

WEST CREWKERNE PARISH COUNCIL

Incorporating Clapton, Hewish, Woolminstone, Roundham & Henley Manor

Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held 25th September 2025

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

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

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

Apologies were received from Cllr Holt. Members unanimously approved the reason given

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

345 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.

346 Approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held 24th July 2025

Resolved: Members approved the Minutes **Proposed:** Cllr Broom **Seconded:** Cllr Archer **Vote:** 3-0-0

347 Outstanding Items Update

- a) Posts for Speed Indicator Devices – We are now waiting for a local contractor to fit these
- b) Progress update on setting up online banking – The application is in progress
- c) Update of the Solar Farm planning application – Nothing to update

348 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: 24/00352/FUL

Applicant: Mr James Jenkison

Location: Land OS 8186 Dunsham Lane Wayford Crewkerne Somerset

Proposal: Proposed solar farm comprising ground mounted solar PV panels, with a generating capacity of up to 18.5 MWp including mounting framework, inverters, underground cabling, stockproof fence, CCTV, internal tracks and associated infrastructure and biodiversity net gain, substation for grid connection for a temporary period of 40 years

Amendments: Updated Drainage Strategy and amended Landscape Management Plan

Observations required by: 18th August 2025

Resolved: In order to meet the deadline members had responded to the Clerk by email giving their reasons for objecting to the application and their response was sent to Somerset Planning Department on 31st July 2025

b) Applications Awaiting Decision:

24/03010/FUL Land Adj to Crewkerne Straight Crewkerne TA18 8RJ

24/01271/FUL Home Farm Roundham Crewkerne Somerset TA18 8RH – Now Approved

25/01656/LBC The Granary Henley Manor Henley Crewkerne TA18 8PQ

349 Finance

Members to agree the September payments and approve the previous two months bank reconciliations

Resolved: Members agreed the payment schedule and approved the bank reconciliations for July and August

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

350 Document Review

Proposal: Members to review and adopt the following policies:

- a) Information and Data Protection Policy
- b) Equality and Diversity Policy (Updated to SLCC 2025 Model Document)
- c) Abusive, unreasonable, and vexatious complaints Policy
- d) Freedom of Information

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

351 Report from the Joint Burial Committee

The planned open day at the cemetery where the interment records are available for visitors to view was unfortunately postponed due to a change of personnel at Crewkerne Town Council. Grass maintenance throughout the cemetery grounds has been a challenge through the recent lack of rain, however now with the rain comes the necessity of cutting the rapidly rejuvenated green areas. The next meeting of the committee will be on Tuesday 7th October 6.45pm in the Town Council Chambers. Prior to this meeting the Chair and Vice Chair will meet the new Town Clerk to review work identified during the annual walk around in June.

352 Highways Matters and Flooding Issues

The proposed reduction in the speed limit along the A30 to 50mph from Rayn Hill to Mangle Cave was discussed. The lack of drain clearing through Clapton and along Cathole Bridge Road is a cause of great concern. Cllr Borland has walked the road through Clapton and reported that only two of the drains have been cleared. Numerous emails have been sent to Highways, including photographs, to no effect. County Councillor Steve Ashton has offered to chase this up on our behalf.

353 Public Rights of Way – No report

354 Report on the latest Crewkerne and Ilminster LCN Meeting – No meeting has been held

355 Members to consider how to use the balance of the CIL money

This year's Budgets allocated part of the CIL money to be used for completing the installation of the Speed Indicator Devices. This work has now been completed leaving a balance of £1,435.91

356 Clerk's Report

- Response in support of the footpath diversion emailed to Rights of Way Legal Events Officer
- Response in support of Planning Application 25/01656/LBC submitted 29th July
- Cllr Archer's phone number added to WCPC website
- Response objecting to the amendments to the Solar Farm Planning Application 24/00352/FUL submitted
- Computer records archived to free up storage on the OneDrive back up to avoid a monthly fee
- Bank Mandate signed and a letter received from Nat West confirming the account has been updated
- Level 2 Certificate in Chapter 8 Road Craft Awareness received confirming Cllr Borland had successfully completed the course
- Emails sent to Highways chasing drain and gully cleaning
- 2025/26 Pay scales received from SLCC
- Quotes for installing SID devices on to posts received and accepted (see agenda item 357)

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.

357 Members to consider quotes for SID Installation

It was confirmed that a quote to instal the SID's had already been accepted by the Chair in conjunction with the Clerk as permitted under WCPC Financial Regulations item 5.15.

358 Date of Next Meeting: 27th November 2025

Meeting Closed at 7.55pm