

WEST CREWKERNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 8th March 2016 at Clapton & Wayford Village Hall

Members Present

Mrs Julia Borland
Mr Don Yeomans
Mr Frank Freeman
Mrs Caroline Broom
Mr Barrie Carter
Mr John Dyke (Somerset County Council)

Also present

Miss Jackie Parsons (Parish Clerk)
6 Members of the Public

Meeting commenced at 7pm

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Mrs Sue Osborne (South Somerset District Councillor)

2. Public Open Forum

Mrs M Ashby asked if Woolminstone in West Crewkerne Parish was going to get Faster broadband? Mr D Yeomans stated that Cabinet 19 which is the Cabinet that serves Woolminstone for broadband has been updated but the distance between the cabinet and Woolminstone is too great for the effective streaming of the Broadband to residents of Woolminstone. According to Openreach the speed of the Broadband holds after the cabinet for up to 2.5 km, after this distance the speed starts slowing down. Openreach are not likely to update the service any further. Mr J Dyke (County Councillor) stated that B.T. has got the contract for rolling out faster broadband for a further 18 months. They are not interested in rural areas because it is not cost effective for them. After the B.T. contract ends it will come to Somerset County Council who will then put it out to tender. Mr H Ploszek stated that he had heard of another county who had had Broadband streamed down from a satellite but you are limited to the megabytes you can have.

3. Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda (Pecuniary or non-statutory interests).

None declared.

4. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 12th January 2016.

The minutes were accepted by the meeting as a true and accurate record. Proposed by Mr D Yeomans and Seconded by Mrs C Broom.

5. **Matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere on the Agenda.**

Mrs J Borland stated that she had been in correspondence with Mr J Dyke and the highways department regarding the state of the roads and drains. Mr J Dyke confirmed that he had been in communication with Mrs J Borland.

6. **Planning Matters.**

A): 15/05590/PDE, Brooklands, Clapton Road, Clapton Crewkerne Somerset TA18 8PS. Property rear extension (1) The projection of the extension beyond the rear wall is 3.24m. (11) The maximum height of the extension is 3.9m. (111) The height of the eaves of the extension is 2.15m. (GR341548/106760).

Permission not required.

B): 16/00285/FUL, South Lodge Maincombe Crewkerne Somerset TA18 7TZ. Erection of a single storey extension to be used as an annexe. (GR342740/109964).

The Parish Council had no objection to this Planning application.

C): 16/00630/COU, Wydale Plastics Ltd Cathole Bridge Road Crewkerne Somerset TA18 8RF.

Change of use of land to form Car Park with landscaping. (GR342973/109244).

The Parish Council had no objection to this Planning application but Mr F Freeman felt that a stipulation should be made that CCTV should be installed at the rear of the building as a condition of the planning application being granted.

7. **Highway Matters.**

(1) Mr F Freeman had consulted a colleague in traffic control in London regarding on-road parking and the answer was that if the vehicle is not causing an obstruction then there is no cause for objection.

(2) Mr D Yeomans stated that the ditches had been cleared at Woolminstone by Mr H Johnson and a good job had been done. The Clerk had sent a letter of thanks to Mr H Johnson. Mr D Yeomans had contacted Somerset County Council to inform them that the ditches had now been cleared and could they now clear the drains. Mr M Fear for Somerset County Council Highways stated that he would schedule the work for April 2016.

Mrs C Broom stated that the dangerous bend just past her property has been iced over in this cold weather because there is a blocked water drain and the water is going straight across the road on this bend and freezing in the cold weather and no warning signs have been put out to warn motorists of the danger despite being reported to the Highways department of Somerset County Council. There is going to be a fatality on this bend if action is not taken.

The road to Wayford needs urgent attention because of the large potholes and the land owner needs to be contacted to cut back the brambles that are overhanging the road causing motorists to go out in the middle of the road to avoid them.

Some of the road signs have fallen down in the Parish so this needs to be reported so they can be rectified.

The hedge belonging to Mr Jobey Hughes' property needs to be cut back as this is causing an obstruction for motorists. Mrs J Borland stated that it was a stipulation of the planning application that the hedge been maintained, possibly need to follow up with the planning department of South Somerset District Council to enforce this condition.

The Old Dairy House has an outlet pipe close to the edge of the road and this pipe is emitting steam which comes across the road affecting visibility.

Mr L Graham-Gleed (member of the public) stated that the road from Higher Woolminstone Farm to Newman's farm needs substantial amount of work done on it as the water has gouged a run out right down through the middle of the road. Mr D Yeomans stated he had spoken to Mr Paul Watkins at the Highways Department of Somerset County Council who stated that the work would be programmed in. Mr D Yeomans will ascertain when the work is being programmed in?

Mr L Graham-Gleed also stated that Mr H Johnson has not cleared the drain at the end of his field the pipe goes underneath the entrance to the field. At Halfway farm the gully is blocked there is a Pirate flag in the gully marking the spot? Mr L Graham-Gleed also stated that a letter needs to be sent to the Newmans to clear the ditches in Blackmore Farm Lane.

Mr H Ploszek referred back to Mrs C Broom Highway's matter and stated that the road that runs past her property is a bus route and should therefore be gritted in bad weather. Mrs C Broom stated that the road was gritted but not until the morning which was no good for the majority of the traffic.

Mr F Freeman stated that the Maiden Beech crossroads with the junction from Cathole bridge would benefit with the 30mph sign being moved further back. Mrs J Borland stated that the Highways department had been approached about this matter before on numerous occasions but were reluctant to do anything about it as no fatality had occurred at the junction. However, as this junction remains a concern Mrs Borland suggested a joint meeting between Crewkerne Town Council, West Crewkerne Parish Council and the Highways Department of Somerset County Council. She would contact Crewkerne Town Council with this proposal.

The footbridge at Woolminstone has a hole in the middle of the bridge, the Waterways authority had erected this bridge, according to Mr H Ploszek, over the stream and therefore a letter needed to be sent to them to ask them to repair the bridge.

8. Reports from Councillors, including District and County Councillors.

Mr J Dyke (Somerset County Councillor) stated that the Roundham scheme was one of 42 schemes for the Small Improvements Scheme being put before Somerset County Council on 9th March 2016 for approval. Mr B Carter asked Mr J Dyke if he knew whether Mr C Fletcher had put forward any proposals for Roundham traffic problems. Mr J Dyke stated that he and Mr C Fletcher had worked together on the

proposals for Roundham as a joint venture. The Chairman of the Parish Council Mrs J Borland thanked Mr J Dyke on behalf of the Parish Council for his efforts.

Mr J Dyke also stated that the Council Tax for properties in Somerset County were going up as by 5.24% which was 1.99% general fund, 2.00% Adult care and 1.25% Somerset Rivers authority. South Somerset District Council was going up by 1.99% and so was the Avon & Somerset Police and Fire authority.

Mr F Freeman had nothing to report

Mr D Yeomans had nothing to report

Mr B Carter had nothing to report

Mrs C Broom had been asked if a large map of the West Crewkerne Parish could be displayed in the Village Hall. The Clerk stated that a letter would need to be sent to the Village Hall committee requesting their permission to display a large map. Letter to be sent.

Mrs J Borland had nothing to report.

9. **Finance**

A. To pay the Clerk's Salary - £203.02p which included £54.00 for printer inks and £11.70p for travelling to a course at Somerton.

B. To pay HMRC -£34.40p

C. To pay Mr H Ploszek for the maintenance of the Parish Website – Mr H Ploszek presented his bill at the end of the Parish Meeting of the 12th January 2016 and was paid £29.99 accordingly on the 12/01/16.

D. To pay SALC for Transparency Course - £72.00p.

E. To pay Mr D Yeomans for the printing costs of the West Crewkerne Parish Welcome Pack - £222.00p.

F. To pay Mr D Yeomans for the purchase of the filing cabinet - £60.00p.

10. **Correspondence**

Somerset Waste Partnership Monthly briefing for January and February 2016.

Somerset Rivers Authority Newsletter.

South Somerset Welfare Reform Assembly on March 17th 2016.

The above correspondence forwarded to The Chairman and Councillors.

Parish Councillors confirmed they had received the above correspondence.

11. **The Welcome Pack for the West Crewkerne Parish.**

An error had been pointed out on the Welcome Pack that the Website address has a dot not a hyphen in the address. Mr D Yeomans stated that the internet provider will pick up the website with the hyphen in the address. All the Welcome Packs had been delivered to all households in the West Crewkerne Parish apart from Roundham and Councillor Mr B Carter was handed welcome packs for Roundham to be delivered to residents accordingly. In principal the Chairman stated that the Parish Council was pleased with the Welcome Pack.

Mr J Dyke (County Councillor) brought a copy of Misterton Parish Council's Welcome Pack along with copies of the Misterton Parish Magazine. Mr J Dyke stated that the magazine was nothing to do with the Parish Council and was produced by a team of volunteers. The adverts paid for the printing costs of the magazine.

12. **The purchase of a Filing cabinet for West Crewkerne Parish Council records.**
Done.
13. **Crewkerne Joint Burial Board and the Precept from West Crewkerne Parish Council.**
The Chairman Mrs J Borland stated that she had sought guidance from Angie Cox of Democratic services at South Somerset District Council as to whether a referendum was required in order for the Joint Burial Board between West Crewkerne parish and Crewkerne Town Council be dismantled. The agreement with a Joint Burial Board is deemed to be held in perpetuity unless written evidence could be shown to be different. When this had been checked in the past no written agreement had been found. This joint board had probably been in existence for about a hundred years. If this agreement was to be cancelled, then evidence for this was required from a majority of West Crewkerne Parish residents before South Somerset District Council would consider rescinding the Board. Mrs J Borland stated that at present the residents can be buried or their ashes interred at Crewkerne Cemetery for 50% of the cost. If a piece of land was to be purchased for a memorial garden within the West Crewkerne Parish (which had been a suggestion) then the Parish Council would have to consider matters such as where the memorial garden would be sited, vehicular access, whole body interments, ashes scattering, site maintenance, access for disabled residents to name but some of the many considerations. If the site was to be used for the interment of ashes, then the ground had to be consecrated. Those parishioners who still wished to be buried or have their ashes interred in Crewkerne Cemetery would (with no Joint Board) have to pay the full fees. The precept per resident for the Joint Burial Committee amounts to approximately £11.00 per household per year. Mr D Yeomans stated that the Parish Council knew his view on the matter but provided the matter is minuted then he would leave it to the residents of West Crewkerne Parish to read the minutes and come back to the Parish Council with any comments.
14. **The Queen's 90th Birthday.**
The Clerk had received a coin from Tower Mint Ltd which could be purchased for £1.99p if more than 50 were purchased any smaller amount than 50 would incur a £10.00 administration charge. The Chairman asked if we wished to order sufficient to distribute one to each household in the Parish. The Councillors felt that if an event was taking place in the Parish for children then they could be purchased but as there were very few children living in the Parish the councillors decided not to pursue the matter.
15. **To review the Clerk's hourly rate of pay.**
The Chairman stated this would be discussed in closed session from where the public were excluded.
16. **To confirm that the next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 10th May 2016 at Clapton and Wayford Village Hall at 7.00pm and also the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council.**

It was confirmed that the next meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Tuesday 10th May 2016 together with the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council.

Before the meeting closed the Clerk stated that she had received a letter from the Clapton and Wayford Village Hall committee stating that the committee needed to replace the carpet in the room where we hold our meetings. The cost of the new carpet would be £750.00 the committee had received a donation of £250 and they could raise £250 and asked if the Parish Council would be prepared to give them the remaining £250? Mrs J Borland and Mr F Freeman decline to make any comment as they are both on the Village Hall committee. After some discussion the three remaining councillors agreed to give the Village Hall committee £250 towards the carpet.

In the closed session it was agreed that the clerk Miss J Parsons new pay rate would take effect from April 1st 2016.

Meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Chairman