

West Crewkerne Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of West Crewkerne Parish Council held at Clapton & Wayford Village Hall on Tuesday 12th November 2013.

(7.00 p.m. – 8.30 p.m.)

Present:-

Members

Mrs J Borland (Chairman)

Mr H Ploszek

Mrs S Swaffield

Mr S Wetherall

Mr J Wyatt

Also Present:-

Mr J Dyke, County Councillor, SCC

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

12 members of the public

1. Apologies for Absence (Agenda item 1)

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr F Broom (holiday) and District Councillor Sue Osborne (prior engagement).

2. Public Open Forum (Agenda item 2)

Mr Richard Jeffery advised that the footbridge over the stream was slippery when wet and the Chairman agreed to look at what could be done to make it safe.

Mr Mick Wilson said that the road between Wayford and Clapton was dangerous to vehicles due to mud on the road. It was noted that this was largely due to large farm vehicles from Coombe Farm and Mr Wetherall agreed to contact them to ask that the road be cleaned.

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

Mrs J Borland declared a personal interest in Agenda item 7 Planning Matters (a) relating to 1 Axe View, Axe Road, Drimpton as a neighbouring property to her own. She took no part in the Parish Council representations submitted on this application.

At the time the item was discussed, Mrs J Borland and Mrs S Swaffield declared a personal interest in Agenda item 12, Correspondence, relating to the invitation from Clapton and Wayford Village Hall Committee. They took no part in the discussion of this item.

4. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10th September 2013 (Agenda item 4)

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10th September 2013, having been previously circulated, were approved and signed as a true record of the meeting.

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

There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.

6. Parish Plans and Neighbourhood Plans (Agenda item 6)

The Chairman advised that the Village Hall Committee had agreed to offer the hall free of charge for two hours to hold a community event to start a Parish or Neighbourhood Plan.

Mrs A Pyke advised that she had received some positive support following the last Parish Council meeting to start a Parish Plan, however, she felt more local support was required before a full start should be made.

During discussion, an offer was made to deliver leaflets, a contact suggested to help set up a website and Mr Ploszek advised he was attending a digital mapping course and would be pleased to use his knowledge to assist with any mapping required for the Parish Plan.

At the conclusion, the Chairman said that positive steps had been taken and she suggested that contact be made again with Zoe Harris, Neighbourhood Development Officer at South Somerset DC to assist with community involvement.

7. Planning Matters (Agenda item 7)

The Chairman advised that the following planning consultation comments would be submitted to the District Council:-

- A) **13/04387/FUL 1 Axe View, Axe Road, Drimpton, Beaminster DT8 3RJ. The erection of a two storey and single storey side extension to rear extension and alterations to the outbuildings (GR 341339/106047) – Parish Council comments deferred pending a site visit.**
- B) **13/03397/FUL Hewish Mill Farm, Hewish, Crewkerne TA18 8QX. Alterations, conversion and restoration of the Mill and Millers House to include link extension and two-storey extension to the Millers House (GR 341932/107942) – no further information on SSDC website.**
- C) **13/03398/LBC Hewish Mill Farm, Hewish, Crewkerne TA18 8QX. Alterations, conversion and restoration of the Mill and Millers House to include link extension and two-storey extension to the Millers House (GR 341932/107942) – no further information on SSDC website.**
- D) **13/03134/FUL Wydale Plastics Ltd. Brightwell Farm, Cathole Bridge Road, Crewkerne Somerset. TA18 8RF the demolition of outbuildings and the erection of extension to factory. (GR 342973/109244) - Application permitted with conditions.**
- E) **13/03151/FUL Henley House, Henley Manor, Henley Crewkerne. TA18 8PQ the installation of a garage door to an existing garage opening. (GR 343958/107685) - Application permitted with conditions.**

8. Highway Matters (Agenda item 8)

Mr Ploszek said he had received notification from Mike Fear of SCC Highway Authority that the repairs to Dunsham Lane had not been programmed into their current work schedule yet and so no start date for the work had been set.

During discussion, County Councillor John Dyke agreed to investigate the following issues with SCC Highways:-

- The mud on the road and the state of the verges in Chard Lane, particularly in and around the lay-bys used by vehicles from Coombe Farm.
- The resurfacing of the main road through Clapton and the date for the repairs to Dunsham Lane.

It was also noted that:-

- Staff at the Community Office in the Town Hall in Crewkerne were very helpful in assisting with reporting highway issues to SCC.
- The Highway Authority was unlikely to support a speed limit in Woolminstone, and although residents could display their own no-speeding signs, they would be unenforceable. *(Note: DfT Traffic Regulation Orders require consultation for roadside signage, making it illegal to display own signs)*
- The Highway Authority was responsible for the cutting of grass verges but individual landowners were responsible for cutting hedges.

9. Review NALC Updated Standing Orders (Agenda item 9)

Mr Ploszek advised that the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) had issued a new book titled 'Local Councils Explained'. The book listed model Standing Orders for Parish Councils and he had updated the West Crewkerne Parish Council Standing Orders in line with them, and circulated copies. He asked that Councillors read the updated Standing Orders and they would be discussed at the next meeting and if agreed, then adopted.

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

County Councillor John Dyke advised that the County Council were expecting cuts to their grant from the Government and this would impact on the services they provided to the public. The Childrens Centre near Ashlands School in Crewkerne was to be de-regulated and put to a dual-use. He would report on any further service cuts at the next meeting. In response to questions from the public he confirmed that:-

- Trees had been taken down at the entrance to Crewkerne to make way for the new road as part of the CLR housing development.
- The cost of the Government's landfill tax of £70 per ton of waste necessitated the weekly doorstep collection of recycling, however, if the village would like to propose

reducing this to a fortnightly collection then he would raise this at the next Waste Board meeting.

Mr Wetherall reported his concern at the appearance of a mobile home and access road on a field at the edge of Hewish.

Mr Wyatt advised that 5 unsafe trees had been taken down at the Crewkerne Cemetery with no damage to any gravestones.

Mrs Borland advised that the Crewkerne Cemetery had held a very interesting Heritage Open Afternoon on Sunday 15th September between 2.00pm and 4.00pm.

Mrs Borland and Mr Ploszek had attended a Local Choices Event hosted by Somerset County Council at Huish Academy in Langport on 6th November where they had seen an interesting presentation from a parish that had their own flooding emergency plan. It was noted that West Crewkerne could consider its own flooding emergency plan as part of the proposed Parish Plan.

Mrs Borland and Mr Ploszek had attended a meeting with SSDC Finance staff to discuss the Parish Precept for 2014/15. SSDC would inform the parish in early December what the tax base would be so that the precept could be discussed at the January Parish Council meeting.

11. Finance (Agenda item 11)

The Chairman advised that the Parish Council receipts as at 30th September were £5,501.49 and payments totalled £3,143.80. Through money saved by the Parish Clerk vacancy and audit fees, there remained approximately £1,200 to be spent in the parish.

During discussion the following suggestions were made:-

- Pay to have the drains in the parish cleared and jetted.
- Purchase machinery to lift the drain covers (as part of adopt a drain)
- Investigate the employment of a Parish Lengthsman
- Rent the new space above the village hall entrance as secure storage for Parish Council records.
- Purchase a small grit spreader for the back roads of the parish.

Mrs Borland advised that if negotiations with a neighbouring Parish Clerk proved unsuccessful then an advert would be placed in the Western Gazette for a new Clerk.

It was agreed that the suggestions made for improving the parish would be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting.

12. Correspondence (Agenda item 12)

The following correspondence received was noted:

- A letter of invitation from Middle Coombe to supply high speed broadband to any household in the village within a line of sight. Cost likely to be £80 for the receiver equipment and £20 per month thereafter (information to be placed on Parish Website).
- A letter from the Highway Authority notifying the parish that Cathole Bridge Road, West Crewkerne would be closed overnight on 7th October to allow Network Rail to carry out white lining on the road.

(Mrs J Borland and Mrs S Swaffield declared a personal interest at this point as members of the Clapton and Wayford Village Hall Committee. They took no part in the discussion of this item of correspondence).

It was also noted that a letter had been received from Clapton and Wayford Village Hall Committee asking if the Parish Council would contribute towards the refurbishment of the new storage area above the entrance to the village hall and if the Parish Council would like to rent part of the room for storage of parish records.

It was agreed to proceed with negotiations to rent part of the room and discuss a contribution towards the refurbishment work at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

13. Date of next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Tuesday 14th January 2014 at Clapton & Wayford Village Hall at 7.00 pm.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

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Chairman