

CREWKERNE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the CREWKERNE TOWN COUNCIL meeting held in the Council Chamber on Monday 26 November 2018 at 6.45 p.m.

PRESENT

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

In attendance:

Town Clerk Mr P. Davidson, Deputy Clerk Ms L. Gowers, 2 representatives of the "Eat Festivals" organisation, 2 members of the public and 1 member of the press.

126 TO NOTE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

18/19

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. Mrs R. Jackson (personal) and N. Sturtivant (personal).

127 FOOD FESTIVAL

18/19

To receive a presentation from Eat Festivals on a proposal for a food festival in Crewkerne

Two representatives from Eat Festivals gave an overview of their organisation and the food festivals that they organise. They emphasised the need to allow adequate lead time to ensure the events were properly planned and, in this regard, suggested that the Council consider an early commitment, with a target date for a Crewkerne festival in July of next year. They pointed out that costs were necessarily front loaded, as more effort was required to organise the first festival, but it could be anticipated that subsequent festivals would require less funding. They emphasised that their food festivals created an excellent opportunity for engagement with local businesses and for those businesses to take advantage of the extra footfall.

The Chairman thanked the Eat Festivals representatives for their informative presentation.

128 OPEN FORUM

18/19

None.

129 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

18/19

It was **AGREED** that the minutes of the meeting of Crewkerne Town Council held on **Monday 29 October 2018** be **APPROVED**.

130 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

18/19

on items on the agenda

Cllr. Mrs Singleton declared a personal interest in agenda item 10 (use of the George Reynolds kitchen in support of the Youth Service) and a prejudicial interest in agenda item 17 (GRC rent).

Cllrs. Mrs Head and Mrs Stuart declared a personal interest in agenda item 12 (request for the use of Henhayes).

In view of the deferment of a discussion on individual community grant applications (see agenda item 18: Community grant application awards), it was agreed that it was not necessary for Councillors to declare interests against this agenda item.

131
18/19 **TO RECEIVE VERBAL REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

County

County Cllr. Best reported on the following:

- Congestion on Market Street: with the aim of easing traffic congestion, Highways had added kerbside “no loading or unloading at any time” markings at the southern end of Market Street. This would mean that disabled drivers would no longer be able to park at that part of the roadside.
- Winter gritting: an internal communication within the County Council had suggested that, because additional government funding was being made available to Highways, this could allow the free provision of grit to local councils to be reinstated for a year. However, to date, there had been no change in County Council’s publicly stated position.
- Safety audit for the Market Street/South Street junction: Cllr. Best urged that the previously agreed action to write to Highways regarding use of S106 funding be expedited. Cllr. Mrs Singleton added that ABCD were also lobbying the County Council for use of 106 monies to fund the safety audit.

District

Cllr. Mrs Singleton reported that the Transformation programme remained a primary focus for South Somerset District Council (SSDC).

132
18/19 **CLERKS PROGRESS REPORT**
To receive a report

The Clerk and Deputy Clerk reported on the following:

- Town Hall exterior works: as Councillors were aware, the final phase of the remedial works to the external walls of the Town Hall, which consisted of addressing the eastern faces of the building, was already fully catered for in the forthcoming budget. The stonemason who would be undertaking the work had advised that his future workload was such that an early commitment was required from the Council, in order to ensure that the works to the Town Hall were undertaken in 2019. Councillors agreed that the Clerk should provide a commitment to the contractor that the works were required to be scheduled in for spring/summer 2019.
- Christmas tree recycling: as in previous years, SSDC were proposing to establish an area within the Henhayes car park for Christmas tree recycling. Councillors gave their full support to this.

133
18/19 **PLANNING APPLICATION**
To consider the following application requiring observations before the next Planning and Highways Committee meeting:

18/02885/FUL - Rotalink Ltd, Cropmead, Crewkerne TA18 7HQ

Alterations, some demolition and the erection of an extension to existing building.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

134
18/19

FINANCE

- a) To approve the accounts for payment for November 2018 as listed

The Clerk reported that Cllr. Pailthorpe had verified the accounts for November 2018 in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations and Risk Management.

Accounts for payment in the sum of £33,366.05 + VAT for November 2018 were APPROVED.

- b) To report the bank reconciliation for October 2018 has been completed

The Clerk reported that Cllr. Pailthorpe had verified the bank reconciliation for October 2018. It was noted that cash in hand as of 31 October 2018 was £368,061.37.

- c) To receive a report from the Clerk on consolidation of Joint Burial Committee accounts into those of the Town Council

The report was noted.

The Clerk advised that the proposed consolidation of Joint Burial Committee accounts would be discussed in detail at the forthcoming meeting of the Burial Committee, after which the proposal would be brought to Town Council for endorsement.

- d) Internal audit interim report: to receive the report from the internal auditor

The report was noted.

135
18/19

USE OF THE GEORGE REYNOLDS CENTRE KITCHEN IN SUPPORT OF THE YOUTH SERVICE

To consider the additional charge from Crewkerne Sports and Youth Activities Ltd (CSYAL) for the use of the GRC kitchen in support of the Youth Service

Cllr. Mrs Singleton explained that CSYAL had considered the ALS request for use of the GRC kitchen for 1 hour slots only but this had been deemed impractical. CSYAL's position was therefore that any use of the kitchen by ALS needed to be for the whole of the time that ALS had booked the GRC.

Cllr. Pailthorpe advised that CSYAL had agreed to the use of the kettle, toaster and microwave in the downstairs café area. Given this, he suggested that ALS should be asked to consider occasional use of the kitchen for dedicated baking sessions. Councillors agreed this approach and the Clerk was asked to discuss this further with ALS.

136
18/19

FOOD FESTIVAL

To consider the proposal for a food festival to be held in July 2019

Councillors expressed their full support to the proposed food festival organised by Eat Festivals, although it was recognised that it would be important to engage local businesses and to seek additional sources of funding.

After further discussion, it was **AGREED to give the go-ahead to Eat Festivals for a food festival in July 2019 and to underwrite the cost of the festival.**

137 **REQUEST FOR THE USE OF HENHYES**

18/19 To consider a request from Crewkerne Rugby Club to use Henhayes as the venue for a rugby festival in March 2019

It was **AGREED to approve the request from Crewkerne Rugby Club to use Henhayes as the venue for a rugby festival in March 2019, with the usual conditions attached.**

138 **OUTSIDE BODY REPRESENTATIVES FOR CHUBBS ALMSHOUSES**

18/19 To confirm whether Cllr. Hodgson wishes to continue as a representative for Chubbs Almshouse and, if not, to appoint an alternative representative

The Clerk reported that he had spoken with Cllr. Hodgson, who was unable to act as a representative for Chubbs Almshouse because of personal commitments. The Chairman therefore asked whether another Councillor was able to take this appointment. Unfortunately, none of the Councillors present were able to commit to this role.

Cllr. Mrs Stuart pointed out that the Chubbs trustees met four times per year, with the next meeting being in February 2019 followed by a meeting in May. Given that a new Council would be elected in May, it was agreed that it was not necessary at this time to appoint a second representative to Chubbs. The Clerk was asked to write to the charity to explain the Council's position.

139 **TO RECEIVE DRAFT COMMITTEE MINUTES**

18/19

a) Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on 29 October 2018

Noted.

b) Planning and Highways Committee meeting held on 12 November 2018

Noted.

c) Amenities Committee meeting held on 12 November 2018

Noted.

140 **TO RECEIVE ANY MATTERS OF REPORT**

18/19

Cllr. Miss Pritchard pointed out that there was still no progress with construction of a pavement outside the Bonsoir development on Abbey Street. In response, Cllr. Best was able to inform the meeting that the developer was still awaiting approval of the scheme from Highways and that he was pushing Highways to unlock this situation.

Cllr. Mrs Head asked whether any action could be taken about the stalled progress of the building works relating to the Liberal Hall at Court Barton and at the former St.Martin's school on Abbey Street. Councillors agreed that, regrettably, there appeared to be means to apply leverage.

141
18/19

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Monday 17 December 2018 in the Council Chamber. Councillors to note the revised start time of 7.30pm.

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 AND REVIEW OF GRANT APPLICATIONS

Cllr. Mrs Singleton left the meeting room prior to the following agenda item.

142 **GEORGE REYNOLDS CENTRE RENT**

18/19 To review the latest accounts for the GRC and, with this in mind, agree the rent to be CSYAL for the GRC for 2019/20

The Clerk reported that the GRC accounts had still not been released by CSYAL. This agenda item was therefore deferred.

143 **COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATION AWARDS**

18/19 To review the draft recommendations for award of grants

It was noted that Cllrs. Hodgson and Sturtivant had undertaken the initial assessment of the grant applications and put forward a set of recommendations. As neither of these Councillors were present at the meeting, it was agreed to defer the review of the grant applications, as it was necessary that Cllrs. Hodgson and Sturtivant explain to the other Councillors the rationale behind the levels of grant funding that they were recommending.

Cllr. Miss Pritchard reiterated her view that a more systematic approach to the award of grant funding should be adopted. The Chairman suggested that this would be a useful area of focus for the new Council.

The Clerk emphasised that the current priority was to set an appropriate allowance for grant funding awards in the forthcoming budget. After discussion, it was **AGREED that the grant funding budget for 2019/20 should be set at £8,000.**

The meeting closed at 7.54 p.m.

Signed:

Dated:

tc26Nov2018