

WEST CREWKERNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 12th November 2019 at Clapton & Wayford Village Hall

Members Present

Mrs Julia Borland (Chairman)
Mrs Caroline Broom
Mr Frank Freeman
Mr D Yeomans
Mr R Franklin
Mr Barrie Carter
Mr Mike Best (Somerset County Councillor)

Also present

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

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Mrs Sue Osborne (South Somerset County Councillor)

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.

A member of the public asked whether Gigaclear had actually lost the contract to install broadband in this area. This was confirmed by Mr D Yeomans (Parish Councillor) and Mr M Best (Somerset County Councillor). Mr D Yeomans stated he had contacted Gigaclear and they were looking at continuing the work as a commercial venture. In the meantime Mr D Yeomans had contacted EE and for £40.00 per month for 200mgbytes of data had obtained broadband through his mobile with download speeds averaging 30 to 50 and upload speeds even faster. He paid £100.00 for an aerial to be fitted to the side of the house to obtain the signal. This is comparable with Gigaclear but cheaper than the South West Broadband advertised in the Rural Bulletin.

Another member of the public stated that there had been an incident of fly-tipping a hundred yards up from Lyminster Farm Woolminstone. South Somerset District Council's workmen had come and removed the waste that had been dumped. Mrs C Broom stated that Crewkerne waste recycling facility opening times are staying the same after April 2020, the only difference is it will be free to take your waste to the centre.

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

No declarations of interest in any of the matters on the agenda from any of the Parish Councillors

4. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 10th September 2019

The minutes approved by the meeting and proposed for approval by Mr F Freeman and seconded by Mr D Yeomans.

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

Points raised:

Hedge on the left hand side of Clapton Bridge – Chairman stated that she had been down to look at the hedge and found a sign had been pushed into the hedge. She cut as much of the vegetation around the sign as she could and reported the sign on the Somerset County Council website and workmen had come the next day to put the sign back in its rightful place. Mrs J Borland (Chairman) stated that Somerset County Council seemed to be pro-active at the moment and she could not emphasize enough the importance of this website for reporting matters needing attention to Somerset County Council.

Cathole Bridge Road Housing

Mr R Franklin stated that he and Mr F Freeman both went to a meeting regarding the above development. Mr M Best (Somerset County Councillor) stated that the development had been turned down. He stated that nothing will happen now unless the developers go to appeal, if that happens because of the size of the development it will probably be a public appeal which will take place at South Somerset District Council and the Planning Inspector having examined all the objections put forward will make the final decision.

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); 19/02348/DPO 31ST July 2019 Flaxhayes Woolminstone West Crewkerne, Crewkerne Somerset TA18 8QP. Application to remove and discharge the agricultural tithe in relation to the planning application 91944 and the S106 agreement dated 28th May 1992 between SSDC and Kenneth Geoffrey Wetherall and Maureen Ruth Dare.

Application Permitted

B); 19/02372/FUL 28th August 2019 Land OS6400 Peckmoor Farm Henley Crewkerne Somerset. Use of land for revised sting of 2 holiday lodges, formation of hardstanding for lodges and formation of trackways.

Application still outstanding at time of meeting

C); 19/02774/PAMB 23rd September 2019 Farm buildings Lyminster Woolminstone Crewkerne Som. Notification for prior approval for the change of use of agricultural building to dwelling house.

Application still outstanding at time of meeting

D); 19/02922/HOU 12th October 2019 The Rye Barn, Hewish, Crewkerne Somerset TA18 8QT. Garage conversion to form entrance, to include a door and 2 windows along with cladding and stone wall to match existing.

Application still outstanding at time of meeting

Planning Training for Town and Parish Clerks.

The Chairman asked Mr F Freeman and Miss J Parsons about the above training course they had both attended. The Parish Clerk gave an over view of the course and viewing planning applications on the planning site of South Somerset District Council. They both found the course useful.

7. Highway Matters

Roundham Small Improvement Scheme.

The Clerk read out a response to an e-mail she had sent to Somerset County Council. The work has gone out to tender and they hope to start the work before Christmas but realistically it will probably start in the New Year weather permitting.

Gigaclear work within the Parish of West Crewkerne.

This matter had been discussed under item no.2 Public open Forum. Mr Ben Stevens had been invited to the meeting but was unable to make the meeting due to prior commitments.

Finger Post at Cathole Bridge Road Crossroads.

The finger post has been repaired and put back in its original place.

Small Improvement Scheme at Maiden Beech Crossroads.

Mr D Yeomans asked Mr M Best what was happening with this scheme which had been put forward in July 2017 and approved in January 2018. Mr M Best stated that there was a backlog of schemes going back four and half years, the County Council has just authorised more money into the scheme to clear the backlog. Once the backlog is cleared then current schemes can be action. At present no new small improvement schemes are allowed to be put forward until the backlog is cleared.

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

Mrs C Broom stated that the cars are still travelling too fast on the corner she lives but the Chairman pointed out that that piece of road has the National Speed limit on it.

No reports from Mr F Freeman or Mr D Yeomans. Mr B Carter again voiced his objections to the Roundham scheme.

Mr R Franklin stated that the hedge from the Clapton Village Hall towards Hewish on the B3165 still has not been cut back by Highways Department. The Chairman will follow this up.

Mr M Best (Somerset County Councillor) gave his report, the councils are now in purdah because of the General Election and no decisions will be taken until after the General Election on matters arising at the Councils, so they are not seen to be influencing the election in any way.

9. Considerations for a Neighbourhood Plan. Document to follow in a couple of days

The Chairman Mrs Julia Borland invited Mr M Best as a Crewkerne Town Councillor to explain about the neighbourhood plan. Mr M Best explained that Crewkerne Town Council had decided to go ahead with a neighbourhood plan so they can to a certain extent control where future planning and building take place. As it is a huge commitment in time and effort they thought they would ask neighbouring parishes if

they would like to join in with the Neighbourhood plan. Housing Developers are looking toward small towns and villages now for development sites as they view these areas as vulnerable and less likely to have the money to challenge the development. However if a town or parish has a neighbourhood plan in place with designated areas where housing development can take place then the planning inspectorate has to take this into consideration when considering a planning application for houses. The local community will need to get involved in the process of drawing up the neighbourhood plan. The Chairman felt that West Crewkerne Parish needed to get involved as so much of West Crewkerne Parish borders Crewkerne Town Council. Mr D Yeomans and Mr F Freeman however had reservations as to how many residents of West Crewkerne Parish would want to get involved in the drawing up of the neighbourhood plan. Mr R Franklin felt that as a Parish Council, to protect the interests of the Parish, we had to advocate this neighbourhood plan subject to the residents coming on board. The Chairman also agreed with this statement and she will speak to the clerk of Crewkerne Town Council as to how they propose engaging with the public on this subject. A member of the Public suggested having a flyer printed and handing these out to residents as they came to the hall to vote in the General Election.

10. Finance

A): To pay the Clerk's Salary £83.50 Cheque No.322.

B): To pay HMRC £21.00 Cheque No. 321

C): To pay maintenance charge on website £100.00 Cheque No. 320

Mr D Yeomans stated that it was not really a maintenance charge but a charge for the domain name and a charge for the hosting of the name.

D): The half yearly statement of Receipts and Payments for the period ended 30th September 2019.

Mr R Franklin asked if the previous year's figures could be incorporated as a separate column alongside the current year's figures for ease of reading.

Other than this point the Parish Councillors had no objects to the receipts and payments for the year ended 30th September 2019 and voted unanimously to accept the statement of receipts and payments for the half year ended 30th September 2019.

11. Correspondence;

Various e-mails including recycling monthly updates from SWP.

Road Closures from Gigaclear and other utilities providers. The Chairman stated that she does forward the notices of road closures to Mr D Yeomans to put on the website and she prints a copy off and puts on the Parish Council Notice Board by the Clapton and Wayford village hall.

Avon and Somerset Police.

Somerset Waste Partnership new recycling details from 2020

The Chairman asked Mr M Best (Somerset County Councillor) to explain to Mr R Franklin (Parish Councillor) about the new recycling scheme that is being phased in in 2020. Mr M Best explained that the scheme had been trialled in the Watchet area and the feedback from the residents had been positive. There was going to be more kerbside recycling which should cut down on the waste in the tall black bin. The tall black bins would then be recycled every three weeks. There were exceptions such as

young families with disposable nappies and elderly people with health issues, they could request their bins be empty every two weeks. Mr R Franklin stated that he let out an annexe on their property and dog owners were allowed to bring their pets which resulted in dog waste, he felt that three weeks was too long to leave this to be empty. He asked Mr M Best if he could bring this to the attention of the council as an exception for having the bins empty fortnightly. A member of the public asked what was going to be done with all this plastic. Mr M Best stated that a new facility had been built at Avonmouth and the plastic was going to be incinerated and this converted back into energy. Mr M Best stated that pressure is being brought to bear on the manufacturers to cut the amount of plastic they use for packaging.

Tree Planting Policy

12. To confirm that the next meeting of the West Crewkerne Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 14th January 2020 at Clapton & Wayford Village Hall at 7.00pm. Confirmed at the meeting and the Chairman thanked everybody for coming and wished everybody a Happy Christmas.

Meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Chairman