

West Crewkerne Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held 27th July 2023

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

Also in attendance were one resident, County Councillors S Ashton and M Best and Clerk to the Council R. Richards

133 Members to receive apologies for absence and to approve the Reasons given (LGA 1972 s85(1))
No apologies as all members were in attendance

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

135 Approve the Minutes of the Council Meeting Held 25th May 2023 (LGA 1972 sch 12, para 41(1))

Resolved: Members approved the Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held 25th May 2023

Proposed: Cllr Broom **Seconded:** Cllr Archer **Vote:** 6-0-0

136 Outstanding Items Update

- a) Update on the caravan at Portway Cottages – Clerk has reported this as a breach of planning
- b) Update on the photographs and map showing the location of SIDs for Highways – Photo of the signpost entering Roundham from Crewkerne has been provided by Cllr Archer. We still need a photo of the signpost when entering Roundham from Chard

137 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 Received
- b) Applications Decisions received
23/00924/FUL, 23/00925/FUL and 23/00926/FUL Coombe Farm, Hill Dairy, Hewish Lane West Crewkerne – All permitted with Conditions
- c) Applications Awaiting Decision
22/02315/HOU Boughbeech Clapton Road West Crewkerne TA18 8PS – Still Awaiting Decision – Now showing 1 constraint – Airfield safeguarding zones

138 Finance

Proposals:

- a) Members to approve the July payments and sign cheques

Resolved: Members approved the July payments totalling £464.50

Proposed: Cllr Borland **Seconded:** Cllr Holt **Vote:** 6-0-0

- b) Members to approve the bank reconciliations

Resolved: Members approved the May and June bank reconciliations

Proposed: Cllr Freeman **Seconded:** Cllr Broom **Vote:** 6-0-0

139 Document Review

Proposal: Members to review and adopt the following policies:

- a) Filming, Audio-recording, photographing, and reporting of Council and Committee meetings
- b) Councillors Code of Conduct
- c) Code of Practice for Handling Complaints

Resolved: Members adopted all three policies **Proposed:** Cllr Borland **Seconded:** Cllr Broom **Vote:** 6-0-0

140 Members to discuss the proposal for a Solar Farm at Mahe Farm

Cllrs Freeman and Borland attended the Public Consultation. A discussion took place about where the panels will be located, how visible they will be, access to the site and how the infrastructure will be handled. One of the reasons for choosing this location was the ease of connecting the site to the grid.

141 Report from the Joint Burial Committee

Regular walks take place within the cemetery with the Chairman, Vice-chairman, Crewkerne Town Clerk, contractors, and groundsmen to monitor the overall appearance and maintenance of the site. Clarification with regard to trees within the cemetery boundary have been clarified with the CLR builders, to ensure there should be no felling or damage to trees when building does finally commence. On Sunday September 10th there will be the Townsend Cemetery Open Day from 10am until 2pm. This event is a great opportunity for residents to look around the chapel and landscaped grounds or peruse the old registers to look for burials of long-lost relatives. Local Funeral Director, Tracey Warren of Stoodley and Son will give a talk in the chapel at noon, this will be followed by a guided tour of notable graves in the older part of the cemetery. The tour is always full of interesting information and historic facts.

8.15pm The Clerk left the meeting.

Cllr Yeomans gave his resignation verbally to the Chairman. Asked if she required this in writing the Chairman responded in the affirmative. Cllr Yeomans then left the meeting.

142 Highways Matters

Many road closures throughout West Crewkerne, Crewkerne and approaches to Yeovil. Although very inconvenient it should be appreciated that they were largely due to road improvements, and broadband connections. A large number taking place during school holidays when road usage is less than during term time.

143 Brief report from the recent LCN Meeting held in Donyatt

Councillor Freeman attended this enthusiastic and well attended meeting. He is willing to be West Crewkerne representative at future meetings. There are 34 parishes within the Crewkerne and Ilminster LCN. County Councillor Mike Best was elected Chair and stated that all parishes irrespective of their size would have just one vote. The aim was to have Community Issues resolved by consensus.

144 Chairman to give a brief overview of the training attended on Recruiting and Retention of Councillors

This was an interesting course which gave insight into how any volunteer organisation should plan for the future. Simple guide is to ideally talk to locals in the community, and encourage them to come along to meetings, so they can see what, how and why 'things' happen. This is easier said than done, especially in a scattered rural parish as is West Crewkerne. Very few residents know each other and venture from their home surroundings. We should have a plan in place to bring along the next generation of councillors, so we can as and when we wish retire.

145 Date for September meeting to be rescheduled due to Clerks holiday

It was agreed to reschedule the September meeting to October 12th 2023

146 Clerk's Report and Correspondence –

- Annual accounts for Year Ending 31st March 2023 submitted to the External Auditor
- Caravan at Portway Cottages reported as a planning breach
- Flooding at Cathole Bridge reported to Highways again following an email from a concerned resident and SC Councillors S Ashton and M Best
- Problems with the PC Laptop reported to the Chairman and it is scheduled for repair during my holiday in September
- Letter received from Clapton and Wayford Village Hall thanking the Council for their generous donation

147 Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 12th October