

Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held 26th September 2024

Present: Cllrs J. Borland (Chair), C. Broom, J. Archer, and J. Holt.

Also in attendance were Somerset Councillors Steve Ashton and Mike Best and Clerk to the Council R. Richards

243 Members to receive apologies for absence and to approve the reasons given – All members present

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

245 Open Forum including Somerset Councillors Reports

Members of the public can ask questions of, raise concerns, or make comments regarding the Parish Council. A speaker in the Open Forum may only represent his, her or their own point of view and shall not speak for more than 3 minutes. Issues raised may be referred to the Clerk to respond to within 10 working days or listed on a subsequent agenda.

246 Approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held 25th July 2024

Resolved: Members approved the Minutes of the meeting held 25th July 2024

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

247 Outstanding Items Update

- a) Update on the SID Funding – Clerk has already chased this twice so will now try Dan Cox of Somerset and Avon Police
- b) Update on the bank signatory application – Cllrs Archer and Holt have heard nothing from Nat West so Cllr Borland will contact the bank.

248 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. Somerset Council is the Planning Authority and will issue the final decision notice.

- a) Members to resolve Applications received: None
- b) Applications Decisions received: None
- c) Applications Awaiting Decision: None

249 Finance

Proposals:

- a) Members to note the September schedule of payments and approve the bank reconciliations

Resolved: Members noted the schedule of payments and approved the bank reconciliations for July and August

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

250 Document Review

Proposal: Members to review and adopt the following policies:

- a) Information and Data Protection Policy
- b) Equality and Diversity Policy
- c) Abusive, unreasonable, and vexatious complaints Policy
- d) Freedom of Information

Resolved: Members reviewed and adopted all four policies

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

251 Report from the Joint Burial Committee – See appendix 1

252 Update from the recent LCN meeting – See appendix 2

253 Highways Matters and Flooding Issues

- Lee Norman has been contacted to remind him about clearing the gullies from Huish Crossroads through to Clapton Farm.
- It was also reported that the river runs straight out onto the road just up from Dunsham Lane. This land belongs to Clapton Court so a decision needs to be made on whether to write to the land owners about the problem.
- The 30mph signs have now been reinstated on Clapton Road.
- The road just past Wyatt Farm always floods when you get rain. The only thing to do is to keep reporting this to Highways.

254 Public Rights of Way – Cllr Borland reported that there had been no interest from residents in response to the request for Volunteers to become the Parish Path Liaison Officer

255 Members to discuss SALC's Health and Wellbeing Programme and grant opportunities

What projects West Crewkerne PC could deliver to improve health & wellbeing for residents was discussed. The kind of factors that can have an impact on people's physical and mental health as well as a sense of wellbeing and belonging include; Environment & Climate Change, Physical Activity, Transport, Finance, Culture & Creativity, Social Connections & Families, Equality & Diversity, Employment, Education & Training, Health & Community Services, Housing & Infrastructure, Food & Nutrition. Identifying a need in the community is the challenge. Details to be posted on the website to see if we get any interest.

256 Clerk's Report and Correspondence –

- Confirmation of our exempt status received from the External Auditors
- Polite reminder sent to the Police Community Trust in regards to the agreed SID funding
- Somerset Cllr Steve Ashton has asked Hinton St George and West Chinnock about their plans for Chapter 8 Training and they will be including this in their September agendas.

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.

257 Date of Next Meeting: 28th November 2024

Meeting Closed at: 7.48pm

Appendix 1 – Joint Burial Committee

The major work completed with the cemetery has been the felling of the large specimen tree in the older part of the grounds. All timber has been removed and the stump ground out. The disease affecting this tree and causing its demise would appear to have been transmitted to another tree and further investigation will take place to see if this is the case.

The burial plots and headstones which earlier in the year due to excessive rain had sunk in places now all appear to have been restored by both ground staff and plot owners.

The entrance to the cemetery has been improved greatly with the lodge now being used by the town council.

Planning has been taking place for the installation of two plaques within the cemetery. One by the left-hand chapel which will show the location of the war graves throughout the cemetery. The other plaque will be placed by the stone circle in the newer part of the cemetery showing the area where a fighter plane crashed during the Second World War.

Maintenance throughout this whole complex throughout the year is regularly reviewed with the next walk around taking place on Friday 27th September. Amongst those attending will be Crewkerne Town Clerk, both Chair and Vice Chair of the Joint Committee.

Julia Borland

Appendix 2 – Local Community Network meeting held 25th September 2024

Presentation from Wessex Internet who are a government backed provider of Full Fibre within rural South Somerset.

Presentation from Fodo Higginson regarding Community Health and Wellbeing and the support from SALC and grants available.

There were very few parish councils in attendance and very few also represented on line.

The LCN appear aimless to very rural parishes.

Julia Borland

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