

WEST CREWKERNE PARISH COUNCIL

Incorporating Clapton, Hewish, Woolminstone, Roundham & Henley Manor

Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held 23rd January 2025

Present: Cllrs J. Borland, C. Broom, and J. Archer

Also in attendance were County Councillors Steve Ashton and Clerk to the Council R. Richards

272 Members to receive apologies for absence and to approve the reasons given

Apologies were received from Cllr Holt and the reason given approved

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

274 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.

275 Approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held 28th November 2024

Resolved: Members approved the Minutes of the meeting held 28th November 2024

Proposed: Cllr Broom **Seconded:** Cllr Borland **Vote:** 3-0-0

276 Outstanding Items Update

- a) Update on the SID Funding – Funding has now been received
- b) Update on the bank signatory application – Additional bank signatories have now been approved by NatWest
- c) Update on the ditch at Coppersfield bungalow – Although a letter was sent to the land owner no action has been taken by them to clear the ditch

277 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:

- Application Reference: 24/02880/S73

Applicant: Mr Archie Jeffery

Location: Land And Buildings At Henley Manor Henley Road Crewkerne Somerset TA18 8PJ

Proposal: S73 application to vary conditions 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 9 to change site layout and approved house types in relation to planning approval 21/02940/FUL for Proposed demolition of agricultural buildings and the erection of 5 private dwellings with parking and gardens

Observations required by: 8 January 2025

Resolved: In order to meet the deadline members had responded to the Clerk by email giving their support for the application

- Application Reference: 24/03010/FUL

Applicant: A H Warren Trust

Location: Land Adj Roundham Straight Crewkerne Somerset TA18 8RJ

Proposal: Proposed farm shop/cafe and associated parking

Observations required by: 4th February 2025

Resolved: Members resolved to support the application **Proposed:** Cllr Borland **Seconded:** Cllr Broom **Vote:** 3-0-0
Observations to be included in the response regarding increase traffic and concerns about speeding

b) Applications Decisions received: None

c) Applications Awaiting Decision: 24/02171/FUL Higher Bridge Farm Axe Road Drimpton DT8 3RJ

278 Finance

Proposals:

a) Members to note the January schedule of payments and approve the last two months bank reconciliations

Resolved: Members noted the schedule of payment and approved the bank reconciliations for November and December **Proposed:** Cllr Broom **Seconded:** Cllr Archer **Vote:** 3-0-0

b) Members to approve the 2025/26 Budget and Precept amount

Resolved: Members approved the 2025/26 which included an increase to cover the cost of drain and gully clearing **Proposed:** Cllr Borland **Seconded:** Cllr Archer **Vote:** 3-0-0

c) Members to approve the 2025/26 Earmarked Reserves

Resolved: Members approved the Earmarked Reserves **Proposed:** Cllr Borland **Seconded:** Cllr Broom **Vote:** 3-0-0

279 Document Review

Proposal: Members to review and adopt the following policies:

a) Safeguarding Statement

b) Publication Scheme

c) Retention and Disposal

Resolved: Members reviewed and adopted all 3 policies **Proposed:** Cllr Archer **Seconded:** Cllr Broom **Vote:** 3-0-0

280 Report from the Joint Burial Committee

The cemetery and its grounds over the last few weeks had to cope with rain, snow, ice, storms and occasional sunshine. We are fortunate that so far this winter there has been little damage caused. Pathways can be slippery, however, signs are in place to manage this risk. Income for the cemetery is always a challenge to budget, however by the year end with the exception of plot purchases the fees should approximately be as budgeted. The next meeting of the Joint Committee is on Tuesday 11th February 2025 at 6.45pm in the Town Council Chamber.

281 Highways Matters and Flooding Issues

Flooding issues along the B3165 through Clapton and the Cathole Bridge Road were discussed in full. WCPC are looking at funding ditch and gully clearing from reserve funds.

282 Members to decide if they meet the criteria to apply for a Community Flood Action Fund grant from the Somerset Rivers Authority

Action: Clerk and Cllr Borland to research this further with a view to making an application.

283 Public Rights of Way – Nothing to report

284 Members to discuss the Review of SC Division boundaries

There was some concern over the report raised by Kingston St Mary Parish Council who suggested WCPC should be aligned with Ilminster Rural Division rather than Crewkerne Division. This seems to be based purely on numbers rather than geographical information.

285 Meeting dates for 2025/26 to be agreed

Resolved: Members agreed the following meeting dates: Parish & Council Annual Meetings: 22nd May 2025
Ordinary Council Meetings will be held on the following Thursdays: 24th July 2025, 25th Sept 2025, 27th Nov 2025, 22nd Jan 2026 and 26th March 2026 **Proposed:** Cllr Borland **Seconded:** Cllr Broom **Vote:** 3-0-0

286 Members to confirm the posts in Roundham to be used Speed Indicator Devices

Cllr Archer provided photos and maps indicating the positions best suited for the posts which will be sent to Highways for approval.

287 Clerk's Report and Correspondence

- Email sent to Highways asking if we can still use the post originally agreed for the SID that now has a horse and rider sign
- Email sent to Elan City requesting an update on their original quote
- Letter sent to the land owners of the ditch on the side of the B3165 near to Copperfield Bungalow asking them to clear the debris
- Local Plan Consultation received from Cllr S Ashton but the deadline had expired
- Email sent to Somerset Council chase the 2025/26 Precept Form
- Meeting held with Keir to discuss drain and gully clearing
- Email sent to Michelle Brooks re keeping West Crewkerne aligned with Crewkerne

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.

288 Members to discuss and accept a quote for two Speed Indicator Devices

Resolved: Members accepted the revised quote from Elan City for two Speed Indicator Devices

Proposed: Cllr Borland **Seconded:** Cllr Archer **Vote:** 3-0-0

289 Date of Next Meeting: 27th March 2025

Meeting Closed at: 8.10pm