

Minutes of a meeting of CREWKERNE TOWN COUNCIL held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Market Square commencing at 18.45 on Monday 28 October 2024.

PRESENT

Cllrs. A. Samuel (Mayor), S. Ashton, M. Best, N. Draycott, K. Head, D. Livesley, J. Morris, C. Rawe, A. Stuart and S. Woodland.

In attendance: Town Clerk K. Sheehan, Deputy Clerk G. Hughes, PC P. Nally (Crewkerne Neighbourhood Policing Team), and one member of the public.

068 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

24/25

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Nathan (personal).

069 **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

24/25

No declarations of interest were made at this point.

070 **TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 30 SEPTEMBER 2024**

24/25

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 September 2024 were AGREED as a true and accurate record.

071 **PUBLIC OPEN FORUM**

24/25

No one wished to speak.

072 **TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM:**

24/25

a. Somerset Councillors

Cllrs. Ashton and Best reported that:

- Somerset Council staff were now in the consultation phase of the planned redundancy programme, with a detailed breakdown now available on the Somerset Council website.
- Particular concerns were expressed about the resulting pressure on Highways Officers and their ability to support towns and parishes.
- Boundary changes were being consulted upon with a view to reducing the overall number of Somerset Councillors with effect from the 2027 unitary elections.

b. Local Community Network (LCN) representative

Cllr Ashton reported that:

- The last LCN meeting had not been well attended, and consequently not quorate.
- The meeting had predominantly focused on Health and Wellbeing funding available from SALC.

The Town Clerk noted that Crewkerne Town Council had already received funding from one tier of the SALC project but reminded Councillors that should they wish to devise a related project, they were able to apply again for the higher tier of funding.

c. Crewkerne Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT)

A written update was noted. PC Nally reported that:

- A number of changes in the NPT had taken place, with PCSOs moving on and a new Sergeant now in post.
- The Response team were still based at Crewkerne Station until the refurbishment of Chard Station was completed.
- Resources are stretched, but monthly variations on crime figures are on par with wider data trends.

Some discussion about shoplifting and reporting trends took place. PC Nally noted that larger retailers can be less likely to report shoplifting offences due to resource implications. It can also sometimes be hard to obtain relevant CCTV footage due to company policy, or ownership of the data e.g. bodycam footage maybe dealt with through a separate company. Councillors expressed a hope that some Police presence could be arranged for the Lighting Up event on 29th November.

Cllr. Samuel thanked PC Nally for his time. PC Nally then left the meeting and did not return.

073
24/25

CLERK'S PROGRESS REPORT

The Town Clerk reported that:

- Somerset Council would be making changes to the provision of town bins over the coming weeks. This would include replacement of bins in Middle Path (one recently hit by a car), and some of the poorer condition town centre bins. Going forward, Somerset Council would be seeking to move to larger co-mingle bins which could be mechanically emptied. This might mean in certain areas two bins located close together might be replaced with one larger bin.
- The planned permanent reinstatement of the South Street road surface would take place under an overnight road closure 31st October – 1st November.
- The tennis courts were now operating under winter opening hours, 7am-6pm (last booking starts at 5pm).

074
24/25

FINANCE

- a. To approve the accounts for payment for October 2024 as listed

The Town Clerk reported that Cllr. Head had verified the accounts for payment in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations. Accounts for payment for 28th October 2024 in the sum of £52,950.66 were APPROVED.

- b. To report the bank reconciliation for September 2024 has been completed

The Town Clerk reported that Cllr. Head had verified the bank reconciliation for September 2024. It was noted that cash in hand as of 30th September 2024 was £744,357.80.

- c. To note that the monthly accounts for the War Memorial Commemoration Trust have been checked

The Town Clerk reported that Cllr. Head had verified the Trust accounts and that cash in hand as of 30th September 2024 was £5,846.73.

- d. To note the Q2 financial update report

Noted, no questions asked.

e. To approve overtime for the Grounds Team for Christmas events

Overtime for Grounds Staff in respect of the Christmas events was APPROVED.

f. To consider a request from Severalls Jubilee Bowls Club to repurpose a grant received for extending the patio to repairing the clubhouse roof

Cllr. Rawe declared an interest in this item due to her position as Secretary of the Bowls Club and left the room.

The request from the Bowls Club was AGREED.

Cllr. Rawe returned to the meeting following the conclusion of this item.

075 **PLANNING**

24/25

a. To consider applications requiring comment before the next Planning and Highways Committee meeting:

- i. 24/02221/FUL Land rear of 20 Market Street, Crewkerne, Somerset TA18 8AX

Concerns were raised as to whether the space available would be sufficient to support three dwellings, associated vehicle movements and parking as well as turning for service vehicles. The visibility splay to the left when exiting on to West Street was currently only a single yellow line and it was felt that upgrading this to double yellow lining would help. The additional dwellings would increase vehicle movements onto this already busy stretch of road, opposite Madison Court, which would also have exiting vehicles. Councillors felt that a reduction to two dwellings would be better supported by the space; three was agreed to be too many.

Recommend: REFUSAL.

- ii. 24/02202/LBC 12 Market Street, Crewkerne, Somerset TA18 7LA

Recommend: APPROVAL.

- iii. 24/02104/HOU 17 Curriott Hill Road, Crewkerne, Somerset TA18 8BW

Councillors considered the impact on neighbouring properties, noting that work on vehicular access had already commenced as it did not require planning consent. Although there was some impact on the building line and street scene, this was not felt to be a major concern. Councillors commented that the neighbours do not have a window to the side of their property so there would be no light disruption.

Recommend: APPROVAL, with above comments to be included with response.

076 **INVESTMENT AND MINIMISATION OF FINANCIAL RISK**

24/25

a. To consider a report from the Town Clerk on investment options for Council reserves

A report from the Town Clerk was considered. Councillors noted that the current arrangements for Council funds did not make provision to diversify investment between providers to minimise risk, nor pursue best possible returns in line with the Council's own policy on the matter. No questions were raised, Councillors commented that this approach was sensible.

It was AGREED to invest £100,000 in the CCLA's Public Sector Deposit Fund, with the Town Clerk to report back to Full Council after six months.

b. To review the Investment and Borrowing Management Policy in line with the Policy Review Schedule

The proposed updates to the Investment and Borrowing Management Policy were AGREED.

077 **GEORGE REYNOLDS CENTRE MANAGEMENT**

24/25 To receive a verbal update from Cllr. Best

Cllr. Best reported that he was gathering information and writing the draft business plan. He hoped that the new company would be ready to trade from 1st April, but this would have to be kept under review as this was a detailed and time-consuming piece of work, which would need to be signed off by Full Council in the interim.

078 **BLEED KITS**

24/25 To consider a proposal to install three bleed kits in the town

It was AGREED to purchase and install three bleed kits on the side of three town defibrillators and to delegate the choice of locations to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Neighbourhood Policing Team.

079 **QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER**

24/25 To review the town newsletter ready for publication

Subject to minor changes to Councillor contact information, the newsletter was agreed for publication.

080 **TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING MINUTES AND APPROVE ANY RECOMMENDATIONS THEREIN:**

24/25

- a. Planning and Highways Committee 16 September 2024.
- b. Joint Burial Committee 18 June 2024.
- c. Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group 9 September 2024.
- d. Youth Service Steering Group 22 April 2024.
- e. Reports from Town Council representatives to outside bodies.

All minutes above were duly noted and any recommendations contained therein AGREED. A report from Cllr. Rawe who had attended a meeting of the Robert Bird Almshouses had been circulated.

081 **MATTERS OF REPORT**

24/25

Councillors raised the following points:

- Cllr. Head reported that concerns raised regarding hedges and paths at the recent surgery had been passed to the office team for action.
- Cllr. Stuart reported she had been contacted regarding Waitrose vans parking in the store car park. Cllrs. Ashton and Best confirmed that Waitrose leased the car park and was able to exempt company vehicles from parking charges.
- Cllr. Livesley asked if there was a possibility that the parking bays at Town Hall could be coned off later to allow parking for as long as possible up to the start of the Wednesday market. The Deputy Clerk stated that this was a balancing act between the availability of

staff to put out barriers, and cars not moving in time for the early arrival of the traders on Wednesday mornings.

- Cllr. Ashton reported that he was liaising with residents of Lyewater over bank subsidence, noting that he would like Crewkerne Town Council to consider contributing to the cost of required works.
- Cllr. Woodland relayed concerns about the car park ticket machines often being out of order, making it difficult for those unfamiliar with the parking app to pay for their parking.
- Cllr. Samuel reported that the Royal British Legion branch had been fundraising towards the purchase of a remembrance bench. Funds had been donated to the Town Council to hold for this purpose. Location would be determined when the full amount had been fundraised, but branch members hoped it might be able to be placed in front of Town Hall.

082 **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**
24/25

Monday 25 November 2024, 18.45, Council Chamber, Town Hall.

The meeting closed at 19.51.

Signed:

Dated:

TC28October2024