

WEST CREWKERNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 8TH January 2019 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

2 Members of the Public

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from the Clerk as she was having knee surgery. Apologies received from Mr & Mrs M Wilson.

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.

Mr Nick Bacon a member of the public stated that the finger post on the Maiden Beech cross roads which is a very dangerous junction is missing. This sign posted traffic to Seaborough through Clapton (especially Lorries), at present Sat-Navs are sending all the traffic up Shave Lane. The finger post at the Hewish cross-roads the next junction on, which also sends Seaborough traffic through Clapton has been partially missing for 3 or 4 years. Mr N Bacon asked if this could be reported to the highways authority. The Chairman Mrs J Borland stated she had reported the matter to the highways department after the November meeting and they had stated that they had the finger post from the Maiden Beech cross roads in their yard. Mrs J Borland and Mr M Best (Somerset County Councillor) will follow up the matter separately.

Mr H Ploszek stated that he had taken a photograph of the footbridge referred to in item 7. The Chairman Mrs J Borland stated that the matter had been reported to the Rights of Way team with the grid references that Mr D Yeomans had provided but Mrs J Borland did not know when they would deal with 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 6B 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 13th November 2018**

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 13th November 2018 were approved by the Councillors present after they were proposed for adoption by Mr D Yeomans and seconded by Mrs C Broom.

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

There were two matters from the minutes that were not covered on the Agenda.

Both the Chairman Mrs J Borland and Mr Mike Best (Somerset County Councillor) had been misled on the grit for the roads in the event of a cold snap. At the last meeting it was stated that Parish Councils would not need to pay for their grit for this year but an e-mail had come out stating they would be charged and that Somerset County Council would fill up any grit bins within the Parish free of charge.

The second item was one that Mr Mick Wilson had brought up at the last meeting stating that there needs to be signage up on the B3165 before the Woolminstone turning showing that there is a turning and that there is a bend coming up. The Chairman Mrs J Borland stated that she had reported the matter on the Somerset Highways website after the meeting. However, there was no way of tracking what progress had been made on the report as you were not given a reference number, unlike Dorset Highways where you were given a reference number and could track the progress of the job. The Chairman Mrs J Borland asked Mr M Best (Somerset County Councillor) if he could feed these comments back to Somerset Highways.

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): 18/02610/FUL. 22ND August 2018 Land and Buildings Manor Farm Hewish Crewkerne Somerset.

The erection of an agricultural building to house machinery/feed and livestock.

Application permitted with conditions.

B): 18/03069/S73A 3RD September 2028 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.

Application permitted with conditions.

The Chairman stated that she had brought a copy of the considerations that were posted on the South Somerset District Council website on this application. The Chairman found it very frustrating that the Parish Council were being asked to comment in a very short time scale on a building that was almost completed.

C): 18/03701/COU. 15th November 2018 A H Warren Trust Ltd Coombe Farm Roundham Crewkerne Somerset TA18 8RR, Partial change of use to include café, retail sales and organic butchery.

The Chairman stated that looking on the website for South Somerset District Council at this application, again the Parish Council were being asked to comment in a very short time frame. The application was received on the 15th November 2018 but was not put on the website or sent out to the Parish Council until the middle of December 2018. The application appears to be a retrospective application because the work was started in July 2018 and is almost completed. There are no comments on the website from either Somerset Highways or Somerset County Council regarding the increase volume of traffic this application will generate. On the application the questions asking about the disposal of sewage and foul water are marked not known, this surely is insufficient for a planning application. The Somerset County Councillor (Mr Mike Best) and Mrs Sue Osborne (South Somerset District Councillor) both looked at the application which the Chairman had brought to the Parish Council Meeting and both agreed it should have been marked as a retrospective application. Mrs S Osborne (South Somerset District Councillor) stated she would send the case officer an e-mail tomorrow to find out what was happening on the case. The Chairman of the Parish Council stated that she had made a comment on the application, on behalf of the Parish Council and with the approval of the other Parish Councillors, suggesting the application be refused on the grounds of the increased volume of traffic going and coming from the proposed development.

7. Highway Matters

Roundham Small Improvement Scheme

The Chairman Mrs J Borland read out a reply she had received to her e-mail she had sent to the Small Improvement Scheme team at Somerset County Council. The plan that had been put together by Gary Warren (part of the SIS team) has now gone to the drawing office to be formally drawn up. The Steve Lawrence team will update the Parish Council regarding the plans when there is anything further to report. Mr B Carter Parish Councillor felt that no progress had been made at all on an improvement scheme for Roundham. He had sent various e-mails to Gary Warren and had never had the courtesy of one reply. The Chairman Mrs J Borland stated that they did have a scheme on the table but it was one that did not come up to everybody expectations. Mr D Yeomans Parish Councillor stated that the Parish Council had never received any response as to why the Avon and Somerset Police had objected to the speed limit being reduced down to 30mph when Roundham fulfils all the criteria laid down by the Department of Transport. Both the District and County Councillor suggested that the Parish Council put in a Freedom of Information request to Somerset Highways as to why on the original plan there was an objection to the speed limit. The Freedom of Information question needs to be specific and concise. If the objection came from the Avon and Somerset Police, which is, what, has been muted, then, if necessary a Freedom of Information request can be made to Avon and Somerset Police. If the answers are not received within 28 days from the date of making the request or the answer does not answer the question then the matter can be forwarded to the Information Commissioners Office and they will contact the offending body with a request to respond within 10 days and the Information Commissioners Office will follow up the request to ensure that it is dealt with satisfactorily.

Footbridge at Woolminstone for repair.

The Chairman stated that the footbridge at Woolminstone had been reported to the Rights of Way team at Somerset County Council. Mr H Ploszek had brought along to the meeting photographs of the damage to the

footbridge. The Chairman Mrs J Borland thanked Mr H Ploszek for the photographs.

Flooding at Dunshams Lane

Mrs C Broom (Parish Councillor) stated that just before Christmas Dunshams Lane flooded for approximately 2 hours before the water dispersed. The Chairman had looked at the lane and stated that the ditch was clogged with silt and debris and needed to be cleaned out. The ditch was on the farmer's land Mr F Broom and therefore it was the responsibility of the farmer to clear the ditch, although the Chairman had reported the problem to Somerset Highways.

Mrs J Borland also stated that something had gone into Clapton Bridge taking out about 25% of the stones off the bridge and also moving the crash barrier on the other side of the road. There were currently barriers on one side of the bridge alerting drivers. It was hoped that the repairs would take place as a matter of urgency. The coping stones knocked off at the nearby bridge to Wayford have still not been replaced after they were knocked off in June 2018. Hopefully this length of time to repair would not be the case with the Clapton Bridge.

8. Reports from Councillors, including District and County Councillors. No reports from Parish Councillors Mr F Freeman, Mrs C Broom, Mr D Yeomans and Mr B Carter. No report from Mr M Best (Somerset County Councillor). Mrs S Osborne (South Somerset District Councillor) stated that Somerset had been chosen as one of the Council to take part in a project looking at business rates retention. The small amount of monies that it will generate will go in the regeneration project. The Unitary Authority is still an ongoing project. Mr M Best (Somerset County Councillor) stated that the Government are looking at ways to decrease the level of business rates at a time when the Government funding to local councils is being cut by 2020. Mrs S Osborne (South Somerset District Councillor) also stated that the payment to local councils for new homes and time limits to claim, is also under review. It is therefore challenging times for both local and county councils.

9. Finance

A): To agree the proposals for the precept for 2019/20

The precept proposals were discussed. The Burial Board Committee had looked at the expected expenditure on the Cemeteries and had taken the decision not to raise the Burial Board Precept for this year. Therefore West Crewkerne Parish Council's share of the Burial Board Precept had gone down by £1.00 for 2019/20.

Mr D Yeomans proposed that the £500.00 for other grants be taken out of the workings for the Parish Council precept as no other body claimed any grant. This proposal was seconded by Mr F Freeman and agreed by the meeting. Mr D Yeomans also proposed that the grant to the village hall stay at £800.00 not £850.00, this was seconded by Mr B Carter. Mr F Freeman, Mrs C Broom and Mrs J Borland were unable to vote on this proposal as they were on the village hall committee.

10. Correspondence;
Various e-mails including SWP for December, Road Closures and Somerset County Council's gritting programme for 2019/20
The Chairman Mrs J Borland stated that the two e-mails to look at were the Rights of Way e-mail and the Website compliance regulations for disabilities. The Chairman asked for any comments on any of the other e-mails received, no further comments made.
11. To confirm that the next meeting of the West Crewkerne Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 12th March 2019 at Clapton & Wayford Village Hall at 7.00pm.

Meeting closed at 8.20pm

Chairman

DRAFT