

WEST CREWKERNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 25th November 2021 at Clapton and Wayford Village Hall at 7pm.

The scheduled meeting for 9th November 2021 was adjourned due to social distancing concerns raised by Councillors.

Members Present

Mrs J Borland

Mr D Yeomans

Mr Frank Freeman

Mrs C Broom

Mrs Sue Osborne (South Somerset District Councillor)

Mr Mike Best (Somerset County Councillor)

Also present

Two members of the Public present

1. Apologies for Absence.

Miss Jackie Parsons (Parish Clerk)

2. Agreement to the dispensation requested by Mrs J Borland

Mrs Borland asked for this dispensation request to be deferred due to two medical cancellations.

3. Public Open Forum

The two members of the public expressed concern regarding some deep and large potholes within the parish.

Councillors advocated use of the County Council website by residents to report road issues as and when they are observed. There was now the facility to attach photos illustrating the nature and extent of the road problem when submitting their report.

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

No Interests declared on any item on the Agenda by any Parish Councillor.

5. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 14th September 2021.

The minutes were approved by the meeting after proposal for approval by Mrs Caroline Broom and seconded by Mr Frank Freeman.

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

No matters arising.

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): Fuzzy Ground and concerns raised.

Any further information on the enforcement of the original planning application?

No further information available at the date of the meeting.

B): 20/03273/FUL Land at Os4600 Peckmoor Farm Henley, Crewkerne Somerset. Use of land for siting of 3 holiday lodges and formation of hard standings and track ways.

Awaiting decision.

C): 21/01025/HOU Manor Barns Henley Cross West Crewkerne Crewkerne TA18 8PG. The insertion of 2 no. dormer windows and 5 no. roof lights

Application approved with conditions.

D): 21/02940/FUL Land and buildings at Henley Crewkerne, Somerset.

Proposed demolition of agricultural buildings and the erection of 5 private dwellings with parking and gardens.

Awaiting decision.

West Crewkerne Parish Councillors were concerned with additional vehicle and cyclist entering Cathole Bridge Road from the single track private road.

Both District and County Councillors spent some time discussing the Phosphate implications for house building in Somerset. Where water flowed into the Somerset levels there were numerous constraints placed on the quality of the water being discharged into the levels.

West Crewkerne water flowed into the River Axe so we were not subject to the disruptions to house building caused by the necessity to adhere to the strict Phosphate guidelines.

7. **Highway Matters**

On three separate occasions this year there had been flooding on the B3165 from Clapton Gate to Brooms Farm /Dunsham Lane. There were no signs warning drivers that this stretch of road does flood. Drivers seem to not understand how to drive in flooding and on each of the three flooded occasions cars had been both stranded and/or written off. It was agreed to contact Somerset Highways to request a warning sign be erected at each end of this stretch of road. Gravel and mud especially where Dunsham Lane joins the B3165 is always a hazard after heavy rain. Also of concern was the culvert opposite Fairview, Clapton Gate. This culvert which

should take water under the road to enter the stream below the ford was blocked, with it is assumed gravel/ debris. The result is that additional water is channelled along the B3165.

It was agreed that this issue should also be reported by the Parish Council to Somerset Highways.

8. Roundham

The Parish Council had been informed that the road improvement scheme had after many delays finally been completed. Following this completion a survey would be completed to monitor the effectiveness of the scheme.

Mr Don Yeomans (as an individual) had asked via a freedom of information request made to the police for the number of speed-checks which had been carried out by them between August 2020 and 31st July 2021.

There had been 14 occasions where speed-checks had taken place, with 79 notices of prosecution being issued. So there clearly remains an issue with vehicles exceeding the 40MPH speed limit.

As yet it was noted that no response had been received to the Parish Councils official complaint concerning the protracted Roundham Small Improvement Scheme.

The complaint reference number would be forwarded to our County Councillor, Mr Mike Best for him to follow up.

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

Mrs C Broom reported that many signs were left along verges which would be better being collected and reused rather than being left to be run over or left in the way for verge cutters.

Mr F Freeman has been hedge trimming around the varying road signs through Clapton so they are more visible to motorists.

Mrs J Borland asked if there was a map of ditches and verges throughout the parish indicating where the County Council had responsibility for their maintenance. Mr M Best indicated there was one on the County Council website.

Mr M Best gave an informed report regarding plans for the Unitary Authority, number of proposed councillors, a joint scrutiny panel, maybe a boundary review , possible May elections and stated that the decisions by central government should be made known by the end of November.

Mrs S Osbourne's report covered the District Councils recommendations for a check and balance of the Unitary Authority via a scrutiny panel. She also reported there had been a meeting involving County and District Councils, Somerset Association of local Councils and members from the voluntary sector debating the impact likely following Somerset becoming a Unitary Authority.

10. Finance

A) To pay:-

1. Clerk Salary £105.84 + £9.00 travelling expenses = £114.84 Cheque No.366
2. HMRC £26.60 Cheque No.365

B) Half Yearly accounts to September 30th 2021

These were agreed at the meeting.

C): Receipt of £1495 from the Communities Fund for opening up Safely and Reconnecting for the Clapton and Wayford Village.

This was noted.

D): Issue of a cheque to Clapton and Wayford Village Hall for £1495 to enable them to carry out a survey to ascertain what events the community would like to see undertaken at the village hall. Cheque No. 364

This was noted.

E): Cheque for £25 to SALC for a training course for our new parish councillor. Cheque No. 367

11. Correspondence

Future of Community Health and Care Services report by Oliver Pyle-Santini was carried forward to the January meeting.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022. A joint celebration event was being planned with Wayford. A possibility for a beacon was discussed.

12. To confirm that the next meeting of the West Crewkerne Parish Council will be held on Thursday 27th January 2022 in the Main Hall at Clapton and Wayford Village Hall at 7pm.

Signed Chairman