

CREWKERNE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a CREWKERNE TOWN COUNCIL remote meeting held on Monday 30 November 2020 at 6.45 p.m.

PRESENT

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

In Attendance

The Clerk P. Davidson, Deputy Clerk L. Gowers and approximately 30 members of the public (via zoom and YouTube).

140 TO NOTE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

20/21

Apologies were received from Cllr. Wakeman (personal).

141 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

20/21

It was **AGREED** that the minutes of the Town Council meetings held on Monday 26 October 2020 and Monday 9 November be **APPROVED**.

142 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

20/21

on items on the agenda

Cllr. Aslett declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 8 (planning applications 20/02965/FUL and 20/02966/LBC).

143 OPEN FORUM

20/21

A member of the public reiterated her question previously put to the Council, whether reports prepared for Council meetings could be made available to the public either on the website or in some way. She also made a comment on the agenda item regarding a one-way system on North Street, pointing out that, when this had been considered previously, the decision had been taken to put a hold on the scheme until the CLR relief road was completed.

A local businessman spoke in objection to the proposal to introduce further double yellow lines to a section of Blacknell Lane Trading Estate opposite Singleton's works, pointing out that this would have a negative impact on his businesses on the trading estate and would force local customers to go to other towns for services.

A member of the public commented on the agenda item regarding the introduction of a one-way system on North Street. He emphasised that a one-way system on North Street would simply move the traffic problem elsewhere in the town, and therefore that the link to the construction of the CLR relief road was important.

TO RECEIVE VERBAL REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

County

County Cllr. Best reported that it had been agreed to send a letter to the Government, requesting that the date for County elections be delayed until the unitary authority process had reached a conclusion.

Regarding the proposed re-organisation of local schools from 3-tier to 2-tier, he reported that the consultation period was still open and that four online meetings had been held, with good attendance. There had been much concern voiced about the proposed changes to primary level schooling.

County Cllr. Best provided the following update on Highways matters:

- The hedge at the bottom of Furland Road had been reduced considerably and Highways were reinstating the wall underneath.
- The roundabout outside the Town Hall was due to be re-painted, as were the lines through the town centre and the box junction at the entrance to South Street, linked to the planned removal of the bollards at the end of Market Street.
- On Hermitage Street there had been comments on vehicles illegally parking with no enforcement. A new plate was to be placed on the wall which would allow enforcement to be carried out in that area.
- Brickyard Lane would receive upgraded and refurbished lines.
- Regarding a suggestion by a member of the public to change the traffic parking layout at the top of West Street, Highways had now considered the suggestion, but had pointed out that the proposed layout would reduce the number of parking spaces dramatically. As such, Highways suggested that such a scheme would best be considered under a Small Improvement Scheme (SIS) project. Cllr. Best advised that SIS's were not available at the moment, but suggested that, when SIS's were once again available, he brought this proposal back to Council for consideration.

District

Cllr. Pailthorpe reported that, at a recent Full Council meeting, members had received an interesting presentation from Kiwi Power regarding the battery energy storage market. SSDC were working hard on their climate strategy.

CLERKS PROGRESS REPORT

To receive a report

MTIG funding

The Clerk reminded Councillors that he had circulated the SSDC report on MTIG funding projects being submitted by Town/Parish Councils in South Somerset, and asked Councillors whether this had spawned any further ideas for potential grant funding for Crewkerne.

Cllr. Cottle suggested that town centre wifi would make a good candidate for MTIG funding and kindly volunteered to provide details to the Clerk. He also suggested that the addition of a bike shed in the town centre would encourage people not to use their cars to come into town.

Cllr. Head suggested that a possible candidate was a scheme to slow down the traffic through the introduction of 20MPH limits on the roads coming into Crewkerne. The Deputy Clerk was

asked to liaise with SSDC to establish whether such a scheme would be in scope for MTIG grant funding. Cllr. Stuart added that, whilst she considered that a 20MPH limit was a good idea, it would need to be enforced through the addition of physical barriers.

The Deputy Clerk suggested that a good candidate for MTIG grant funding would be the replacement of the Christmas lights on Market Street. Councillors endorsed this suggestion, pointing out that the lights already replaced on one side of Market Street were so much better than the old lights.

TPO's

The Deputy Clerk reported that, for information only, the Council had received Tree Preservation Orders for 295 trees on land at Kithill, specifically the land designated as the site for the recently approved housing development.

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20/21

FINANCE

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

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 November 2020, in the sum of £42,019.12 + VAT were APPROVED.

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

The Clerk reported that Cllr. Pailthorpe had verified the bank reconciliation for October 2020. It was noted that cash in hand as of 31 October 2020 was £364,350.90.

- c) External audit: to receive the report from the external auditor

Noted.

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20/21

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

20/00149/REM: Southern Phase of Crewkerne Key Site Off Station Road Crewkerne Reserved Matters planning application following Outline approval 14/02141/OUT and amended under 19/03483/S73 for up to 110 residential dwellings (Use Class C3) including layout, scale, appearance and landscaping.

It was **AGREED to RECOMMEND APPROVAL** of the application. Nevertheless, Councillors were concerned about the very close proximity of the residential properties to the existing industrial area and were in agreement that it would be beneficial to re-route the roads on the site, to increase the distance between the residential dwellings and the industrial area. Cllr. Best pointed out that increased sound reduction through barriers would also be beneficial. It was **AGREED that the above points would be made to the Planning authority.**

20/02965/FUL and 20/02966/LBC: 19 – 23 Kingfisher House, Market Square, Crewkerne. Replacement of section of defective first floor structure. Re-alignment of first floor partition to office. Installation of conservation rooflight to rear roof slope.

Councillors sought points of clarification from Cllr. Aslett regarding the interior of the building. Cllr. Aslett then removed himself from the meeting.

It was **AGREED to RECOMMEND APPROVAL** of the application.

Cllr. Aslett re-joined the meeting.

20/02910/HOU: 16 Bincombe Drive, Crewkerne. To replace existing part brick part UPVC porch with larger full brick porch/entrance hall with window and storage.

It was **AGREED to RECOMMEND APPROVAL** of the application.

148 **GEORGE REYNOLDS FENCING**

20/21 To consider the quotations received for the installation of fencing at the rear of the George Reynolds Centre

The Chairman reminded Councillors that, at the Full Council meeting held on 26 October 2020, the Council had agreed to erect fencing at the rear of the GRC, subject to seeking a second quotation.

After discussion, it was **AGREED to approve Callaghan Fencing to undertake the installation of replacement fencing at the rear of the GRC, in accordance with their quotation and at the quoted cost of £4,050 (+ VAT).**

149 **WEBSITE**

20/21 To consider the quotations received for the development of a new integrated website for the town, to replace the separate Local Information Centre and Town Council websites

After discussion, it was **AGREED to approve Zonkey to undertake the development of a new town website in accordance with their quotation and at the quoted cost of £4,995 (+ VAT) and the associated ongoing support cost of £45 (+ VAT) per month.**

Councillors thanked Cllr. Roberts for the hard work that she had put into this project to date.

150 **NORTH STREET ONE-WAY SYSTEM**

20/21 To consider Cllr. Best's recommendation that the Town Council formally request Highways to bring forward the implementation of a one-way system for North Street

Cllr. Best read out an email from a member of the public, asking whether affected residents would be consulted before any implementation of a one-way system takes place.

Cllr. Best reminded Councillors that the scheme for the one-way system for North Street had previously been approved, although the position from Highways was that implementation was linked to CLR and construction of the link road. Nevertheless, given the ongoing concerns over traffic on North Street, Cllr. Best asked Councillors to consider whether the Town Council should be asking Highways to bring forward the implementation of the one-way system.

In response, Cllr. Aslett expressed the view that early implementation of a one-way system on North Street would not in itself solve any traffic problems, merely transferring the problems

from North Street to East Street. He emphasised that implementation of one-way systems needed to be linked to the CLR and construction of the link road, as this would relieve the pressure on the roads through the centre of the town.

Councillors supported Cllr. Aslett's view and it was therefore **AGREED that the Council would not submit a request to Highways for early implementation of a one-way system on North Street.**

Notwithstanding the above decision, Councillors recognised that safety on North Street was an issue, and the Deputy Clerk was asked to bring this subject back as an agenda item to a future Planning & Highways Committee meeting, to allow Councillors to consider what options were potentially available to improve safety.

Cllr. Stuart suggested that the possibility of de-classifying the A-roads should be revisited and asked for this to be an agenda item at a future Planning & Highways Committee meeting.

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20/21

DOUBLE YELLOW LINES OUTSIDE SINGELTON'S GARAGE

To receive a proposal from Cllr. Best for a submission to Highways regarding double yellow lines opposite the entrance to Singleton's garage on the Blacknell Lane industrial estate

After discussion, it was **AGREED that the Council were not in support of the proposed addition of double yellow lines opposite the entrance to Singleton's garage on the Blacknell Lane industrial estate, as this would create parking issues for neighbouring businesses.**

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TO RECEIVE DRAFT COMMITTEE MINUTES

a) Planning and Highways Committee meeting held on 9 November 2020

Noted.

b) Amenities Committee meeting held on 9 November 2020

Noted.

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20/21

TO RECEIVE ANY MATTERS OF REPORT

- Youth Service: Cllr. Pailthorpe reported on the recent meeting of the Youth Steering Group. With the County now in Tier 2 and with the emergency lights not yet functional in the GRC, ALS were continuing to provide outreach services to young people.
- Millers Garage car park: Cllr. Aslett reported on the issues highlighted by the space4_Crewkerne group on the plans for the car park. He asked for this subject to be brought to the next Planning & Highways Committee meeting. Cllr. Best added that he had forwarded the space4_Crewkerne comments to the SSDC project manager.
- Dog fouling: Cllr. Cottle pointed out that the problem of dog fouling had worsened recently and asked whether enforcement action was possible. The Deputy Clerk was asked to investigate options.
- Bincombe paths: Cllr. Roberts pointed out that a fallen beech tree on Bincombe had blocked a path, and the surrounding area was now muddy and slippery. The Clerk was asked to investigate this issue.

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DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Monday 14 December 2020 at 6.45 p.m.

Signed:

Dated:

DRAFT

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 – STAFFING MATTER

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20/21

STAFFING COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the Staffing Committee held on 20 December 2020 and to consider the recommendations contained therein

The minutes were noted. It was **AGREED** to approve the Staffing Committee’s recommendations as documented in the minutes.

The meeting closed at 8.20 p.m.

Signed:

Dated:

DRAFT