

WEST CREWKERNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 9th March 2021 via Zoom Conferencing

Members Present

Mrs Julia Borland (Chairman)

Mr D Yeomans

Mr Frank Freeman

Mrs C Broom

Mr R Franklin

Mr Mike Best (Somerset County Councillor)

Mrs Sue Osborne (South Somerset District Councillor)

Also present

Miss Jackie Parsons (Parish Clerk)

1. Apologies for Absence.

None

2. Public Open Forum

No members of the public attended the meeting

3. 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.

4. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 12th January 2021.

The minutes were approved by the meeting and proposed for approval by Mr Don Yeomans and seconded by Mrs Caroline Broom.

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

Mr R Franklin (Parish Councillor) brought up the Mobile Home situated in old School Field Watery Lane Hewish. The Clerk stated that she had received a reply from the person who owned the land on which the mobile home was sited enclosing a copy of a letter he had written to South Somerset District Council Planning department seeking pre-planning advice and that he was also waiting to engage the services of an architect post covid-19 regulations. The Clerk stated that as far as she could remember the person owning the land was going to put up some sheds for livestock and accommodation-

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.

The Chairman Mrs. J Borland stated that she had received an email from the person dealing with the enforcement of this case stating that she had had a meeting with the legal department of South Somerset District Council to sort out a multitude of enforcement cases and this case was still near the top of her list to resolve and would be in contact with the Chairman in the very near future.

B): 20/03499/HOU Highridge, Clapton Road West Crewkerne Crewkerne TA18 8PR.
Erection of a single storey extension to rear of dwelling.

Application permitted with conditions. Noted

C): 20/03289/HOU The Granary, Henley Manor, Henley Cross, West Crewkerne, Crewkerne TA18 8PQ.

Insertion of a conservation roof light to front elevation of dwelling.

Application permitted with conditions Noted

D): 20/03290/LBC The Granary, Henley Manor, Henley Cross, West Crewkerne, Crewkerne TA18 8PQ.

Insertion of a conservation roof light to front elevation of dwelling.

Application permitted with conditions Noted

E): 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 trackways.

Awaiting decision. Noted

Mr R Franklin stated that on the road into Hewish from the main road about halfway down on the left hand side there appeared to be a barn under construction and asked if this needed following up?

7. Highway Matters

A. New gullies between Hewish cross-roads and the bungalow named Copperfield , Somerset Highways have put in some nice new gullies however they get silted up with debris off the road which ends up with water across the road. The Chairman stated that last week highways came, cleared the gullies and jetted the drains so it will be interesting to see whether when we get some heavy rain whether the drains block again.

B. Drain on the B3165, the Clapton Road.

This work is currently being done with a diversion around the work being carried out.

Mr Mike Best had been contacted by a parishioner asking detailed questions on the work to which he was trying to get answers to. The Clerk had contacted Somerset Highways regarding the problems with the B3165 from the Cathole Bridge Crossroads through to Clapton and they had stated that they were scheduled to carry out further work along the B3165 and there has subsequently been an email to this effect. Mr Mike Best stated that it is all very well putting in the new drains but where is the water going and if where the water is going is not capable of dealing with it then it then it just going to back up across the highway again

Mrs C Broom had been approached by some parishioners regarding potholes from Hewish Crossroads to Higher Folly.

Potholes in Shave Lane.

Bridge down to Woolminstone needs resurfacing. Would the Parish Council please report this matter to Somerset Highways? The Chairman pointed out that the Somerset Highways website was very good for reporting matters like the above and that Parishioners would get the matter dealt with speedier by reporting it on the website rather than waiting for a Parish Council meeting to report the matter. The above would be reported to Somerset Highways.

8. Roundham

Update from Somerset County Council regarding speeding monitors.

The Clerk stated that the person dealing with this matter had been seconded to the vaccination programme and had only just returned to dealing with her own work. She is contacting the police to find out exactly where they took their reading in Roundham and they will then take them in the same place and compare the two sets of readouts. Mr D Yeomans asked if the person at Somerset County Council had made any comments on the Police speed reports and the Clerk stated no, Mr D Yeomans asked the Clerk to follow this up.

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

Frank Freeman and Caroline Broom had nothing to report. Mr Don Yeomans stated that the Domain name for the Parish website was up for renewal and he had tried to contact Mr Nigel Ferguson of Quick and Simple by telephone and email but to no avail. He had therefore transferred the domain name to himself and it had been renewed for a further three years. Mr D Yeomans stated that because he had been unable to contact Mr N Fergusson and it was unusual for him not to respond within 24 hours he had been looking at companies to host the Parish Council website as this comes up for renewal in September and if this is not renewed the website goes down. Mr D Yeomans had contacted one company called Namesco Ltd who were willing to host the website and transfer it across to them and it would cost approximately £329. Mr D Yeomans asked if the Parish Council would sanction this action, the motion was proposed by Julia Borland and seconded by Mr Frank Freeman and agreed by all the Councillors.

Mrs J Borland asked Councillors to use and also to encourage Parishioners to look at the various websites that are available to us. For example there was a stile on a footpath around Woolminstone that needed replacing, it was reported on the footpaths website one week and the next week there was a nice new metal gate in its place, Mr Mike Best (Somerset County Councillor) stated that there was still members of staff from Somerset County Council and South Somerset District Council working on the vaccination rollout, so please be patient with the Councils.

The Unitary Bid has gone to the Government Minister for consideration so there will be no County Elections in May. There will be a shadow council in 2022 and proper elections for Councillors in 2023.

The District Council has set the precept for Council Tax which is up to the maximum it can charge.

There is extra money for potholes available.

Sue Osborne (South Somerset District Councillor) Somerset is ahead with its vaccination programme.

Area Meetings are now being held again after being suspended for two months due to staff working on the vaccination programme.

District Councils will not exist in 2022 and we should know in June this year which scheme for Somerset the government would have decided on.

The Government has granted the Octagon Theatre 10 million pounds.

Somerset has a problem with phosphates in the water leading to poor water quality.

There is a bill going through Parliament regarding sewage treatment which South Somerset District Council has supported.

Police and Crime Commission elections are still being held on the 6th May 2021 together with some town and Parish elections

Broadband Briefing on what can be done for rural communities in relation to access to broadband.

10. Finance

A) To pay:-

1. Clerk Salary £181.66 Cheque No. 349
2. HMRC £45.41 Cheque No. 348
3. Pay SALC for two training courses £50.00. These invoices have already been paid. Cheque No. 347
4. Domain name transferred and renewed, Cheque to Mr D Yeomans for £56.39 for the cost of this. Cheque No. 346

11. Correspondence;

A): Various e-mails. Coronavirus updates from various sources, Avon and Somerset Constabulary, Somerset Waste Partnership and Rural Bulletin.

B): Parish Footpath warden.

The Clerk stated that she had received an email regarding appointing a Parish footpath officer to make sure that the footpaths in the parish are in order and maintained. Mr D Yeomans asked if the post was voluntary which it was. It was agreed that a statement could go on the website asking if anybody was interested in volunteering for the role. Mr Mike Best also stated that Network Rail had presented a presentation to Crewkerne Town Council regarding the re-routing of the footpath on the Kithill Development, this footpath also goes through West Crewkerne Parish but the West Crewkerne Parish Council had received no notification regarding this matter. Mr Mike Best will forward the information to the Chairman regarding the re-routing of the footpath and also forward the names of the people from Network Rail so that the Clerk can communicate with them and ask to be included in any discussion regarding the footpath.

12. The clerk stated that Mr Barrie Carter was no longer a Parish Councillor because in 2020 he had failed to attend a Parish Council meeting in a six-month period and had forfeited the right to be a Parish Councillor. Therefore, there was a vacancy for a Parish Councillor on the West Crewkerne Parish Council. The Clerk stated that she would like to hold an extraordinary meeting with the Councillors to explain the six month rule and the procedure for filling the vacancy.

13. To confirm that the next meeting of the West Crewkerne Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 11th May 2021 this will be the Annual Meeting of the Parish as well as the Parish Council meeting. At this present time we do not know if it will be via Zoom or in person. It is subject to the Government extending the statute that allows Parish Council to use Zoom as a platform for meetings. If the statute is not extended then the meeting could be held in the Clapton and Wayford village hall subject to the Roadmap out of Lockdown going according to the Government's Plan.