

## WEST CREWKERNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at Clapton & Wayford Village Hall

### **Members Present**

Mrs Julia Borland

Mr Don Yeomans

Mr Frank Freeman

Mr Barrie Carter

Mrs Sue Osborne (South Somerset District Councillor)

### **Also present**

Miss Jackie Parsons (Parish Clerk)

2 Members of the Public

Meeting commenced at 7.00pm

#### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Mrs Caroline Broom (Parish Councillor)

Mr John Dyke (Somerset County Councillor)

#### **2. Public Open Forum**

No member of the Public had anything to speak about in the Public Open Forum.

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

Mrs Julia Borland and Mr Frank Freeman both declared an interest in the village hall with regards to the Precept setting. If there is any discussion over the amount allocated to the Village Hall they will not take part in any discussion or make any comments.

#### **4. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 8<sup>TH</sup> November 2016.**

The minutes of the above meeting were approved. They were proposed for acceptance by Mr Barrie Carter and seconded by Mr Frank Freeman.

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

The Chairman Mrs J Borland stated that she had said in the meeting of the 8<sup>th</sup> November 2016 that the next meeting of the Crewkerne Joint Burial Board was on the 4<sup>th</sup> December 2016 whereas the meeting was on the 13<sup>th</sup> December 2016. The Chairman apologised for her error.

The Chairman stated that she had had a separate meeting with the Parish Councillor who was not at the last Parish Council meeting and had gone through the minutes of the meeting with her. They had also discussed thoroughly the Code of Conduct that applies to Parish Councillors with regard to Pecuniary and Non-Statutory interests.

The Parish Councillor had sent an e-mail to the Chairman of the Parish Council stating that she fully understands the conflict of interest now and apologises to all parties concerned.

Mr Don Yeomans stated that at the last meeting he had asked if the legal department of Somerset County Council could be contacted for clarification on ownership of ditches and drains and surface water. He addressed the clerk and asked if this had been done. The Clerk stated she had written the letter but only just before Christmas and was awaiting a reply.

6. **Planning Matters.**

A): 16/04505/FUL, Hewish Mill Farm Hewish Crewkerne Somerset TA18 8QX. To re-roof, clad and replace doors to garage.

B): 16/04715/FUL, Unit C Lower Coombe Farm Roundham Crewkerne Somerset TA18 8RL. Alterations and change of use from agricultural storage building to B1/B8 use. Formation of loading bay and ramp to North West elevation.

**Application permitted with conditions.**

C): 16/05034/FUL, Highfield, Hewish, Crewkerne, Somerset TA18 8QR. The erection of a replacement dwelling house and detached garage.

The Chairman pointed out that (B) and (C) planning applications had come in between Parish Council Meetings so she had had to contact Parish Councillors separately.

On application (B) Unit C at Lower Coombe Farm, Mrs J Borland asked each Individual Parish Councillor to reiterate that they had no pecuniary or non-statutory interest in this application? All Parish Councillors present confirmed that they had no pecuniary or non-statutory interest in the planning application. The Chairman stated she had sent in the following response "Councillors have reviewed these plans and have no issues with the plans, however it would be interesting to know whether the change of use from B1 to B8 would increase traffic on the approach road?" The Chairman had received a response to her query but after the date that you had to send in your response to the planning application. The response was that there would be no change to the amount of traffic on the approach roads.

On application (C) the Chairman sent off the response that the Parish Council had no objection to the planning application and that the house and garage were in keeping with similar dwellings in Hewish. Looking on the website tonight this application has been agreed with conditions on the 4<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

7. **Highway Matters.**

Winter Service for 2016/17 in respect of the Parish

The Clerk stated that Mr Henryk Ploszek had picked up the salt from the Highways depot in Yeovil and we had a list from Mr Ploszek as to where the salt is stored for the various parishes in West Crewkerne. The Clerk apologised that she had not yet written to the Highways department regarding a grit bin where the Woolminstone road meets the B3165 but would do so in the near future.

The Chairman stated that she had driven into Crewkerne the other Sunday and there were hedge clippings all over the road and wonder if anybody else had noticed this. Mr H Ploszek stated that the farmer was cutting the hedge on a small tractor but was

clearing the cuttings up as he went. Mrs J Borland said that she must have come along at the wrong time in between clearings.

Mr D Yeomans stated that the gully at the top of Stakers Cross which has fallen into disrepair and as a consequence all the water just cascades down over Stakers Cross. He got the engineer from Highways Department to come out and have a look and they have agreed to repair the gully but there is a timescale of a three months wait but the repair will be done.

The second point Mr D Yeomans wish to bring up on highways was the parking at Maiden Beech school before and after the entrance when the schoolchildren are about to come out at the end of the afternoon. Although technically this is not in our Parish. Mr D Yeomans stated that coming from Crewkerne to Clapton there is this long line of Parents' cars and you cannot see pass these cars and if something is coming the other way you end up backing back a considerable distance to allow the oncoming traffic to pass. He also stated that because of the cars parked beyond the entrance you are totally blind with regards to traffic coming towards you because of the slight ridge and it is dangerous. He asked if we should contact Crewkerne Town Council. Mrs J Borland stated she would speak to Crewkerne Town Council regarding this matter and see what the best way forward was.

Mr Barrie Carter stated that he had been in contact with Dave Grabham from Somerset County Council regarding repositioning the Speed Indicator Device in Roundham and he is going to meet with Mr B Carter when he returns from holiday. Mr B Carter also stated that his neighbour was hit on the arm by a car on the 28<sup>th</sup> December as he was walking up to Mr Carter's house. The car stopped and the driver put his wing mirror back and then drove off. Mr B Carter said that the Police were not interested because no car registration number was obtained. Mr B Carter stated that it could have been a lot more serious and somebody could have been seriously injured. Mrs J Borland suggested to Mr B Carter that he contact Marcus Fysh (our local MP ) and bring the problem to his attention. Mr D Yeomans also pointed out to Mr B Carter that if the M.P. looks back through the minutes of past Parish Council Meetings he can see that Roundham and its traffic problem features in most of the meetings and it appears no further forward with a solution.

Mr Alcock (Member of the Public) asked if the signage on the crossroads coming from Clapton into Crewkerne was going to be moved back. Mrs J Borland had received confirmation that this work was going to be carried out in this financial year by the County Council.

Mr D Yeomans stated that there has been a lot of patching to the road in Woolminstone that leads down to Hewish and when the engineer came out to look at the gully that had fallen into disrepair, Mr Yeomans remarked on the amount of patching done to the road and the engineer stated that it was in preparation for top dressing the road next year.

Mr D Yeomans also pointed out that Higher Woolminstone Farm Lane leading down to the Newman's' farm had been patched last year in preparation for resurfacing this financial year. Mr Yeomans felt that a memo ought to be sent to the Highways Department of Somerset County Council asking them for a timescale on this particular job. The Clerk stated that she would do this.

Mr Yeomans also asked about the footbridge that needed repairing over the stream in Woolminstone, did another letter need to be sent to the authorities to get this

repaired. Mrs J Borland stated that the bridge had been repaired although not a very good repair and Mr H Ploszek stated that the vegetation around the bridge and the banks had also been cleared.

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

No Parish Councillors had any reports to make.

Mrs S Osborne (South Somerset District Council) joined the meeting late for which she apologised.

The District Council is looking at ways to generate income because the feeling is that Councils are going to have to become more commercial with the phasing out of the Revenue Support grant, so the Parish Council is wise not to lower the precept because when the District Council loses the Revenue Support Grant so will the Parish Council. The District Council are putting a team together to look at the assets of the Council and whether better use can be made of those assets.

The District Council has concerns over Social Housing especially in rural areas with Yarlington having sold off the last Social Housing House in Clapton and they are also redeveloping a site in Horton and Donyatt but the houses are going to be for the Commercial market. When Social Housing was handed over to Yarlington any proceeds from the sale of Social Housing was to go back into the Parishes but the District Council has no way of knowing whether this is happening. Mrs S Osborne said that the District Council are going to have to look at their policy on rural Social Housing because the structure and the direction of Yarlington seems to indicate they are moving away from rural Social Housing.

Mrs S Osborne stated that the Parish Council had touched on the issue of the three weekly collection of bins. The recycling bins will still be collect weekly but they are going to collect more plastic and are looking at bigger lorries to handle the extra plastic, When this scheme was trialled last year it was generally successful, although District Councillors did ask about flats or multi occupancy of a property. It was felt that it may not work as well there. If a householder needs an extra bin because of nappies or personal products then they can ask for an extra bin. Mr Alcock (member of the public) asked if householders were going to get extra boxes. Mrs S Osborne said that she thought that households were going to get another box and a lid for the box to keep the recycling dry.

Mrs S Osborne said that was all she had to report apart from the Shudrick valley scheme was going to inquiry next week and although this scheme is in Ilminster it's impact will be felt on surrounding villages.

9. **Finance**

A) To pay:-

1. Clerk Salary of £129.10 Cheque No.261
2. HMRC of £32.40 Cheque No.262

To consider ways of paying the tax on the Clerk's Salary to HMRC in light of letter received from HMRC.

A letter had been received from HMRC asking us to pay electronically rather than by cheque. The Chairman would contact NatWest bank regarding this matter. The Clerk would ring HMRC regarding the matter. The Clerk preferably would like to continue paying by cheque as this suited her and the councillors.

B) To pay Mr D Yeomans for the purchase of an audio recorder for use at Parish Council meetings of £111.64. Cheque no.260

C) To consider proposals for the precept for 2017/18 for West Crewkerne Parish Council.

The Clerk put before the Parish Councillors the proposals for the precept for 2017/18. The overall rise in the precept for the Council Taxpayers was 0.02p in the West Crewkerne Parish. Mr D Yeomans went through the proposals for the precept. The biggest increase was the Crewkerne Joint Burial Board but as Mrs J Borland pointed out this had only increased by 3%. The other grants had been increased from £200 last year to £500 this year so that any non-profit making organisation that uses the village hall can apply for a grant. The Clerk explained that the grant from Central Government had gone down this year to £50 from £170 last year. The clerk also stated that she did not want to lower the precept in case in future years we need to increase the precept. The precept meeting that the Clerk went to at the beginning of December it was mooted that Parish Councils maybe subject to the same capping of 2% that District and County Councils are subject too. Mr D Yeomans read out the amounts allocated to each heading and then asked for a proposer for the precept and a seconder. Mr B Carter proposed the precept proposals be accepted and Mr F Freeman seconded the proposal.

#### 10. **Correspondence**

The following memos have been sent to all parish councillors;  
Somerset Prepared  
Somerset Waste Partnership for October, November and December.  
Street Trading Consultation  
Speed Indicator Devices for 2017 for West Crewkerne Parish  
Parish Noticeboards.

The Chairman read out the list of the above memos to confirm whether the Parish Councillors had received the above memos. Regarding the memo on the Speed Indicator device for 2017 the Parish Council need to ensure that when the Speed Indicator device is placed outside Fred Broome's farm the vegetation is cleared around the pole it is mounted on as Somerset County Council will not clear the vegetation. Mr B Carter (Parish Councillor) stated that the speed indicator department in Somerset County Council appears to be a "one man band" as he has spoken to Mr D Grabham regarding Roundham. Mr Grabham is going on holiday but there appears to be nobody who covers for him. Mrs J Borland stated that that appears to have been the case for a number of years.

Mrs J Borland stated that the Parish Noticeboards memo was the same one as last year. Whilst they were nice the price of them was prohibitive, in the region of £800 per noticeboard. Mr B Carter thought it would be a good idea to have noticeboards. Mr D Yeomans stated that we would need a noticeboard for Hewish Roundham and possibly one for Woolminstone as the current noticeboard at Woolminstone does not have glass doors on it. Mr Alcock (member of public) asked if the Parish Council would like him to ask his son-in-law for a quote as he is a carpenter. All members of

the Parish Councils were in agreement over this suggestion for Mr Alcock to obtain a quote from his son-in-law.

The Clerk stated that Mr Henryk Ploszek had just given her an invoice for the maintenance of the West Crewkerne Parish Council website, so could we put it in as an extra on the agenda so that the Parish Council could pay him at this meeting. The Chairman asked the amount to be paid which was £29.99 and was cheque no. 263.

11. **To confirm that the next meeting of the West Crewkerne Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at Clapton & Wayford Village Hall at 7.00pm.**

The Chairman confirmed that the next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at 7.00pm at Clapton & Wayford Village Hall.

Meeting finished at 19.50.

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Chairman