

West Crewkerne Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held 24th November 2022

Present: Cllrs J. Borland (Chair), D. Yeomans, F. Freeman and C. Broom

Also in attendance were two residents and the Clerk to the Council R. Richards

063 Members to receive apologies for absence and to approve the Reasons given (LGA 1972 s85(1))

No apologies were received.

064 To receive any Declarations of Interest (pecuniary or non-statutory Interests) – None received

065 Approve the Minutes of the Council Meeting Held 29th September 2022 (LGA 1972 sch 12, para 41(1))

Resolved: Members approved the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held 29th September 2022

Proposed: Cllr Freeman **Seconded:** Cllr Broom **Vote:** 4-0-0

066 Outstanding Items Update

- a) Blocked culvert opposite Fairview, Clapton Gate – Findings show that the culvert is not blocked just not big enough to take the volume of water if we get a lot of rain
- b) Dead oak tree at Woolminstone has now been attended to - All dead branches have now been removed
- c) Blocked drain at Higher Woolminstone Farm – There has been some improvement but water still accumulates on the road
- d) Update on the removal of the caravan at Watery Lane – The caravan has now been removed but a mobile caravan has now been put in its place. This will not require planning permission unless it is used as a permanent residence

067 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 reported to the Planning Officer. South Somerset District Council is the Planning Authority and will issue the final decision notice.

- a) Members to resolve Applications received - None
- b) Applications Decisions received
22/01334/FUL Land At Peckmoor Farm Henley Cross Crewkerne – Approved
22/02454/OUT 1 And 2 Portway Cottages Cathole Bridge Road Crewkerne – Refused
- c) Applications Awaiting Decision
22/02315/HOU Boughbeeche Clapton Road West Crewkerne TA18 8PS – Awaiting Decision
22/02536/FUL 1 & 2 Portway Cottages Cathole Bridge Road Crewkerne – Awaiting Decision

068 Finance

Proposals:

- a) Members to approve the November payments and sign cheques
- b) Members to approve the bank reconciliations
- c) Members to consider the 2023/24 budget proposal

Resolved: Members approved the November payments totalling £433.75

Proposed: Cllr Yeomans **Seconded:** Cllr Broom **Vote:** 4-0-0

Resolved: Members approved the September and October bank reconciliations

Proposed: Cllr Yeomans **Seconded:** Cllr Freeman **Vote:** 4-0-0

The Burial Board payment was queried as this equates to 43% of the of the total precept, the hire costs of the Hall were also queried.

069 Members to pass a resolution to sign up to the civility and respect pledge

Resolved: Members resolved to sign up to the Civility & Respect Pledge **Proposed:** Cllr Borland **Seconded:** Cllr Yeomans **Vote:** 4-0-0

070 Document Review

Members to review and adopt the following policies:

- a) Freedom of Information Policy
- b) Disciplinary Procedures
- c) Grievance Policy
- d) Dignity at Work Policy

Resolved: Members adopted all four policies **Proposed:** Cllr Freeman **Seconded:** Cllr Broom **Vote:** 4-0-0

071 Highway Matters

- a) Update of Speed Indicator Devices – **Action:** Clerk to chase Steve Ashton
- b) Update on the installation of the ‘Road Liable to Flooding’ signs on the B3165 – The sign has been fitted but is partly obscured by overgrowth
- c) Update on the arrangements with SCC for a Speed check in Roundham – This has been arranged and will take place at the end of November
- d) Maiden Beech Crossroads Small Improvement Scheme – The SIS was discussed including the fact that most of the trees have been cut back but it was felt that a small roundabout would have been more useful.

072 Members to consider whether to nominate someone for the Somerset Emergency Community

Contact database – Due to the level of commitment required no one was nominated

073 Members to consider a request for a Defibrillator for the old phone box in Hewish

After a discussion it was decided that due to the location and spread of houses a defibrillator would not be viable. Dog Waste Bins and Grit Bins were also discussed. It was queried who owned the phone box.

Action: Clerk to check with BT who owns the phone box and whether the council can adopt it.

074 Chairman to give a report on the ‘Introduction to Rights of Way legislation’ she attended

Cllr Borland reported on the training and the powers the Parish Council have in respect of Parish Rights Of Way (PROW). All PROW’s need to be checked as any mistakes on the definitive map have to be corrected by January 2026. **Action:** Cllr Freeman will walk the footpaths and report back.

075 Clerk’s Report and Correspondence

Confidential Items

Proposal: Under Standing Orders 3d and 10xi the Parish Council resolves that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted (legal, personal or commercial), the press and public be excluded and they are instructed to withdraw.

076 Cllr Freeman to report on his findings in respect of a possible breach of planning

The main issues were covered and it was agreed that the clerk would report this to the enforcement officer.

077 Members to consider increasing the Clerk’s salary in line with the NJC Pay Scales for 2022/23

Resolved: Members resolved to increase the Clerk’s salary in line with the NJC Pay Scales, backdated to 1st April 2022 **Proposed:** Cllr Borland **Seconded:** Cllr Yeomans **Vote:** 4-0-0

078 Date of Next Meeting: 26th January 2023

Meeting closed at 8.10pm

Signed: Date: 26th January 2023