing to raise their precept beyond 2%. The Clerk advised that the cost of a referendum was likely to be of the order of £5,000. After discussion, it was **AGREED that the Clerk should respond to the consultation on behalf of the Town Council, emphasising the following points:**

- The capping of precepts for town and parish councils was contrary to the whole principle of Localism and the devolvement of services to the lowest level.
- Crewkerne Town Council was committed to responding positively to the local community's demand for improved facilities and services. A 2% cap on the

precept would represent a fundamental constraint on the Town Council's ability to meet this demand.

- The cost of holding a referendum was disproportionately high for the smaller town and parish councils. For Crewkerne Town Council, the cost of holding a referendum was approximately equivalent to 2% of the precept. Therefore, even if the public voted "no" to an increase of greater than 2%, the cost of the referendum would effectively consume the allowable 2% increase in the precept.
- The consultation paper suggested that the referendum principle would take account of services being transferred from district/county councils to town councils. However, this did not take account of services which district/county might simply discontinue.

Signed:  .....

Dated: ..... 24/10/16 .....

**It was AGREED that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted it was advisable that the public and press be excluded and were instructed to withdraw.**

**CONFIDENTIAL SESSION – STAFFING AND CONTRACTUAL MATTERS**

103      **COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATION AWARDS**

16/17      To review the draft recommendations for the award of grants

Councillors considered the draft recommendations made by Cllr. Sturtivant and Cllr. Miss Pritchard, for community grant awards for 2017/18. Overall, Councillors were in broad support of the recommendations.

To be reviewed further as part of the forthcoming budget deliberations.

104      **STAFFING COMMITTEE**

16/17      To endorse the recommendations of the Staffing Committee meeting held on 26 September 2016

After discussion, it was **AGREED to endorse the recommendations of the Staffing Committee meeting held on 26 September 2016.**

The meeting closed at 8.03 p.m.



Handwritten signature and date: 24/10/16