

West Crewkerne Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held 26th January 2023

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

Also in attendance were 5 residents County Councillor S Ashton and the Clerk to the Council R. Richards

Four residents left after the public forum

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

All councillors present so no apologies were received

080 To receive any Declarations of Interest (pecuniary or non-statutory Interests)

No Declarations of interest were received

081 Approve the Minutes of the Council Meeting Held 24th November 2022 (LGA 1972 sch 12, para 41(1))

Resolved: Members approved the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held 24th November 2022

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

082 Outstanding Items Update

- a) Update on Speed Indicator Devices **Action:** County Councillor S Ashton to speak to Highways
- b) Recent flooding at Woolminstone – Main concern is that care workers can't reach clients due to flooding **Action:** Clerk to report again this to Highways
- c) Update on the letters that were delivered to the residents of Roundham regarding speed limits

A number of residents from Roundham had helped to clarify the safety issues they face every day due to speeding for which the councillors were grateful. Subsequently a meeting is hoped to be arranged with Avon and Somerset Police safety officer and Highways.

083 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
22/02536/FUL 1 & 2 Portway Cottages Cathole Bridge Road Crewkerne – Permitted with conditions
- c) Applications Awaiting Decision
22/02315/HOU Boughbeeche Clapton Road West Crewkerne TA18 8PS – Awaiting Decision

084 Finance

Proposals:

- a) Members to approve the January payments and sign cheques
- b) Members to approve the December and January bank reconciliations
- c) Members to approve the 2023/24 budget proposal and precept amount

Resolved: Members approved the January payments totalling £454.44

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

Resolved: Members approved the December and January bank reconciliations

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

Resolved: Members approved the 2023/24 budget proposal and precept amount

Proposed: Cllr Borland **Seconded:** Cllr Freeman **Vote:** 3-0-1

085 Document Review

Members to review and adopt the following policies:

- a) Homeworking Policy and Risk Assessment
- b) Safeguarding Statement
- c) Publication Scheme
- d) Retention and Disposal Policy

Resolved: Members adopted all four policies **Proposed:** Cllr Borland **Seconded:** Cllr Broom **Vote:** 3-0-1

086 Joint Burial Committee Update

Cllr Borland read a report on latest JBC meeting. Including details of planned maintenance, converting the lodge into office space with a toilet for the public, painting the gates and railings and the plans for new plots.

087 Members to discuss if the present joint funding agreement for Crewkerne Cemetery applicable in the 21st century

After a discussion on the increased number of cremations compared to burials, how many from the parish have, or will be, using the cemetery and the cost per household. **Action:** Clerk and Chairman to obtain a more detailed explanation on how Crewkerne Cemetery calculate the precept amount for West Crewkerne. Clerk to find out how many West Crewkerne residents have been buried in Crewkerne Cemetery over the past 10 years. Chairman to check what the legal obligations are if we continue under the present arrangement.

088 Members to set a date for the Annual Parish Meeting

Members agreed APM would be held on 25th May 2023 immediately prior to their ordinary council meeting

089 Update on the Telephone Box in Hewish

Research has shown that the telephone box was adopted by The Community Heartbeat Trust in 2014

090 Celebrations for the Coronation of King Charles

Parish Council to liaise with the Village Hall committee regarding arrangements for the celebration

091 Highway Matters – Nothing to report

092 Members to discuss three areas of flooding reported to the council in a recent email

- a) New drains fitted on the long straight to Fred Brooms farm, they are all blocked and do not continue up to the farm which floods more often.
- b) Not sure of the location name but past the long straight between the bends in the road and before Hewish crossroads new drains fitted either side and now increased flooding on both sides of the road
- c) Cathole bridge after a new power cable fitted the two drains are now blocked for the last two years and all they have done is put flood signs up

Action: The drains along the B3165 from the junction of Dunsham Lane in Clapton to the Hewish crossroads, on both sides of the road all require urgent jetting, the gully's outside of Coppersfield bungalow need cleaning as they are blocked up again as do the gully's in the vicinity of Wydale Plastics on Cathole Bridge Road

093 Chairman to report on the 'Councillor safety and online safety for councillors' training event

Cllr Borland explained that the training was very informative and a copy of the slides was available for all councillors

094 Clerk's Report and Correspondence

In addition to finding out that the telephone kiosk had already been adopted the clerk had dealt with all correspondence including emailing the Civil Contingencies Officer at SCC to explain that WCPC were unable to nominate anyone for the Emergency Contacts List, reporting a suspected breach of planning in the Clapton and obtaining further information on SIDs

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.

095 Members to consider increasing the clerks contracted hours to reflect the hours required for the job

Resolved: Members agreed to increase the clerks contracted hours **Proposed:** Cllr Borland **Seconded:** Cllr Freeman **Vote:** 4-0-0

096 Date of Next Meeting: 23rd March 2023

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