

CREWKERNE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the CREWKERNE TOWN COUNCIL meeting held in the Council Chamber on Monday 27 January 2020 at 6.45 p.m.

PRESENT

Cllrs. K. Head (Chairman), C. Aslett, M. Best, R. Cottle, B. Hartshorn, B. Hodgson, R. Pailthorpe, J. Roberts (following co-option), J. Roundell Greene and D. Wakeman.

In Attendance

The Clerk P. Davidson, Deputy Clerk L. Gowers and 8 members of the public.

156 INTRODUCTION

19/20

The Chairman declared that there were four candidates for co-option to fill the Councillor vacancy: Robert Bright, Michael Fox, Michael Pattermore and Jenna Roberts. She welcomed all four candidates to the meeting.

157 TO NOTE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

19/20

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

158 OPEN FORUM

19/20

No items raised.

159 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

19/20

It was **AGREED** that the minutes of the Town Council meetings held on **Monday 25 November 2019, Monday 16 December 2019 and Monday 13 January 2020 be APPROVED.**

160 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

19/20

on items on the agenda

Cllr. Best declared a personal and prejudicial interest in agenda item 13 (Aqua Centre rent review).

161 CO-OPTION OF A COUNCILLOR

19/20

- a) To receive a short presentation from each candidate
Each candidate in turn made a short presentation to the Council.

- b) To vote for the preferred candidate
The Clerk reminded Councillors of the process for voting. Cllrs. Hartshorn and Roundell Greene requested that the vote be undertaken through a paper ballot. Fellow Councillors agreed and voting duly took place, with the result that Jenna Roberts had a clear majority and was declared the successful candidate.

The Chairman thanked the unsuccessful candidates for their interest in the role.

- c) Successful candidate to sign Declaration of Acceptance of Office
Jenna Roberts signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and was declared to be duly co-opted as a member of the Council. She took her place at the meeting table.

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

County

County Cllr. Best reported on the following:

- The unwell trees on Severalls Avenue had been removed.
- Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority was undergoing a restructuring of the service. As a result, fire engines at Yeovil and Martock were being replaced by alternative vehicles. Crewkerne's fire engine was, however, not affected.

District

Cllr. Pailthorpe reported that, at the recent District Council meeting, the Somerset Rivers Authority had given an informative presentation.

Cllr. Best added that the appeal process was ongoing for the proposed residential housing development on land adjacent to Kithill, with the deadline now passed for inputs. A written report was now awaited from the inspector with his decision on whether or not to allow the development to proceed.

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

The Deputy Clerk reported that she had attended the recent Market Towns Investment Group (MTIG) meeting. Through MTIG, significant grant funding was to be made available this year for town centre-related capital projects.

164 **APPOINTMENT OF A CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIR OF THE PLANNING**
19/20 **AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE**

To note that Cllr. Roundell Greene has stepped down as Chairman of Planning and Highways Committee, and therefore to appoint a new Chairman and, as necessary, a Vice Chair

It was proposed and seconded that Cllr. Aslett be nominated to serve as Chairman of the Planning and Highways Committee for the remaining Council Year and, there being no other nomination, the proposal was **CARRIED unanimously**.

Cllr. Aslett duly accepted the Office of Chairman of the Planning and Highways Committee for the remaining Council year.

It was proposed and seconded that Cllr. Pailthorpe be nominated to serve as Vice-Chairman of the Planning and Highways Committee for the remaining Council Year and, there being no other nomination, the proposal was **CARRIED unanimously**.

Cllr. Pailthorpe duly accepted the Office of Vice-Chairman of the Planning and Highways Committee for the remaining Council year.

165 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

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

20/00055/HOU - Greenacres, Broadshard Road, Crewkerne TA18 7NE

Erection of a garage.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

20/00057/HOU - 31 Bincombe Drive, Crewkerne TA18 7BE

Erection of an extension to the front of existing garage.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

19/03239/FUL - Land rear of 25 to 31 Chubbs Lawn, Middle Path, Crewkerne.

Erection of bungalow and associated parking.

The Deputy Clerk reported that Highways had recommended that the layout plans were amended to provide more detail of access arrangements. Councillors agreed to defer consideration of this application until amended plans were available.

166 **FINANCE**

19/20

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

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

Accounts for payment for January 2020, in the sum of £36,095.20 + VAT were APPROVED.

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

The Clerk reported that Cllr. Wakeman had verified the bank reconciliation for December 2019. It was noted that cash in hand as of 31 December 2019 was £284,574.62.

- c) To approve the recommendation of the Policy and Resources Committee for grant awards for 2020/21

Councillors reviewed the recommendations of the Policy & Resources Committee for grant awards for 2020/21. After discussion, it was **AGREED to endorse these recommendations with minor amendments as discussed in the meeting. The following grant awards were agreed:**

a) Citizens Advice South Somerset	£2,100
b) Crewkerne Action for the Disabled	£135
c) Crewkerne & District Museum & Heritage Centre	£1,000
d) Crewkerne & District unders 5's Toy Library	£200
e) Crewkerne Gardening Club	£200
f) Crewkerne In Bloom	£1,000
g) Crewkerne Twinning Association	£500
h) Crewkerne Tea Dance Group	£100
i) CUDOS	£335
j) Friends of Crewkerne Library	£500

k) Henhayes Community Centre	£1,250
l) Merriott Majorettes	£200
m) Phoenix Brass	£500
n) Rotary Club of Crewkerne District	£750
o) St. Bartholomews Friends of the School Association	£600
p) The Speedwell	£1,000

Making a sum total of £10,370.

- d) To approve the recommendation of the Policy and Resources Committee for the setting of the budget for 2020/21

It was **AGREED to approve the recommendation of the Policy & Resources Committee for the setting of the budget for 2020/21.**

- e) To approve the overall Precept for 2020/21

It was **AGREED to set the precept for 2020/21 in the sum of £421,080 which represented a 2.9% increase in comparison with the previous year although, because of the slight increase in the tax base, this represented an increase of 2.3% in the equivalent Band D charge.**

167 **SMALL GRANT APPLICATION**

19/20 To consider a grant application from the Crewkerne and District Men's Shed

Councillors expressed their full support to the application for grant funding from the Men's Shed group. Cllr. Best stated that there was likely to be grant funding available through Somerset County Council (SCC) and he was endeavouring to secure the full amount requested by the Men's Shed.

In view of this, it was **AGREED that, should Cllr. Best be unsuccessful in securing SCC grant funding, then the Town Council would approve the Men's Shed's request for grant funding of £500.**

168 **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

19/20 To approve the decision to develop a Neighbourhood Plan jointly with Misterton Parish Council

The Clerk reported that, of the neighbouring parish councils, only Misterton Parish Council had elected to join with Crewkerne in the development of a Neighbourhood Plan. In view of this, it was **AGREED to initiate the development of a Neighbourhood Plan jointly with Misterton Parish Council.**

Cllr. Best left the meeting for the following agenda item.

169 **AQUA CENTRE RENT REVIEW**

19/20 To consider the Clerk's recommendation that the valuation of the rent for the Aqua Centre is re-scheduled to January 2023

The Clerk's report was noted. It was **AGREED to endorse the Clerk's recommendation and to re-schedule the valuation of the rent for the Aqua Centre to January 2023.**

Cllr. Best re-joined the meeting.

170 **OUTSIDE BODY REPRESENTATION**

19/20 To note that Cllr. Aslett is unable to continue as the Town Council representative to the Henhayes Community Centre due to work commitments and therefore to agree the appointment of an alternative member of the Council

Cllr. Roberts kindly volunteered and it was therefore **AGREED that Cllr. Roberts should be appointed as the Council representative to the Henhayes Community Centre for the remaining Council year.**

171 **QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER**

19/20 To agree the draft newsletter

It was **AGREED to approve the draft newsletter with the minor amendments identified at the meeting.**

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

19/20

a) Planning and Highways Committee meeting held on 13 January 2020

Noted.

b) Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on 13 January 2020

Noted.

c) Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on 13 January 2020

Noted.

173 **TOWN COUNCIL SURGERIES AND “COFFEE WITH COUNCILLORS” EVENTS**

19/20 Two Councillors required for each Town Council Surgery and to agree the date for the next “Coffee with Councillors” event and Councillor attendance

Town Council Surgeries

15 February: Cllrs. Best and Hodgson.

21 March: Cllrs. Head and Wakeman.

18 April: Cllrs. Cottle and Pailthorpe, with Cllr. Roberts also in attendance.

“Coffee with Councillors”

Cllrs. Wakeman and Hartshorn reported that there had been no attendance at the recent “Coffee with Councillors” event. Councillors nevertheless agreed that this type of event was a valuable way of reaching out to the public and should be continued.

Cllr. Hartshorn suggested that an A-board outside the venue would help to advertise the event. Councillors supported this idea and asked the Clerk to follow up.

It was agreed to hold the next “Coffee with Councillors” event on 28 March from 2 till 3pm at the Number 7 café, with Cllrs. Aslett and Best attending.

174 **TO RECEIVE ANY MATTERS OF REPORT**

19/20

Cllr. Hartshorn reported that he had been looking at Langport Town Council’s website and had been impressed. He suggested that the Town Council’s website did not compare favourably with the websites of towns such as Langport and therefore recommended that consideration be given to developing an improved website for Crewkerne.

Cllr. Wakeman suggested that this proposal would make an appropriate point for discussion at the forthcoming strategic review workshop.

175 **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

19/20

Monday 24 February 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 – CONTRACTUAL MATTERS

176 **GEORGE REYNOLDS CENTRE RENT**

19/20 To review the latest accounts for the George Reynolds Centre and, with this in mind, agree the rent to be charged to CSYAL for the GRC for 2020/21

Councillors expressed their concern over the continuing fragility of CSYAL’s financial position. It was agreed that the question of a rent to be charged for 2020/21, should be considered further at the forthcoming Policy & Resources Committee meeting.

177 **YOUTH SERVICE**

19/20 To receive a report from an independent consultant on the effectiveness of the current youth service provision and, with this in mind, to consider the way forwards regarding a future youth service provision

Councillors noted the extremely positive report issued by the independent consultant, into the state of the current youth service provision. Given this, it was **AGREED that:**

- **The consultant’s report to be forwarded to Active Learning & Skills (ALS).**
- **A meeting to be arranged as soon as possible with the Youth Steering Group, to compile an amended Service Level Agreement (SLA), taking account of the recommendations from the report, in combination with the recommendations put forward by ALS in their report from September 2019.**
- **The Youth Steering Group to propose an amended SLA to the Council, with the aim of establishing a forward contract between ALS and the Town Council from 1 April 2020 and lasting for 4 years.**
- **The Youth Steering Group to also consider how to move forward the recommendation from the consultant’s report for the establishment of a Youth Town Council.**

The meeting closed at 8.16 p.m.

Signed:

Dated: