

## WEST CREWKERNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 13<sup>TH</sup> November 2018 at  
Clapton & Wayford Village Hall

### **Members Present**

Mrs Julia Borland

Mr Don Yeomans

Mrs Caroline Broom

Mr Barrie Carter

Mr Frank Freeman

Mr Mike Best (Somerset County Councillor)

Mrs Sue Osborne (South Somerset District Councillor)

### **Also present**

Miss Jackie Parsons (Parish Clerk)

2 Members of the Public

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

No apologies of absence received

### **2. Public Open Forum - Each member of the public present is entitled to speak once only, in respect of business itemised on the agenda and shall not speak for more than 5 minutes.**

The Clerk read out an anonymous letter she had received. The sender was complaining about a planning application within the Parish and intimating that the Parish Council would give approval to the application as the applicant used to be a Parish Councillor. The Clerk felt that the receipt of the letter should be minuted and to reiterate that it is the District Council who make the final decision on the planning application. The Parish Council can make observations and comments on the application only. If the sender of the letter had put their name and address on the letter then the letter could have been forwarded to the District Council and their comments fed into the planning process. The Clerk will forward a copy of the letter to South Somerset District Council but they will not take the letter into consideration as the letter is anonymous. The advice of the Parish Council would be to write or telephone direct to the Planning Office of the Council if they have a comment to make on the application.

Mr M Wilson stated that there is no road traffic sign from either direction indicating there is a turning to Woolminstone. Mr M Wilson stated that from either direction you often have traffic close behind you and although you indicate they are unaware of a turning into Woolminstone. Mr M Best advised taking photos from both ways and then contacting Somerset Highways stating that it was of some concern that there is no road traffic sign indicating the turning to Woolminstone and could they give some consideration to the matter.

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

Mr Barrie Carter had no declaration of interest on any of the items on the agenda.

Mr Don Yeomans and Mrs Caroline Broom declared an interest in the planning application marked 6C on the Agenda.

Mrs J Borland and Mr Frank Freeman both declared an interest in the Precept Proposals with regard to the Village Hall. They would not take part in any discussion on the amount the Parish Council would give to the Village Hall.

**4. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> September 2018 were approved by the Councillors present after they were proposed for adoption by Mr D Yeomans and seconded by Mr F Freeman.

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

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

**6 Planning Matters.**

West Crewkerne Parish Council is a Statutory Consultee for Planning Applications

and as such does not make the final decision on any application. Any decisions and comments made by the Parish Council will be fed into the planning process and added to the report by the Planning Officer. South Somerset District Council is the Planning Authority and will issue the final decision notice (Planning Determination) once their investigations into the application, consultation period and decision making process has been completed.

A): 18/02117/DPO 17<sup>th</sup> June 2018 Unit 10 Manor Barns Henley Crewkerne Somerset TA18 8PQ.

Application to discharge a S106 agreement dated 26<sup>th</sup> February 2004 between SSDC and Pembroke Properties Ltd.

**Application Permitted**

B): 18/02610/FUL. 22<sup>ND</sup> August 2018 Land and Buildings Manor Farm Hewish Crewkerne Somerset. The erection of an agricultural building to house machinery/ feed and livestock.

No objections to this planning application from the Parish Council and the Chairman notified the District Council accordingly.+

C): 18/03069/S73A 3<sup>RD</sup> September 2018 Land at junction Stalkers Cross Lane, West Crewkerne, Crewkerne Somerset.

Application to vary conditions of 02(approved plans)of approval 17/03848/FUL to allow finished ground floor heights to be increased by 500mm.

The Chairman proposed making the following observations on the above planning application;

1. That the applicants had left it rather late in the building process to apply to increase the overall height by 500mm.

2. That the overall height of 500mm is quite a substantial amount to increase the height of the building.

The two remaining Councillors who had no interest Pecuniary or non-statutory in the planning application agreed with the proposals.

**7. Highway Matters**

**Roundham Small Improvement Scheme**

The Chairman gave out copies of the proposals for Roundham that she had received that afternoon from the Small improvement Scheme team at Somerset County Council. The first comment that the Chairman made was that there is no negotiation over the speed limit of 40mph. Mr D Yeomans

commented that this goes against the Highways policy for speed limits and Mr D Yeomans felt the Parish Council should at least be given a reason why the speed limit cannot be reduced to 30mph. Mr M Best stated that if the Chairman sends him the appropriate paragraph of the legislation he will take it back to the Small Improvement Scheme team and ask for an answer. After much discussion at the meeting the scheme was accepted by the Parish Councillors subject to an answer on the 30mph speed limit. Mr M Best will ask the Small Improvement scheme team to produce the map in colour and slightly bigger. The Clerk then to post a copy of the new Small Improvement Scheme scheme with a covering letter to all the residents in Roundham. Then the Parish Council to call an extraordinary meeting to get the views of the residents of Roundham.

Mr B Carter (Parish Councillor) raised the matter of signage on the Cathole Bridge lane which he feels needs altering as large lorries and large tractors are using this lane and getting stuck in the lane as the lane is not wide enough to allow the width of these vehicles through. Mr M Best (Somerset County Councillor) stated that the matter was already under consideration because a planning application had been received for 160 houses and entrance and exit would be off Cathole Bridge Lane. Mr M Best also stated that there was a planning application for a further 350 houses to be built opposite the Crewkerne Railway Station, so that the volume of traffic was going to substantially increase. Mr M Best in his observations and comments on the 160 houses application pointed out that Cathole Bridge Lane was only a lane and would not be able to sustain the volume of traffic from these planning applications.

Footbridge at Woolminstone for repair.

The Clerk stated that she had not contacted the Rights of Way team yet because she was not exactly sure where the bridge was that needed repair. Would somebody be able to tell her exactly where this bridge was? Mr D Yeomans (Parish Councillor) said he would send the Clerk a map pinpointing the location.

The Chairman had another matter to bring up under Highways. The bridge on Wayford lane had some of the coping stones knocked off and they are in under the bridge. This is causing a dam effect with the water and causing the water to flood on to the road through Clapton. There is also a pipe under this bridge which is supposed to take the water away from the lane but this is silted up and the water is unable to flow freely through the pipe. The Chairman asked the Clerk if she could write to Somerset Highways, but the department specifically dealing with bridges and report the matter, Mr F Freeman (Parish Councillor) brought up that the ditches had been cleared all the way into Crewkerne but that the waste had been piled up on the verge again and therefore when it rains the waste is going to be washed back into the ditch again. Mr F Freeman asked why they did not take the waste away? Mr M Wilson stated that it is contaminated waste which costs money to remove,

8. **Reports from Councillors, including District and County Councillors.**  
No reports from any of the Parish Councillors.

Sue Osborne (South Somerset District Councillor) stated that SSDC may well be asked to plug the gap in funding to the Citizens Advice Bureau as Somerset County Council make cuts in funding. It may well be in the future that SSDC will have to plug gaps left by Somerset County Council in funding cuts.

The Transformation programme is on budget.

The Planning department is gradually getting back on track.

Somerset County Council Highways have been allocated £10 million pounds from Central Government and Councillor Best informed the meeting he had heard that they have decided that Parishes can have their salt free for this year and roads will be gritted and that the road mileage being gritted would not be cut back. This is for one year only. Mr F Freeman asked if there was a statutory obligation to grit roads that were on bus routes. Mr M Best stated that there was only a statutory obligation to keep major roads gritted. The policy from next year will be reactive not pro-active with regards to the gritting of the roads, the roads will only be gritted when there is ice on the roads not when there is a warning of ice.

Mr M Best (Somerset County Councillor) stated that Crewkerne, Ilminster and Chard libraries had been saved. The 19 libraries that had not been saved are in negotiation with Parish Councils and Communities.

There is to be no charge for recycling from 2020 and this is going to have an impact on the recycling centres. The Waste Board have decided to open Crewkerne Recycling centre for 3 days only which Mr M Best think will be Saturday, Sunday and Monday. Mr M Best had nothing further to report.

## 9. Finance

### A) To pay:-

1. Clerk Salary of £140.75 paid on Cheque 304
2. HMRC of £35.00 paid on Cheque 303

### B) To discuss the proposals for the precept.

The Clerk presented the proposals for the precept for 2019/20, the Chairman pointing out that the meeting did not actually agree the precept until the January meeting. The Clerk stated that she had put the burial board precept up for West Crewkerne by the same percentage as this current year. The Chairman stated that at the last meeting of the Burial Board they stated that possibly there would not be an increase this year in their precept for West Crewkerne. The clerk had increased the Public Liability Insurance by £20.00 and the grant to the village hall by £50.00. There would be no central government grant for 2019/20 and at present the clerk did not know the tax base she would need to use, so provisionally she had used this year's figure.

Mr M Best commented that central government had made it clear that there would be no future funding from them for local councils or parish councils. Therefore in the future if communities require services they may have to make a monetary contribution for the provision of those services. The clerk asked if anybody had any queries to come back to the clerk.

10. Correspondence;  
Various e-mails including SWP for September, Road Closures and cuts in the gritting programme.  
The Councillors confirmed they had received the correspondence, Mr D Yeomans had uploaded some of the correspondence on to the website. He however has not loaded the Gigaclear letter. The information in the letter is out of date and the timetable for closing roads has not been adhered to and also some of the roads they propose closing are totally impractical. Mr D Yeomans would like the clerk to communicate with Gigaclear for an update on their planned proposals of road closures. Gigaclear have advertised for a Community Liaison Officer but have not appointed one as yet. Mrs S Osborne stated that she thinks that they have opened an office in Taunton as they are primarily an Oxfordshire based company.  
The letter from Mr L Cappozzoli was discussed and dismissed, as finger posts are the responsibility of the Highways authority and the proposed cost was considered to be high.

11. The Chairman confirmed that the next meeting of West Crewkerne Parish Council will be held on the Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2019. The Chairman wished everyone at the meeting a “Happy Christmas”.  
Meeting finished at 8.55pm

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Chairman