

WEST CREWKERNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 12th January 2016 at Clapton & Wayford Village Hall

Members Present

Mrs Julia Borland
Mr Don Yeomans
Mr Frank Freeman
Mrs Caroline Broom
Mr Barrie Carter
Mrs Sue Osborne (District Councillor)

Also present

Miss Jackie Parsons (Parish Clerk)
4 Members of the Public

Meeting commenced at 7pm

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Mr John Dyke (County Councillor)

2. Public Open Forum

Mr H Ploszek asked whether the Parish Council had given any consideration to tidying up the Parish in preparation of the Queen's Birthday in April? The Chairman stated that the Council had not given the matter any consideration at present but would bear in mind for next meeting.

3. Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda (Pecuniary or non-statutory interests).

Mr F Freeman declared an interest in 6G. No declarations of interest from any other councillors.

4. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 10th November 2015.

The Minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record by the meeting. Proposed by Mr D Yeomans and seconded by Mrs C Broom.

5. Matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere on the Agenda.

No matters arising from the minutes.

6. Planning Matters.

A): 15/00220/FUL, A H Warren Trust Ltd Coombe Farm Roundham Crewkerne Somerset TA18 8RR. Demolition of existing stables and store building, erection of building to provide function room, café and retail unit. (GR341040/109531).

Application withdrawn.

B): 15/04159/PAMB, Barn at Junction Stalkers Cross Lane to Higher Farm Lane West Crewkerne, Crewkerne Somerset. Prior approval for the change of use of agricultural buildings into two dwellings (GR340962/107962)

Application permitted with conditions

C): 15/04210/TPO, Hillside Farm Hewish Crewkerne Somerset TA18 8QS. Application to fell 1 No conifer tree within the SSDC Tree Preservation order (WECR 1) 2010 (GR34945/108597)

Application permitted

D): 15/04252/FUL, A H Warren Trust Ltd Roundham Crewkerne Somerset TA18 8RR. To demolish existing partially demolished storage unit and erection of replacement units and office (Use Class B1/B8) (GR341040/109531)

Application permitted with conditions

E): 15/04459/FUL, Middle Manor, Henley Manor, Henley Crewkerne Somerset TA18 8PQ. Installation of garage doors to existing garage opening (GR343947/107686)

Application permitted with conditions

F): 15/04903/FUL, 4 Axe View Axe Road Drimpton Beaminster Dorset DT8 3RJ. Raise garage roof and demolition of existing conservatory and erection of single storey garden room (GR341336/106029).

Application permitted with conditions.

G): 15/05590/PDE, Brooklands, Clapton Road, Clapton Crewkerne Somerset TA18 8PS. Property rear extension (1) The projection of the extension beyond the rear wall is 3.24m. (11)The maximum height of the extension is 3.9m. (111) The height of the eaves of the extension is 2.15m. (GR341548/106760).

The Parish Council have no objection to this planning application.

7. **Highway Matters.**

Roundham – The Clerk read out an e-mail from Mr J Dyke (Somerset County Councillor) which was as follows;

“Mr J Dyke had attended a dedicated meeting with Highway in County Hall just before Christmas, I am pleased to report that the proposed Small Improvement Scheme for Roundham scored well. It will now go to the SIS Project Board in February for approval.”

Mr B Carter stated that no word had been received from Mr Colin Fletcher regarding his proposals for Roundham or whether he had put his proposals through to the Small Investments Scheme for Roundham.

Mr F Freeman was asked whether he had received any clarification on the on-road parking, he stated that it was still work in progress.

The Parish Clerk apologised for not sending out follow up letters to the two farmers with regard to the clearing of the ditches in Woolminstone but she had had some health problems.

Mr M Piggott (Woolminstone resident) had contacted Mr Yeomans regarding the conditions of Higher Farm lane, that has numerous potholes and all of the drains are blocked resulting in water running straight down the road which in turn was washing the sides of the road away. Mr Yeomans has reported the problem to Highways.

Mr B Carter stated that Somerset County Council were not maintaining roads, too much signage on the roads and were not clearing the drains and it could lead to a fatality. A request needs to be made to Somerset County Council to clear the drains and the gully roads.

Mrs S Osborne stated that Highways usually jetted the drains with water and if that did not clear the debris then they would put a camera down to see if there was a blockage and if so then repair the drain. However, landowners own the ditches and it is their responsibility to clear the ditches.

Mr D Yeomans stated although the County Council may have a lack of funding they still have a legal responsibility to maintain roads and drains. Mrs S Osborne stated that a letter should be sent to Mr J Dyke as the County Councillor then the two people working for Somerset County Council in the Highways Department are Colin Fletcher and Mike Fear and if no response is received from any of the above people, the cabinet minister for rural development is David Fothergill.

Mrs S Osborne also stated that the Highways Maintenance Contract is up for tender in the very near future.

8. Reports from Councillors, including District and County Councillors.

Mrs S Osborne – South Somerset District Councillor – stated that discussions have been taking place on working in partnership with Sedgemoor District Council and a decision is expected in February. South Somerset District Council has no Chief Executive at present since Mark Williams contract was terminated.

There are going to be Budget cuts due to the contracting of funding from Central Government. The District Council reserves are not attracting reasonable interest. The District Council is looking at a 4 years plan to manage the cuts in Central Government funding.

It is likely that Local Councils will be able to keep their Business rates but there is a risk involved with this, that if a large employer goes out of business this could damage District Council funds.

This year there will be an election for the Police and Crime Commissioners in May and possibly an European Referendum.

Mr F Freeman stated that he had been approached by a parishioner stating that somebody was riding a horse across a public footpath and asking what action was the Parish Council going to take? After discussion the footpath in question goes across private land where the owner's wife rides her horse in the fields so the Parish

Council would have no jurisdiction when somebody is riding over their own land. Mr H Ploszek stated that he had a map of footpaths from Somerset County Council that covered West Crewkerne Parish, he would give a copy to Mr F Freeman.

Mr B Carter stated that now he had been Co-Opted on to the Parish Council there was now representation for Roundham residents and he hoped maybe some residents from Roundham may attend the meetings.

Mrs J Borland, Mrs C Broom and Mr D Yeomans had nothing to report.

9. **Finance**

A. To pay the Clerk's Salary - £81.56

B. To pay HMRC - £20.20

C. To agree the precept before submission to the South Somerset District Council
After discussion it was agreed by the West Crewkerne Parish Council to set the Precept for the Parish the same as last year. Proposed by Mr F Freeman and seconded by Mrs C Broom.

Arising from the figures for the precept, Mr D Yeomans stated that the 7% that the West Crewkerne pay to Crewkerne Burial Board accounts for half of the precept for the Parish. Mr D Yeomans stated that the monies paid to the Burial Board over the last 10 – 20 years would have purchased a plot of land for a memorial garden for the Parish. He stated that it would be interesting to go back 10 years and 20 years and see how many of the residents were actually interred in the cemetery. Mrs J Borland stated that the Burial Records were available to look at that far back but consideration must also be given to the numbers of residents whose ashes are interred at the Cemetery as well. Mr D Yeomans felt that a referendum should be called so that all the residents of the Parish have a chance to vote on the issue of whether the contribution to Crewkerne Burial Board should be continued. Mrs J Borland stated she would contact Angie Cox at South Somerset District Council to see what the costs would be to hold a referendum and also if she had any idea of the annual costs involved in maintaining a memorial garden.

Mrs Borland stated that all the scheduled building work at Crewkerne Cemetery had been completed, the only maintenance work still to be completed was the replacement of the drain pipes on the buildings.

Mr B Carter asked if the question of the grant to Crewkerne Burial Board had been raised by a resident or residents of the West Crewkerne Parish, Mr D Yeomans stated that nobody from the Parish had raised an objection. Mr B Carter felt that as no resident had raised an objection the matter was best left alone.

10. **Correspondence**

Somerset Waste Partnership Monthly briefing for December 2015.

The future of Hubs and Libraries – 8 weeks consultation with residents by Somerset County Council.

Parish of Haselbury Plucknett diversion of footpath.

Litter/Dog waste bins-e-mail from Streetscene South Somerset District Council.

All the above correspondence forwarded to the Parish Councillors.

All correspondence had been received by the Parish Councillors.

11. **Welcome Pack** – Discussion on the Welcome Pack and distribution of the pack to residents of West Crewkerne Parish.

Mrs J Borland stated that the Welcome Pack was excellent and thanked Mr D Yeomans for his efforts.

The Parish Council decided that Mr D Yeomans could go ahead and get the Welcome Pack printed. The Parish Council after discussion decided that the best way to distribute the Welcome Pack to all the residents of West Crewkerne Parish was by hand.

12. **Filing Cabinets** – purchase of lightweight lockable filing cabinets for storage of documents no longer in use but they need to be kept under statutory time limits.

Mr D Yeomans will look at purchasing the filing cabinets probably 5 draw lockable cabinets.

13. **To confirm that the next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 8th March 2016 at Clapton and Wayford Village Hall at 7.00pm.**

It was confirmed that the next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 8th March 2016 at Clapton and Wayford Village Hall at 7.00pm.

Chairman