

CREWKERNE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the CREWKERNE TOWN COUNCIL meeting held in the Council Chamber on Monday 16 December 2019 at 6.45 p.m.

PRESENT

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

In Attendance

The Clerk P. Davidson, David Craner (Town Crier) and 2 members of the public.

138 TO NOTE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

19/20

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. Hartshorn (unwell) and Roundell Greene (personal).

139 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENT

19/20

Retirement of the Town Crier: the Mayor thanked Mr. David Craner for his loyal service to the Council and the community in his role of Town Crier. She said that David had been a credit to the town and would be sadly missed.

140 OPEN FORUM

19/20

North Street: a member of the public and resident of North Street expressed his concern that there were safety issues relating to the traffic on North Street, particularly the HGV's. He emphasised that children and the elderly frequently walked along the narrow pavement.

The Chairman thanked the resident for his views and advised that the letter that he had written to the Council would be considered at the forthcoming Planning & Highways meeting on 13 January. She pointed out that the Council had recently discussed the possibility of having the road downgraded to B-road status, recognising that the process of downgrading was complex, especially so because the road crossed the Somerset/Dorset boundary. The Chairman also reiterated the position of Highways regarding the possibility of a one-way system being introduced, which was that such a change was dependent upon the construction of the link road which formed a key part of the CLR development.

Cllr. Best emphasised the importance of members of the public reporting any traffic-related incidents that occurred on North Street, as this would add further leverage to the case for action.

Seagulls: a member of the public asked whether the Council was able to undertake measures to deal with the growing nuisance problem of seagulls on the Blacknell Lane estate. Councillors agreed that some research should be carried out on the question of seagull control and asked the Clerk to follow this up.

141 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

19/20

Agenda item deferred.

142 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
19/20 on items on the agenda

None.

143 **TO RECEIVE VERBAL REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY AND DISTRICT**
19/20 **COUNCILLORS**

County Cllr. Best reported that, as Somerset County Council was only just out of purdah, there was nothing to report.

Cllr. Pailthorpe reported that the same was true of the District Council.

144 **CLERKS PROGRESS REPORT**
19/20 To receive a report

The Clerk reported on the following:

CLR: Taylor Wimpey were unable to support a CLR progress meeting with Councillors on 13 January. Councillors agreed that, in view of this, Taylor Wimpey should be asked for their availability to support any date in January.

Neighbourhood Plan: Misterton Parish Council had confirmed that they wished to join with the Town Council in the development of a Neighbourhood Plan for the combined area.

Youth Service: the Council had agreed that an independent assessment should be carried out of the current youth service, to allow a more informed judgement on the way forward for future youth provision. The Clerk had accordingly engaged the services of an independent youth service consultant to undertake the assessment, with the objective of providing a report for consideration by Councillors at the January Full Council meeting.

145 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**
19/20 To consider the following applications requiring observations before the next Planning and Highways Committee meeting

19/03084/FUL and 19/02845/LBC – 31 Market Street, Crewkerne

The carrying out of external alterations to the east window of the premises.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

To consider the following applications from Somerset County Council

SCC/3668/2019 – Wadham Community School, Yeovil Road, Crewkerne

Variation of Condition 2 of permission 14/05130/R3C to retain temporary classroom (E637 TC 1) for a further 10 years.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

SCC/3601/2019 – Ashlands VC First School, North Street, Crewkerne

Retention of an existing Elliot building (Unit E761)

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

146 **FINANCE**
19/20

- a) To approve the accounts for payment for December 2019 as listed

The Clerk reported that Cllr. Pailthorpe had verified the accounts for November 2019 in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations and Risk Management.

Accounts for payment for December 2019, in the sum of £38,131.57 + VAT were APPROVED.

- b) To report the bank reconciliation for November 2019 has been completed

The Clerk reported that Cllr. Pailthorpe had verified the bank reconciliation for November 2019. It was noted that cash in hand as of 30 November 2019 was £315,838.46.

147 **STAFF OVERTIME**
19/20

- To authorise the payment of staff overtime in support of the Lighting Up event and the Christmas Market

It was **AGREED to authorise the Clerk to arrange for payment of the required overtime to the staff for their support to the Lighting Up event and to the Christmas Market.**

Councillors also asked the Clerk to pass on their thanks to the staff for their valued support.

148 **WELLBEING GARDEN**
19/20

- To consider a request to construct a wellbeing garden area

The Chairman reported that she had received a request from a group of young people who attended Maiden Beech Academy, seeking permission to construct a wellbeing garden for the local community. Councillors agreed that this was an excellent idea and should be fully supported. It was also agreed that the most appropriate place to locate a wellbeing garden area was the Barn Street recreation ground, as this was consistent with the Council's desire to develop that area horticulturally.

The Chairman agreed to liaise directly to the group to relay the Council's positive response and to request that they begin to develop their ideas in conjunction with the Council.

149 **OUTSIDE BODIES**
19/20

- To receive a report for Crewkerne Action for the Disabled

Noted.

Cllr. Stuart reported that the Chubbs Almshouses had been able to secure grant funding for new windows.

150 **TO RECEIVE ANY MATTERS OF REPORT**
19/20

None.

151
19/20

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Monday 27 January 2020 at 6.45 p.m. in the Council Chamber.

The meeting closed at 7.07 p.m.

Signed:

Dated: