

West Crewkerne Parish Council

Minutes of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held 20th May 2022

Present: Cllrs J. Borland, C. Broom, F. Freeman, District Councillor Mike Best, County Councillor Steve Ashton, Clerk to the Council R. Richards and one resident

1. Election of a Chairman to preside over the Annual Parish Meeting
Julia Borland was elected as Chair for the meeting
Proposed: Cllr Freeman **Seconded:** Cllr Broom **Vote:** 2-0-1
2. Apologies for Absence
Apologies were received from Cllr D. Yeomans
3. To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 4th May 2021 via Zoom
Proposal: The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record
Proposed: Cllr Borland **Seconded:** Cllr Freeman **Vote:** 3-0-0
4. To receive a report from the Chairman of the West Crewkerne Parish Council
The Chairman read a report covering the previous year
For a copy of the full report please refer to appendix 1
5. To receive reports from any Parish Organisations present

Clapton and Wayford Village Hall: Cllr Borland read her report
For a copy of the full report please refer to appendix 2

The Matthew Chubbs Almshouses Charity: Cllr Freeman provided a report which included details of a Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebration being held on 5th June for the residents. He also reported on the situation with the current residents. He also reported that they are looking to eventually buy another house.

Crewkerne and West Crewkerne Joint Burial Committee: Cllr Borland read her report
For a copy of the full report please refer to appendix 3

Meeting Closed at 7.15pm

Chairman's Annual report for West Crewkerne Parish Council May 2021-May 2022

In July 2021 West Crewkerne Parish Council held its first face to face meeting since March 2020. In the interim all meetings had taken place over Zoom.

With the encouraging of no mow May concern was expressed about roadside verge cutting, especially at junctions. The planned cutting timetable was available on Somerset County Council website.

Roundham Small Improvement Scheme was finally completed and speed monitoring to measure the effectiveness of the scheme took place in the latter half of 2021. The results were discussed by councillors who agreed to pursue a request to have the speed limit through Roundham reduced to 30mph. This was as a result of looking at the current 40mph and the number of vehicles who exceeded this speed limit. To date this matter has yet to be resolved.

The South Somerset changes to their recycling collections did cause some issues throughout West Crewkerne, especially within the Woolminstone area. However, all does now appear to be running well.

There have been few planning applications, and many are still awaiting a decision.

Flooding on highways is a concern and some work throughout the parish has been undertaken by the County Council Highways department. Using their website to report issues is usually followed up quickly, however completion of work involved to rectify the reported problem can take many weeks.

In November with coronavirus increasing within the area the Parish Council decided to move their meeting to the large main room in the village hall. Social distancing was more easily possible in this environment. In January 2022 it was agreed to move the bi-monthly meetings of the council to the fourth Thursday in the month on a permanent basis. The main hall would be used.

In November 2021 our Parish Clerk Jackie Parsons resigned for personal reasons. She was thanked for her time as our clerk and was presented with a gift as a token of our appreciation.

In January we appointed our new Parish Clerk Rose Richards. I should like to thank both for their support.

As a result of the May 2022 election the new West Crewkerne Parish Council as from 9th May 2022 will have a one-off term of 5 years. This is to bring parish and town councils into line with elections for the Somerset Unitary Authority. The election for West Crewkerne was uncontested as only four persons stood for election. The duly elected members for our council are Don Yeomans, Caroline Broom, Frank Freeman and myself Julia Borland. There are currently two vacancies for councillors.

Julia Borland
Chairman West Crewkerne Parish Council

May 20th 2022

Appendix 2

Chairman's report 2020-2021

I should like to thank you for coming to Clapton and Wayford Village Hall's AGM.

Some facts and figures....

Our year runs from October 1st 2020 and ends September 30th 2021. During that time this village hall has been closed for a total of 26 weeks. The longest single stretch was from December 27th 2020 when yet another lockdown was imposed and we were unable to reopen until 17th May.

Some but not all our regular users have returned, some initially very cautiously, and sadly some of our previous users, and for a variety of reasons have not resumed their previous activities. On a positive note we do have a few new users

As we approach the end of the second year of the pandemic it is apparent that many people have become used to staying more at home, spending time with their family and have almost got out the habit of 'going out'.

There is an enormous challenge to engage with the community surrounding this hall. This is a common feature in many village halls throughout Somerset. Trying to second guess what may attract users and visitors to the hall is very hard.

We have been fortunate to receive grants via South Somerset District Council totally £10,674, these have been directly funded by central government, who realised that support was needed by village halls (as part of the hospitality businesses) to assist in ensuring a lack of user's income would potentially result in many such facilities closing permanently. In addition, we have received from Somerset Community Council a grant for £2500 specifically for our new overhead heaters. Such heaters had been on our wish list for a number of years and with a donation of £500 a couple of years earlier, and by using some of our other grant support we have been able to install them. With the hall closed until mid-May this was an opportune time for the electricians to complete the job.

I should like to thank both West Crewkerne and Wayford Parish Councils for their financial assistance. Also I must thank Sue Osbourne our District Councillor for her interest and support for this village hall.

The administration needs of the hall have been completed across the year, committee meetings both via ZOOM and face to face, we now use on line banking, the internet has been installed and many background maintenance tasks have been completed.

Barbara Woodward in her first year as treasurer must be thanked for her persistence in arranging for online banking with Lloyds. This has certainly assisted with our accounts, even more so now that Lloyds bank in Crewkerne is closing.

The hall is reaching a crossroads, who is it here to serve and what is its role for the local community. These are questions requiring answers

Finally, I should like to thank all the committee for their ongoing support, but especially Mary Wilson who has spent many hours reading and interpreting each new covid related document.

Julia Borland

28th October 2021

Appendix 3

Annual report for the Crewkerne and West Crewkerne Joint Burial Committee.

The Townsend Cemetery is now registered at HM Land Registry in the names of both Councils.

It was agreed that the cemetery lodge refurbishment discussions be deferred until after the council elections in May 2022. The lodge had been previously occupied by the cemetery superintendent. This position no longer exists. The decision requiring to be made concerning the future of the lodge will be very complex.

There had been replacement paths within the most frequent areas of the newer part of the cemetery.

The mowing throughout the cemetery proved a challenge, largely due to the weather. The local contractors met with the Committee Chairman and Crewkerne Town Clerk on a regular basis to ensure the maintenance of the cemetery is well managed.

Crewkerne in Bloom have a dedicated group of volunteers who have greatly enhanced areas within the cemetery. Our thanks are given to them from all members of the joint committee.

Julia Borland

Chairman of the Joint Burial Committee.