

CREWKERNE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a CREWKERNE TOWN COUNCIL meeting held remotely on Monday 22 February 2021 at 6.45 p.m.

PRESENT

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

In Attendance

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

186 TO NOTE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

20/21

Apologies were received from Cllr. B. Hodgson (personal).

187 OPEN FORUM

20/21

Level crossing: two representatives from Network Rail were present and wished to speak about the potential closure of the level crossing on Cathole Bridge Road. Because of the importance of the subject, the Chairman suggested that this should be a specific agenda item at the next Planning & Highways Committee meeting. It was therefore agreed that Network Rail would be invited to speak at that meeting.

GRC: the Chairman of Crewkerne Rugby Club asked when the Council would be discussing with the three sports clubs the future plans for the GRC. He also expressed concerns over the newly erected fencing at the rear of the GRC, both from an aesthetic viewpoint and with regard to health and safety.

Severalls War Memorial: a member of the public informed the Council that he had undertaken research into the complex history of ownership of the Severalls war memorial and offered to make his findings available to the Council.

188 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

20/21

It was **AGREED** that the minutes of the Town Council meetings held on **Monday 25 January and Monday 8 February 2021 be APPROVED.**

189 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

20/21

on items on the agenda

Cllr. Best declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 7c (rents and hire charges).

190 TO RECEIVE VERBAL REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

20/21

County

County Cllr. Best reported on the following:

- At last week's Council meeting, the County Council agreed to put money aside to support Citizens Advice during this difficult time.
- He paid tribute to the firefighters who had tackled the fire in the old Natwest building and had managed to limit the damage to the building and avoid the fire spreading.
- He had previously provided Councillors with a briefing update on covid, both nationally and for Somerset. He emphasised the point that, even after people had been vaccinated, they needed to continue to adhere to Government restrictions.

District

Cllr. Pailthorpe reported that he and District Cllrs. Best and Hodgson had held a constructive meeting with the planning officer assigned to the Crewkerne area, adding that it was intended to hold this meeting on a monthly basis.

191 **CLERKS PROGRESS REPORT** 20/21 To receive a report

The Clerk reminded Councillors that Misterton Parish Council had withdrawn from the arrangement to develop a joint Neighbourhood Plan. He had now written to SSDC to inform them of this and of the Town Council's intent to continue to pursue the development of a Neighbourhood Plan. The Clerk had now received confirmation from SSDC that the Neighbourhood Area had been officially re-designated as being solely the parish of Crewkerne, meaning that the way was now clear for the Town Council to begin the development of the Neighbourhood Plan.

192 **FINANCE** 20/21

- a) To approve the accounts for payment for February 2021 as listed

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

Accounts for payment for February 2021, in the sum of £29,318.15 + VAT were APPROVED.

- b) To report the bank reconciliation for January 2021 has been completed

The Clerk reported that Cllr. Cottle had verified the bank reconciliation for January 2021. It was noted that cash in hand as of 31 January 2021 was £272,706.21.

Cllr. Best left the meeting prior to the following agenda item.

- c) Rents and hire charges: to consider the proposal that annual rents/licence fees should again be waived for 2021/22.

The Clerk clarified that this agenda item related to the charity Crewkerne Leisure Management and to local community groups who paid fees annually for use of Council buildings and facilities.

Councillors agreed that, with the continuing financial impact of covid, it was appropriate that fees should be waived for the forthcoming financial year. It was

therefore **AGREED** that annual rent/license fees for CLM and local community groups should be waived for the financial year 21/22.

Cllr. Best re-joined the meeting.

193 **OWNERSHIP OF SEVERALLS WAR MEMORIAL**

20/21 To consider the South Somerset District Council proposal for change of ownership of the Severalls war memorial

Noting the comments made in the Public Participation section of the meeting, it was agreed that this agenda item should be deferred, to allow Councillors to study the additional background information that was going to be made available.

194 **COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE COMMUNITY SAFETY GROUP**

20/21 To confirm that Cllr. Aslett is to take over from Cllr. Hodgson as the second representative for the Community Safety Group, alongside Cllr. Best

It was **AGREED** that Cllr. Aslett would take over from Cllr. Hodgson as the second representative for the Community Safety Group, alongside Cllr. Best.

195 **CORRESPONDENCE**

20/21 To receive correspondence from a resident concerning 5G

Councillors noted the correspondence but pointed out that the Town Council had no jurisdiction regarding the roll-out of 5G, which was managed at a governmental level.

196 **TO RECEIVE DRAFT COMMITTEE MINUTES**

20/21

a) Planning and Highways Committee meeting held on Monday 8 February 2021

Noted.

197 **TO RECEIVE ANY MATTERS OF REPORT**

20/21

Cllr. Stuart pointed out that one of the units on the Cropmead industrial estate contained large amounts of unsightly litter and asked that this be followed up.

Cllr. Best reported on the sad death of Vincent Dardare, one of the past Mayors of Crewkerne's twin town of Igny.

Cllr. Aslett reported that he had received correspondence from a resident regarding the land at Westover View which had been the subject of a recent planning application, now withdrawn, and which was in a very unsightly state. He asked whether the Council could send a polite letter to the owner, requesting that the land be tidied up. The Clerk was asked to action this.

Cllr. Head pointed out that the Henhayes car park was closed to the public at weekends, despite the fact that vaccinations were not taking place then. In response, the Deputy Clerk stated that she had been in communication with the person managing the vaccination programme at Crewkerne, who had stated that they preferred to keep the car park closed at weekends because of the potential difficulty of dealing with cars still parked at Henhayes on Monday morning. Cllr. Pailthorpe shared this concern, pointing out the difficulty of managing the car park on a Sunday to ensure that it was empty for Monday morning.

The Deputy Clerk was asked to discuss the use of the car park at weekends with the current vaccination manager for Crewkerne, to confirm their position.

198
20/21

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Monday 29 March 2021 at 6.45 p.m.

Signed:

Dated:

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 – CONTRACTUAL MATTER

199 **RENT TO BE LEVIED TO JIGSAW FOR 2021/22**

20/21 To consider the rent to be levied on the Jigsaw playgroup for use of George Reynolds Centre for 2021/22

After discussion, it was **AGREED that the rent to be levied to Jigsaw for use of the GRC for 2021/22 should remain unchanged at £825 per month.**

The meeting closed at 7.31 p.m.

Signed:

Dated: