

CREWKERNE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the CREWKERNE TOWN COUNCIL meeting held in the Council Chamber on Monday 24 February 2020 at 6.45 p.m.

PRESENT

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

In Attendance

The Clerk P. Davidson and 3 members of the public.

178 TO NOTE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

19/20

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. R. Cottle (unwell) and A. Smith (unwell).

179 OPEN FORUM

19/20

A member of the Crewkerne in Bloom group provided an update for the Council. She reported that the group now had a new website and had organised volunteer work parties. The group were seeking sponsorship and were looking forward to another successful year. The Clerk added that he was having positive discussions with the grounds staff regarding supporting the Crewkerne in Bloom group during the summer months with the task of watering the hanging baskets.

180 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

19/20

It was **AGREED** that the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Monday 27 January 2020 be **APPROVED**.

181 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

19/20

on items on the agenda

None.

182 TO RECEIVE VERBAL REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

19/20

County

County Cllr. Best reported on the following:

- Council tax setting: at the recent meeting of the Full Council, the level of Council Tax had been agreed, with a general increase of 1.99% together with a further 2% for adult social care.
- Environmental fund: the County Council had established a £1m “climate change” fund for city, town and parish councils, to encourage green initiatives.
- Rural bus services: the County Council had allocated funding to support three new Slinky buses and to fill gaps identified in the current provision. Cllr. Best added that the Bridport bus service came within the remit of this review, although this did require discussions between the Somerset and Dorset Councils.

- Small Improvement Schemes (SIS's): the backlog of SIS's was being addressed and Cllr. Best would be allowed to submit two new SIS's in the new financial year. The Roundham SIS was in progress and the South Street/Market Street junction SIS was coming forward. The SIS for the Maiden Beech crossroads was awaiting the outcome of the planning appeal relating to the proposed residential development off Cathole Bridge Road. Cllr. Best added that, if the housing development was approved, then improvements would be required to the junction.
- Speed limits outside schools: the County Council were to introduce 20 mph speed limits outside all schools in Somerset. The programme would also be supported by Bikeability and road safety training for schools and young people.
- Adult social care: the County Council had allocated £6.3m to adult social care.
- Men's Shed: Cllr. Best had been able to provide just under £2,000 of SCC grant funding for the Crewkerne Men's Shed.

District

Cllr. Hodgson reported that the District Council's annual budget had now been set. He also reported that the SSDC Council Plan for 2020 – 2024 had been approved at the recent meeting of the Council.

183 CLERKS PROGRESS REPORT

19/20 To receive a report

The Clerk reported that the Town Council's request to designate the combined area of the parishes of Crewkerne and Misterton as the area for the Neighbourhood Plan, had been very promptly approved by SSDC. The way was therefore clear for the Town Council, in partnership with Misterton Parish Council, to begin the task of developing the Neighbourhood Plan. The Clerk outlined in broad terms the steps required in the first stages of developing the Plan. The very first step was for a Steering Group to be formed, consisting of Councillors from both Councils. The Clerk reminded Councillors that Cllrs. Aslett, Best and Cottle had previously expressed a desire to be actively involved in the development of the Neighbourhood Plan. Cllrs. Aslett and Best reiterated their commitment to be involved in developing the Plan. As Cllr. Cottle was not present at the meeting, the Clerk would contact him separately to confirm his commitment.

184 FINANCE

19/20

- a) To approve the accounts for payment for February 2020 as listed

The Clerk reported that Cllr. Cottle had verified the accounts for February 2020 in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations and Risk Management.

Accounts for payment for February 2020, in the sum of £29,883.57 + VAT were APPROVED.

- b) To report the bank reconciliation for January 2020 has been completed

The Clerk reported that Cllr. Cottle had verified the bank reconciliation for January 2020. It was noted that cash in hand as of 31 January 2020 was £253,586.98.

185 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

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

19/03482/S73 **Crewkerne Key Site 1. Land east of Crewkerne between A30 and A356.**
Application to vary conditions 3 (phasing) and 9 (highway plans) of planning approval 0/00661/OUT
RECOMMEND APPROVAL

19/03483/S73 **Crewkerne Key Site 1. Land east of Crewkerne between A30 and A356.**
Section 73 application to amend the approved plans condition (no 26) of planning consent 14/02141/OUT to amend the highway plans and the provision of supplemental environmental statements to reflect such changes.
RECOMMEND APPROVAL

186 **GEORGE REYNOLDS CENTRE WATER SUPPLY**

19/20 To approve the additional expenditure required to establish a separate water supply to the George Reynolds Centre

The Clerk's report was noted. It was **AGREED to approve the additional expenditure of £1,500 (+ VAT) required by A.A. Pike Construction to conform to the standards set by Wessex Water, regarding the type of pipe to be used to establish a separate water supply to the GRC. Funds to be drawn from General Reserves.**

187 **ANNUAL TOWN MEETING OF ELECTORS**

19/20 To receive the draft agenda

Cllr. Hartshorn suggested that the Crewkerne in Bloom and Men's Shed groups should be invited to make a presentation at the Annual Town Meeting of Electors. The Mayor supported this proposal and added that the Mayor's Report would summarise activities relating to the Neighbourhood Plan, the recent Business Breakfast, the ongoing work of the Environmental Working Group and the proposal for a wellbeing garden at the Barn Street recreation ground.

188 **TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR COMMITTEES**

19/20 To consider the terms of reference for the Planning & Highways, Policy & Resources and Amenities Committees

Cllr. Hartshorn suggested that, for the Policy & Resources and for the Amenities Committees, the Council re-consider the requirement that all Councillors attend these Committees. A number of Councillors explained that such a system had been in place some years ago but had resulted in unacceptably long Full Council meetings. The consensus was that the current system worked well, in that it avoided duplication and ensured that all Councillors were familiar with the issues considered by the Council and were all equally accountable. On this basis, it was **AGREED to leave the required member composition of the Planning & Highways, Policy & Resources and Amenities Committees unchanged.**

Cllr. Hodgson pointed out that the Terms of Reference (ToR's) for the Policy & Resources Committee explicitly stated a minimum number of members for the meeting to be quorate, but such a statement was missing from the Amenities and Planning & Highways ToR's. The Clerk was asked to follow up this point.

189 **PROGRAMME OF COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR 2020/21**

19/20 To consider the draft programme of meetings

It was **AGREED to approve the draft programme of Council meetings.**

190 **MENTAL HEALTH GARDEN**

19/20 To consider further the proposal to develop a mental health garden at Barn Street recreation ground

Cllr. Head reported that she had met with the children from Maiden Beech Academy who had put forward a proposal for a mental health garden. Councillors reaffirmed their support to the idea and the proposed location at the Barn Street recreation ground. The Clerk added that he had asked the grounds supervisor to consider the proposal with a view to ensuring ease of maintenance.

191 **USE OF HENHAYES**

19/20 To consider the request from the organiser of Somerset Farmers Market to use Henhayes car park on Saturday 21 March and monthly thereafter, for an antique fair and makers market

Cllr. Best pointed out that construction of the Millers Garage car park was likely to commence in the summer, so that any use of the Henhayes car park would be necessarily temporary. In view of this, it was **AGREED that approval for the use of the Henhayes car park would be granted only for the market planned on 21 March and that, at this event, the Farmers Market were only to close the car park if at least 60% of the car park spaces were occupied with stalls. Furthermore, the Farmers Market were to ensure that the entrance to the GRC remained clear at all times.**

Councillors reiterated their support to the Farmers Market and their antiques fair initiative, and agreed that the Council should support the Farmers Market in their endeavours to find an alternative location for the market.

192 **TO RECEIVE DRAFT COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUP MINUTES**

19/20

a) Planning and Highways Committee meeting held on 10 February 2020

Noted.

b) Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on 10 February 2020

Noted.

193 **TO RECEIVE ANY MATTERS OF REPORT**

19/20

Cllr. Wakeman reported that the Business Breakfast held recently had been a great success, with good attendance from local businesses and with four volunteers keen to move the initiative forward.

194
19/20

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Monday 23 March 2020 at 6.45 p.m. in the Council Chamber.

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

195
19/20

VISION STATEMENT AND STRATEGY

- a) To consider the draft vision statement

Councillors noted the Clerk’s draft Vision Statement. Cllr. Hartshorn suggested that it might be preferable to split this single statement into a one-line Vision Statement and a two-line Mission Statement, and kindly volunteered to propose suitable wording.

- b) To review the key themes emerging from the recent strategy workshop “sound bites” exercise and to consider the draft strategic aims produced from this work

Agenda item deferred.

The meeting closed at 8.04 p.m.

Signed:

Dated: