

CREWKERNE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the CREWKERNE TOWN COUNCIL meeting held in the Council Chamber on Monday 25 February 2019 at 6.45 p.m.

PRESENT

Cllrs: Mrs K. Head (Chairman), C. Aslett, M Best, P. Bradly, B. Hodgson, Mrs. R. Jackson, R. Pailthorpe, Miss K. Pritchard, Mrs A. Singleton and D. Wakeman.

In attendance:

Deputy Clerk Ms L. Gowers, 3 members of the public and 1 member of the press.

187 TO NOTE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

18/19

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. Mrs A. Stuart (work commitments) and N. Sturtivant (unwell)

188 OPEN FORUM

18/19

A member of the public spoke regarding the Town Crier and the presence he had maintained in the town. He reminded the Council that the present Town Crier had purchased his regalia himself and that if this or a future Council's wish was to continue with a Town Crier, then consideration should be given to the purchase of new regalia.

The same member of the public requested that the new benches on Barn Street Recreation Ground be moved as they had been placed on the flat area where the children played football. He also commented that the spring bulbs planted by Crewkerne in Bloom were looking pretty.

189 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

18/19

It was AGREED that the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Monday 28 January 2019 be APPROVED, subject to the following minor amendment:

- **in paragraph 181 18/19 the Councillors undertaking the Town Council surgery on 16 March should read Cllrs. Mrs Head and Miss Pritchard.**

It was AGREED that the minutes of Crewkerne Town Council held on Monday 11 February 2019 be APPROVED, subject to the following minor amendment:

- **in paragraph 186 18/19, the words "and the sports clubs" to be added to the end of the sentence.**

190 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

18/19

on items on the agenda

Cllr. Miss Pritchard declared a personal interest in agenda item 9 (to authorise the remedial work to the exterior east face of the Town Hall)

191 **TO RECEIVE VERBAL REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY AND DISTRICT**
18/19 **COUNCILLORS**

County

County Cllr. Best reported that the County Council had agreed a 3.99% increase in council tax, which included 1% for Adult Social Care.

Cllr. Best also reported that Avon and Somerset police had agreed a 12.38% increase in the precept and that the Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue authority had agreed to increase its precept from council tax by 2.98%.

District

Cllr. Mrs Singleton reported on the following:

- SSDC had voted a 2.85% increase in their element of the Council tax bill, raising the annual Band D charge by 4.63%.
- The Standards Board had met to review a new Local Government Ethical Standards document “A Review by the Committee on Standards in Public Life”
The Deputy Clerk was requested to send a link to the document to all Councillors.
- The mini roundabout at the junction of East Street and North Street had new signage: “Keep Clear” had been written on the road. The Council had understood that County would not install this sign. Cllr. Best would investigate.

192 **CLERKS PROGRESS REPORT**

18/19 **To receive a report**

The Deputy Clerk reported that a number of responses had been received following the article in the recent newsletter which asked residents if they would like to have fitness equipment at Bincombe Beeches. Response had also been received via the new comments box on the Town Council website.

The Deputy Clerk updated Councillors on the arrangements for the food festival:

- Eat: festivals had surveyed the town and had allocated 71 pitches across the Henhayes car park, Market Square and Falkland Square.
- To date, they had received 96 applications and had accepted 62.
- The Deputy Clerk had secured grant funding of £1000 towards costs and had sent 2 further grant applications to Awards for All and OneStop Carriers for All.

193 **FINANCE**

18/19

a) **To approve the accounts for payment for February 2019 as listed**

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

Accounts for payment in the sum of £30,060.05 + VAT for February 2019 were APPROVED.

- d) To report the bank reconciliation for January 2019 has been completed

The Deputy Clerk reported that Cllr. Pailthorpe had verified the bank reconciliation for February 2019. It was noted that cash in hand as of 31 January 2019 was £281,561.07.

194 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

- 18/19 To consider applications requiring observations before the next Planning and Highways Committee

18/00754/FUL – Millers Garage, 22A East Street, Crewkerne

Demolition of existing buildings and the change of use of site to a tarmac ‘pay and display’ car park for 60 vehicles to include lighting columns.

Following a discussion where Councillors continued to voice concerns about potential light pollution and the potential for the car park to become a “rat run”, it was **AGREED to Recommend Approval to enable works to the car park to move forward**. It was requested that dialogue between SSDC and Town Council remain open, particularly with regard to design of the car parking spaces. The Deputy Clerk was requested to speak to SSDC Planning to enquire if other designs had been considered which might slow traffic through the car park.

196 **TOWN HALL EXTERIOR WORKS**

- 18/19 To authorise the remedial work to the exterior east face of the Town Hall

Cllrs Aslett and Bradly voiced their concerns regarding continued work on the outside of the building whilst the problem with damp existed on the inside. Cllr. Aslett had suggested an independent surveyor that could be contacted and asked to survey the inside of the Town Hall.

Cllr. Pailthorpe reminded Councillors that prior to any work commencing on the Town Hall a full internal and external survey had been undertaken and that any work completed was based on recommendations by the surveyor.

After further discussion, it was **AGREED to approve Luke Grafton Stonemason Ltd to undertake the remedial work to the exterior east face of the Town Hall in accordance with the quotation and at the quoted cost of £38,676 (+VAT). It was also AGREED that the survey of the interior of the Town Hall should be expedited.**

197 **BINCOMBE FAIR**

- 18/19 To consider whether the Bincombe Fair should be held in summer 2019 in addition to already-planned summer food festival

After discussion it was **AGREED to keep Bincombe Fair in the calendar for Saturday 8 June 2019 but an alternative format would be acceptable.**

Cllr. Miss Pritchard would take the proposal to the next Bincombe Management Committee.

198 **SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL'S (SCC) YOUNG CARERS SERVICE**
18/19 To consider the potential cuts to Somerset County Council's Young Carers Service

A resident had spoken to Councillors at a recent Councillor Surgery and highlighted the impact that potential changes to the Young Carers service would make on Young Carers in Somerset. County Cllr. Best also confirmed that Young Carers had spoken regarding their concerns at a recent Somerset County Council meeting and that the written statement from SCC regarding the Young Carers Service was eagerly awaited.

It was AGREED that Town Council would lobby on behalf of Young Carers in Crewkerne and write to Somerset County Council.

199 **TOWN CRIER**
18/19 To note that Mr Craner has sadly decided to retire at the end of 2019 from his role as Town Crier

Noted.

Councillors expressed their thanks to Mr Craner for all his hard work and acknowledged that discussions regarding a replacement would be left for the new Council after May 2019.

200 **ANNUAL TOWN MEETING OF ELECTORS**
18/19 To receive the draft agenda

The draft agenda was noted.

Councillors suggested that CSYAL and the Royal British Legion be invited to speak at the meeting. It was also recommended that the Mayor included a thank you to Mr Craner in her report.

201 **PROGRAMME OF COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR 2019/20**
18/19 To consider the draft programme of meetings

Noted.

202 **TO RECEIVE COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUP MINUTES**
18/19

- a) Planning and Highways Committee meeting held on 11 February 2019

Noted.

- b) Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on 11 February 2019

Noted.

203 **OUTSIDE BODIES**
18/19 To receive reports for ABCD

Noted.

204
18/19

TO RECEIVE ANY MATTERS OF REPORT

Cllr. Wakeman reported that:

- He had been stopped several times by residents with complaints regarding the rubbish left by the passageway between Falkland Square and M&Co.
- He had received a complaint that members of “Lift It” gym used the pavement on South Street as part of their circuit training. The Deputy Clerk was asked to send a letter requesting they be aware of other pavement users.
- The bollard at the bottom of George Lane had been removed. The Deputy Clerk was asked to investigate.

Cllr. Mrs Jackson reported that the lights on the upper level of the Waitrose car park were now working.

205
18/19

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Monday 25 March 2019 in the Council Chamber.

The meeting closed at 7.46 p.m.

Signed:

Dated: