

## CREWKERNE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a CREWKERNE TOWN COUNCIL remote meeting held on Monday 28 September 2020 at 6.45 p.m.

### PRESENT

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

In Attendance

The Clerk P. Davidson, Deputy Clerk L. Gowers and 17 members of the public.

89 **TO NOTE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

20/21

None received.

90 **TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

20/21

It was **AGREED** that the minutes of the Town Council meetings held on Monday 27 July, Monday 10 August and Monday 14 September 2020 be **APPROVED**.

91 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

20/21

on items on the agenda

None.

92 **OPEN FORUM**

20/21

A member of the public spoke about the proposed tree planting and community orchard at the Barn Street recreation ground. He noted that there was a covenant on the land which restricted the use to recreational purposes only. He urged the Council to ensure that any scheme taken forward conserved the attractive nature of this recreation ground and asked the Council not to rush into making a decision.

Cllr. Pailthorpe reported that he had received an email from a resident regarding the proposed tree planting at the Barn Street recreation ground, who had asked for her email to be read out at the meeting. Cllr. Pailthorpe duly recited the email, which expressed concerns about the proposal and urged the Council not to destroy a valuable amenity.

93 **TO RECEIVE VERBAL REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

20/21

County

County Cllr. Best reported that the Somerset County Council (SCC) "Climate Emergency Community Fund" would soon be open for applications from town and parish councils. A total of one million pounds was available to support local communities in mitigating the impacts of climate change.

He also reported that he had attended SCC's recent Health & Wellbeing Board meeting, where the covid situation had been reviewed. The infection rate had increased and the county was already seeing the impact of this in schools.

## District

Cllr. Pailthorpe reported that the district councils had collectively put forward a counter proposal to the SCC unitary authority proposal. He added that the Leader and Chief Executive of SSDC had offered to speak to local councils about these proposals, and he urged Councillors to avail themselves of this offer.

Cllr. Best urged Councillors to familiarise themselves with the Government's white paper on planning, as there were potentially major implications on the planning system.

94  
20/21

## **CLERKS PROGRESS REPORT**

### To receive a report

The Clerk reported that, following the resignation of Cllr. Hartshorn, he had informed SSDC of the vacancy. The Town Council now awaited feedback from SSDC, whether sufficient parishioners had written to SSDC to trigger a bi-election, or whether the Council was free to co-opt. He added that, if a bi-election was to be called, this would not take place until May 2021 at the earliest.

The Deputy Clerk reported that the proposal for a community fridge was firming up, with the fridge located in the Town Hall front office and managed by volunteers. Councillors asked for this to be brought to the next meeting of the Council for formal consideration.

The Deputy Clerk also reported that there was a waiting list of 11 for Council allotments. Councillors discussed the piece of land behind De Combe House which was formerly allotment land, but which was now extremely overgrown. It was agreed that enquiries should be made with the landowner, regarding the feasibility of resurrecting this land for use as allotments.

95  
20/21

## **FINANCE**

### a) To approve the accounts for payment for August and September 2020

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

**Accounts for payment for August 2020, in the sum of £44,856.15 + VAT were APPROVED.**

**Accounts for payment for September 2020, in the sum of £22,071.65 + VAT were APPROVED.**

### b) To report the bank reconciliation for August 2020 has been completed

The Clerk reported that Cllr. Pailthorpe had verified the bank reconciliation for August 2020. It was noted that cash in hand as of 31 August 2020 was £226,032.97.

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20/21

## **FALKLAND SQUARE PUBLIC TOILETS**

### To consider the quotations received for renovation of the Falkland Square public toilets

Councillors reviewed the two quotations tabled for renovation of the public toilets. It was agreed that further clarification was required regarding the proposal for pods, in particular to clarify whether more than two pods could be installed within the existing building. Cllr. Best reminded Councillors that renovation of the toilets was dependent upon permission being

granted by the landlord, and that plans would need to be submitted to the landlord in order to obtain his agreement.

Cllr. Roundell Greene urged that consideration be given to the installation of a “changing places” toilet facility.

It was agreed that further clarification of the options available would be brought to a future Council meeting.

97 **BARN STREET COMMUNITY ORCHARD**

20/21 To further consider the various proposals for a community orchard and the planning of trees at the Barn Street recreation ground, and to receive further correspondence related to the proposal

Cllr. Aslett noted that there was a covenant on the Barn Street recreation ground land, which specified that the land must be used for recreational purposes only. However, he considered that the planting of up to 30 trees would not alter the fundamental nature of the ground as a recreational area and would not therefore be in breach of covenant. He recommended that the proposal be limited to the planting of no more than 30 trees, and that careful thought was given to their location.

Cllr. Roberts pointed out that, in her experience, the field was very underused.

Cllr. Pailthorpe noted that previous proposals had been supported only by sketches. He therefore recommended that a proper plan was drawn up. Councillors concurred with this approach.

After further discussion, it was **AGREED that a detailed plan should be drawn up of the proposed tree planting, which should consist of no more than 30 trees. It was further agreed that this plan should be prominently displayed in the town centre, as part of ensuring a proper period of consultation.**

98 **USE OF THE GEORGE REYNOLDS CENTRE BY ACTIVE LEARNING & SKILLS**

20/21 To receive the notes from the Youth Steering Group meeting held on 18 September and to consider the recommendation contained therein

The minutes of the Youth Steering Group meeting held on 18 September were noted. After discussion, it was **AGREED to allow ALS to utilise the upper floor of the GRC as the venue for the youth service, subject to completion of those repairs which were essential to the safe use of the building and subject to a professional cleaning service being put in place.**

99 **USE OF VICTORIA HALL**

20/21 To consider the conditions under which the Victoria Hall can be rented out and to agree the charges to be levied to users

After discussion, it was **AGREED that the Victoria Hall should be re-opened to user groups, with the following provisos:**

- **User groups abide by the Government’s covid restrictions.**
- **The hall was cleaned professionally after each use.**

It was further **AGREED that the rental costs for the hall would remain unchanged.**

Cllr. Roundell Greene suggested that a cleaning checklist was compiled, to ensure that the cleaning was undertaken in a consistent manner.

100      **INSTALLATION OF CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

20/21      To consider the quotation for installation and removal of the Christmas lights on Market Street

The Clerk reminded Councillors that the Christmas lights installation was very bespoke and, as in previous years, it was necessary to use the same contractor to install the lights.

It was **AGREED to approve Knight Electrical to undertake the installation and removal of the Christmas lights in Market Street in accordance with their quotation and at the quoted cost of £5,650 (+ VAT).**

101      **CHRISTMAS MARKET**

20/21      to consider whether the Christmas market should proceed this year and, if so, at what location

After discussion, it was agreed that planning should continue for the Christmas market, with options to hold the market both in Market Square and at the Henhayes car park, with a final decision to be made in November, based upon the latest coronavirus situation.

102      **PEDESTRIAN SAFETY**

20/21      To receive the notes from the pedestrian safety meeting held on 13 August

The minutes of the pedestrian safety meeting held on 13 August were noted. The Deputy Clerk advised that a follow-up meeting was planned for 8 October.

103      **TO RECEIVE DRAFT COMMITTEE MINUTES**

20/21

a) Planning and Highways Committee meeting held on 14 September 2020

Noted.

b) Amenities Committee meeting held on 14 September 2020

Noted.

104      **TO RECEIVE ANY MATTERS OF REPORT**

20/21

Cllr. Best reminded Councillors that the Henhayes car park would be closed at the weekend of 3/4 October for mass flu immunisations.

Cllr. Best reported that all three sports clubs had now signed covid agreements for limited use of the GRC.

Cllr. Aslett reported that a resident had raised the issue with him of speeding traffic on Hermitage Street. The Deputy Clerk was asked to bring this back as an agenda item for the forthcoming Planning & Highways meeting.

Cllr. Hodgson reported that a metal detectorist had been seen on the land behind De Combe House. He reminded Councillors that unauthorised metal detecting was unlawful.

Cllr. Cottle reported that he had held a meeting with local business leaders. It appeared likely that a Business Chamber would be formed in January or February of next year. Local business leaders were seeking more engagement with the Town Council. In this regard, Cllr. Cottle volunteered to act as the Town Council's outside body representative to the Business Chamber. Councillors fully supported Cllr. Cottle's offer and agreed that this appointment would be formalised at the next Full Council meeting.

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**DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

Monday 26 October 2020 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**

106  
20/21

**TO CONSIDER THE LACK OF ATTENDANCE BY CLLR. SMITH AT COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Councillors discussed the lack of attendance by Cllr. Smith at Council meetings. It was agreed that the Clerk would seek clarification from the SSDC Monitoring Officer regarding this absence.

The meeting closed at 8.26 p.m.

**Signed: .....**

**Dated: .....**