

West Crewkerne Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of West Crewkerne Parish Council held at Clapton & Wayford Village Hall on Tuesday 9th July 2013.

(7.00 p.m. – 8.00 p.m.)

Present:-

Members

Mrs J Borland (Chairman)

Mr F Broom

Mr H Ploszek

Mrs S Swaffield

Mr J Wyatt

Also Present:-

Mrs S Osborne, District Councillor, SSDC

Mr J Dyke, County Councillor, SCC

Mrs A Cox, Democratic Services Manager, SSDC (acting as Clerk)

8 members of the public

1. Apologies for Absence (Agenda item 1)

An apology for absence was received from Mr S Wetherall.

2. Public Open Forum (Agenda item 2)

Mrs A Pyke asked if it was possible to commence a Parish Plan for the community. She said that she had seen other communities produce Parish Plans which helped to assist with issues which arose in parishes in the future.

Members of the Parish Council confirmed that they had attended a workshop by the District Council on Neighbourhood Planning in November 2012 and had been concerned at the amount of work involved to produce one. However, they agreed that they would be supportive if members of the community were to progress the idea of a Parish Plan. The Clerk undertook to ask officers at the District Council to contact Mrs Pyke with information about Parish Plans.

Mr D Yeomans asked for confirmation of when Parish Plans were discussed by the Parish Council and why it was not minuted. The Chairman undertook to provide this.

Mr M Wilson asked whether the County Council were going to cut the grass verges and hedges along roads in the parish. The Chairman confirmed that she had been told they would only cut vegetation at specific dangerous junctions however she agreed to raise the issue with the Highway Authority at the County Council.

3. Declarations of Interest in items on the Agenda (Personal or Pecuniary) (Agenda item 3)

Mrs S Swaffield also declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Agenda item 8 Planning Matters (b) (c) and (d) relating to Coombe Farm Roundham as her son occupied a property owned by the applicants. She took no part in the Parish Council representations submitted on these applications.

4. To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting and the Parish Council Meeting held on 14th May 2013 (Agenda item 4)

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting and the Parish Council meeting held on 14th May 2013, having been previously circulated, were approved and signed as a true record of the meetings.

5. Matters arising from the Minutes (Agenda Item 5)

a. Parking at entrance to Clapton Court – response from Highway Authority still awaited although some Councillors noted that boulders could be removed and an alternative and safer exit be used by residents.

b. Road at Higher Folly Farm – Highway Authority had responded that an Engineer would be sent to investigate the road surface.

c. Traffic speed through West Crewkerne – response from Highway Authority still awaited on the proposed '20 is plenty' scheme.

6. To consider carrying out the clerk's duties until the appointment of a new clerk (Agenda item 6)

The Chairman regretted that negotiations with the Clerk to an adjoining Council had not been successful and an advert to all local Parish Clerks would shortly be issued. She advised that she now had the Parish Council records and lap top at her home and was receiving information on planning applications submitted within the Parish. Support from fellow Councillors to assist with paperwork would be appreciated.

7. To change the regular day of the meeting of the parish council to the third Tuesday in the alternate months [Members should note that this change is in anticipation of an appointment of a new clerk] (Agenda item 7)

The Chairman advised that as negotiations with the Clerk to an adjoining Council had not been successful, it would no longer be necessary to change the date of future Parish Council meetings.

8. Planning Matters (Agenda item 8)

The Chairman advised that the following planning consultation comments would be submitted to the district council:-

- A) **13/00899/FUL The Folly Henley Manor, Henley, Crewkerne, Somerset. Conversion of estate maintenance /workshop into holiday let, alterations of a single storey extension (GR34356/107675) – Application withdrawn**
- B) **13/01863/FUL The Hall and Parlour House, Henley Manor, Henley, Crewkerne, Somerset TA18 8PN Removal of section of wall and installation of gates (GR343972/107647) - approved**
- C) **13/01874/FUL Unit C, Lower Coombe Farm, Roundham, Crewkerne, Somerset TA18 8RL Sub divide Unit C and change use from B1/B8 to B2 for use as MOT testing garage (GR 341615/109700) - approved**
- D) **13/02072/S73 Land OS 3600 South of Hewish, Crewkerne, Somerset. Application to vary condition 02(approved plans) of 12/00232/FUL to amend design of storage building (GR 342412/108141) – Parish Council were content to agree but noted the Landscape Architect of the District Council was not in favour**
- E) **13/02314/FUL Coombe Farm, Roundham, Crewkerne, Somerset. TA18 8RR Erection of extension to water storage building (GR 341015/109507) – agreed as suitable**

9. Highway Matters (Agenda item 9)

Improvement to Dunsham Lane drainage (progress report.)

The Chairman advised that she had received an e-mail from Mike Fear, Assistant Highways Service Manager, to confirm that a drainage scheme for Dunsham Lane was currently being designed and it was hoped the work would be carried out in the late autumn or early spring of 2014. County Councillor John Dyke confirmed that the work would be done.

Traffic speed

The Chairman advised that 137 vehicles had been recorded passing through the village the previous day by the Speedwatch volunteers and only 2 were travelling in excess of 35mph. She called for more volunteers to join the Speedwatch team.

Blocked drain-reporting responsibilities within the parish.

Councillor Ploszek advised that the Highway Authority had supplied 22 enlarged maps of each section of gullies within the parish. He said that he would post them onto the parish website and ask local residents to adopt a section and be responsible for reporting any blockages or repairs to a central co-ordinator who could then identify the exact issue and where it was to the Highway Authority.

During discussion, members of the public were supportive of this proposal and requested mechanical assistance with lifting some gully covers in order to clear them out. Councillors Broom and Wyatt undertook to assist with this.

10. Reports from Councillors, Including District and County Councillors and the Burial Board (Agenda item 10)

District Councillor Sue Osborne advised that:-

- The initial report of the SSDC Local Plan Inspector had been published that day and members of the public were encouraged to view it on the website. Three issues had been raised by the Inspector relating to the Yeovil urban extension, the direction of growth proposed for Ilminster and employment land allocated to rural areas. <http://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/>
- The SSDC Car Parking Strategy had been approved at the Council meeting in June and it was acknowledged that there was still a shortage of long term parking in Crewkerne.
- The District Council had recently won two awards from the Centre for Public Scrutiny for their work in designing a Council Tax Reduction Scheme and also for arranging the successful Flooding Summit earlier in the year.

County Councillor, John Dyke, advised that:-

- The Government had recently proposed a further 10% of funding cuts to Local Government in 2015/16 and he was concerned that this would further impact on services provided by the County Council.
- At a recent meeting of the Somerset Waste Board it had been reported that they had not met their recycling targets for the year and he encouraged local people to support the Crewkerne HWRC to ensure its future.
- He was concerned that the booking office at Crewkerne railway station was at threat of closure and a 'ghost train roadshow' was planned for 19th July to demonstrate to local people what the closure would mean.
- Devon and Somerset Fire Authority were proposing to operate with less full time firemen at fire stations in Plymouth, Torquay and Taunton although no closures of stations was proposed. This could be reported on the local news stations shortly.

Mr H Ploszek reported that 5 trees at the cemetery in Crewkerne had been identified as dead and were to be removed shortly, however, due to some years of neglect, a programme of tree removal and planting was scheduled over a number of years. This was being co-ordinated by Crewkerne Town Council but there would be a charge to West Crewkerne Parish Council, who were partners on the Burial Board and it was likely that the parish precept would have to be increased to contribute towards the works.

Councillor Wyatt expressed concern at the overgrown hedges in the Hewish Cross area. He said cars had to drive in the middle of the road to avoid the hedges. It was agreed to report this to the Highway Authority as it qualified as a specific and dangerous junction which should be cut back.

11. Finance (Agenda item 11)

A. To pay the agreed village hall grant and meeting room hire fees.

A cheque for £500 was signed to pay the previously agreed village hall grant and a cheque for £60 was signed to pay the meeting room hire fees.

B. To review and amend (if necessary) the current bank mandate.

The Chairman advised that two past Councillors and the retired Clerk were still signatories to the Parish Council bank account. It was agreed that they be removed and Councillor H Ploszek be added to the list. Paperwork to effect this was circulated.

12. Correspondence (Agenda item 12)

The following correspondence received was noted:

Youth and community grants – information to be forwarded to Cllr Swaffield

Community benefit funds from large photovoltaic arrays – an information leaflet from South Somerset District Council was read out by the Chairman.

Good councillors guide – this was currently being printed and would shortly be available to purchase.

13. Date of next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Tuesday 10th September 2013 at Clapton & Wayford Village Hall at 7.00 pm.

The meeting closed at 8.00 pm.

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Chairman