

WEST CREWKERNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 14th November 2017 at Clapton & Wayford Village Hall

Members Present

Mr Don Yeomans
Mr Frank Freeman
Mrs Caroline Broom
Mr Barrie Carter
Mrs Sue Osborne (South Somerset District Councillor)
Mr Mike Best (Somerset County Councillor)

Also present

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

1. Apologies for Absence

Apology received from Mrs Julia Borland

2. Public Open Forum – Each member of the public present is entitled to speak once only, in respect of business itemised on the agenda and shall not speak for more than 5 minutes.

Mr Andrew Hutchings brought up that there is some hay bales deposited on Highways land opposite the church in Hewish. The bales have been there for at least two years and now are rotting and have fungus growing out of them and they are becoming a health hazard. The bales were deposited there by an Annabel Taylor and David Swaffield. Mr A Hutchings has brought the matter to the attention of the Parish Council as Hewish Church celebrates 150 years next years and the parishioners would like the unsightly bales removed. Mr A Hutchings asked the Parish Council if they could write to Annabel Taylor asking her to remove the bales. The vice-chairman asked the clerk if she would write a letter to Annabel Taylor requiring the bales to be removed within four weeks from the letter date.

Mr Henryk Ploszek gave notice that he does not wish to continue after the next meeting of being responsible for the upkeep and updating of the Parish Council Website. The Vice Chairman Mr D Yeomans thanked Mr H Ploszek for all his hard work on the Parish Website.

The Parish Clerk wished to say that she had received a letter from the Clapton and Wayford village hall committee thanking the Parish Council for their generous donation towards the upkeep of the village hall.

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

Declarations of Interest in Planning application 6 (G) were made by Mrs Caroline Broom and Mr Don Yeomans. Mr Frank Freeman and Mr Barrie Carter had no declarations of interest to make on any of the items on the agenda.

4. **To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 12th September 2017.**

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 12th September 2017 were proposed for adoption by Mrs Caroline Broom and seconded by Mr Frank Freeman.

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

Mrs Caroline Broom brought up about the Roundham small improvement scheme and the maiden beech scheme to get the signs put back further along the road, but she wondered what was happening regarding the bend on the road leading into Clapton. The Parish Clerk apologised to the meeting stating that she had only just done the letters due to being away on holiday but that she had written to Coombe Farm regarding the ditches in Cinder Ash Lane in Roundham, the Rights of Way team in Somerset County Council asking for a date for when the footbridge in Clapton was going to be repaired, Somerset County Council regarding the Roundham Scheme and Somerset Highways regarding the water on the bend as you approach Clapton from the Crewkerne direction and three highways matters in Woolminstone.

6. **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 fed into the planning process and added to the report by the Planning Officer. South Somerset District Council is the Planning Authority and will issue the final decision notice (Planning Determination) once their investigations into the application, consultation period and decision making process has been completed.

A): 17/02627/COL Hinton Park Farm Cottages, Hinton St George, Somerset TA17 8TL.

Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for the existing use of building as 2 No. dwelling houses.

There were no comments from the parish council on this planning application.

Application refused.

B): 17/03000/FUL. Highlands Dairy Farm, Hewish Lane, West Crewkerne TA18 8QX. Erection of Cover to Cattle Yard.

Application permitted with conditions

There were no comments on this planning application by the Parish Council

C): 17/03059/FUL. Wyedale Plastics Ltd, Brightwell Farm, Cathole Bridge Road, Crewkerne TA18 8RF.

Demolish Oven 2 and erection of extension to factory.

No comments on this planning application from the Parish Council

Application permitted with conditions

D): 17/03360/FUL. Furland Farm, Furland Lane, Furland, Crewkerne TA18 7TT.

Demolish existing outbuildings, Alterations, conversion and extension of redundant farm building into single dwelling.

No comments on this planning application by the Parish Council.

Application permitted with conditions

E): 17/03552/FUL. Coombe Farm Cottages, Roundham, Crewkerne Somerset TA18 8RP.

Demolish Nos 4 and 5 Coombe Farm Cottages and 4 No. replacement estate workers dwellinghouses.

There were no comments made by the Parish Council on this planning application.

F): 17/03541/LBC. Axe Farm, Axe Road, Drimpton, Beaminster, Dorset DT8 3RJ.

Internal alterations and repairs. Remove modern external door and reinstate tone wall to front elevation.

The Parish Council made comments on this application.

G): 17/03848/FUL. Land at Junction, Stalkers Cross Lane to Higher Farm Lane, West Crewkerne Somerset.

The erection of a dwelling and car port.

Mr D Yeomans and Mrs C Broom had already declared an interest in this planning application and therefore made no comments on the application as Parish Councillors. However, there were comments made by various people on the South Somerset District Council Planning website. Mr D Yeomans stated that the application had been approved today the 14th of November.

Mr B Carter stated that he could not recall seeing the planning application for Wyedale Plastics. Mr B Carter would have made some comments on this application because this is going to create more traffic down Cathole Bridge Lane there are already huge articulated lorries going down that lane. Mr B Carter also stated that the road comes out into an apex, right on a bend where they put a drain in and narrowed the road to accommodate this drain. The Clerk pointed out to Mr B Carter that the planning application under discussion was for the demolition of an oven and an extension to the factory. Mr B Carter stated that he would be interested to know who had passed the plans for the alterations to Cathole Bridge Lane outside the factory. Mr B Carter addressed Mr M Best (Somerset County Councillor) to ask if he knew, he did not but he would be able to look at the old file and if the meeting would like him to do so he would arrange for this to be done. The Vice-Chairman stated that the Parish Council would be grateful if this could be done.

7. Highway Matters

Clearance of ditches on Cinder Ash Lane Roundham

The Parish Clerk has written a letter to Mr G Coleman of Coombe Farm Roundham Asking for the ditches in Cinder Ash Lane to be cleared as according to the Rights of Way team at Somerset County Council the ditches are the landowner's responsibility and the landowner is Coombe Farm Roundham

Footbridge in Clapton, letter to the Rights of Way team to make this repair a Priority. The Clerk has recently sent a letter to the Rights of Way team asking them to make the repair of the bridge on this footpath a priority, pointing out that this is the only footpath in the village that allow people to walk off the road. This footpath being out of action is having an impact on the village.

Maiden Beech Cross-Roads Adopted Roads in the West Crewkerne Parish.

Mr M Best (Somerset County Councillor) stated that he had now submitted Maiden Beech Cross-Roads as a small improvement scheme to get the road signs moved. Mr M Best had been to a meeting regarding the scheme and early indication is that the scheme has scored well, he linked the safety aspect of the school in with his

application. Mr M Best had spoken to Inspector Tim Coombe from the Police and the Police are prepared to back the scheme. Mr M Best asked if a formal letter from the West Crewkerne Parish Council could be sent as well giving their approval to the scheme. The Parish Clerk agreed to write a letter to Somerset County Council at the request of the Parish Councillors. Mr M Best also addressed the problem on the bend on the road coming into Clapton stating that he will contact the Highways engineer to come and look at this problem and see what solution he can come up with, the Highways engineer also can submit a scheme to the Small Improvement Scheme team if the problem warrants it. Mr M Best will liaise with Mrs C Broom on this matter.

Community Led Housing Projects

The Vice-Chairman asked Mr F Freeman if he had anything to report on this project. Mr F Freeman had not been able to follow this through at present. Mrs S Osborne stated that the first action is to contact Lisa Kelly Community Council for Somerset to put in an application to start the process of assessing the need for Community Led Housing. The application has to come from the West Crewkerne Parish Council to the Community Council for Somerset, they will then produce a detailed questionnaire for the Parish Council to distribute to the parishioners of West Crewkerne Parish as well as setting up an on-line survey for people who wish to complete the questionnaire on line. The Community Council for Somerset will then produce the numbers of Parishioners who would like to see some Community Led Housing and then these figures can be used if any land comes up for sale to set up a Community Land Trust. The Community Council for Somerset do charge a fee for the service they provide. The Vice-Chairman asked Mr F Freeman if he wished to take this forward, Mr F Freeman will follow this matter up with Lisa Kelly.

Letter to StreetClean for the road sweeper to visit Woolminstone

The Parish Clerk has sent a letter to Streetclean recently for the road sweeper to visit Woolminstone.

Roundham Small Improvement Scheme.

Mr M Best (Somerset County Councillor) stated that he had spoken to the Small Improvement Scheme team regarding the Roundham Scheme and had subsequently received an e-mail back from them. They are proposing to take the speed limit down from 40mph to 30mph through Roundham and then at the end of the 30mph limit take the speed limit back up to 40mph right through to Crewkerne. The e-mail from the Small Improvement Scheme team indicates that the scheme has been accepted and Mr M Best stated that the proposals are with the Architect to produce a drawing of the scheme, once Mr M Best has the drawing he will then present it to the Parish Council for their perusal. At this stage if there are any other reasonable items that need to be added to the drawing then it can be done at this stage. Mr B Carter stated that he felt there should be a lead into the 30mph, this was something that could be done at the drawing stage when the proposals from the Small Improvement Scheme are known. The Vice-Chairman thanked Mr M Best for his efforts on this scheme.

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

The Vice-Chairman asked the Parish Councillors if they had anything to report, Mr F Freeman and Mrs C Broom had nothing to report. Mr B Carter wanted his thanks to

Mr M Best recorded for the Roundham Small Improvement Scheme. Mr D Yeomans reported that Paul Watkins has retired from Somerset Highways. Mr D Yeomans had reported on the website some potholes in Woolminstone which they came and filled some of them in but left others. Mr D Yeomans had also contacted Somerset Highways regarding the gully and the pipe halfway up farm lane. The man that came out from Somerset Highways was adamant that ditches and gullies were the responsibility of the landowner. Mr D Yeomans pointed out to him that Somerset Highways had replaced the pipe and had put a small bore pipe in instead of a large bore pipe and Mr D Yeomans asked the man from Somerset Highways to go back and check with his boss as to who was responsible for the pipe. Mr M Best (Somerset County Councillor) asked that any correspondence with Somerset County Council could he please be kept in the loop and correspondence forwarded to him so that he can follow through if necessary.

Mrs C Broom stated that just after the last Parish Council Meeting, yellow markings and numbers appeared on the road and she wondered if anybody knew what they were for, they were being put on the roads by a Highways Department man. Mr M Best stated that there was an Area West meeting tomorrow night and a representative from the Highways Department would be there so he would try and follow this matter up.

Mr M Best (Somerset County Councillor) had nothing to report as he had already filled in the Parish Council on various points of action that had been listed previously. Mrs S Osborne (South Somerset District Councillor) presented her report. Mrs S Osborne had some very sad news to impart, that their Solicitor Mr Ian Clarke who had been with them for many years at South Somerset District Council had died suddenly in the early hours of Saturday morning. Many members of staff who had known or worked with Ian Clarke were distraught and this was going to have a knock on effect on the work for the next week. Mrs S Osborne also stated that our thoughts are also with the family at this unhappy time.

Mrs S Osborne stated that Business Rates it looks like the District Council is going down the route of pooling but she has paperwork to read up on that before it comes up at full council. The consultation on Boundary changes has now closed and Mrs S Osborne stated that the consultants will take on board all the comments made and then come up with their own boundaries for South Somerset District and that then will be up for consultation again. The Local Plan for South Somerset District Council is being reviewed again and the consultation period will last until the middle of January 2018. There are drop in centres to be able to look at the plan and Mrs S Osborne urged people to look at the plan and make any comments.

9. Finance

A) To pay:-

1. Clerk Salary - £91.15

All Parish Councillors in agreement Cheque No.277

2. HMRC - £22.60

All the Parish Councillors were in agreement to pay HMRC. Cheque No.278

3. SALC Annual Subscription

The Vice-Chairman asked how much the subscription to SALC was, the subscription was £148.52 for the year, all Parish Councillors in agreement to renew subscription. Cheque No. 279

4. Purchase of a new laptop for the Parish Clerk's use on Parish Council Matters.

The Clerk stated that this matter was put on hold for the time being. The Vice-Chairman asked what the problem was with the laptop. The Clerk stated that opening up applications on the laptop was a really slow process and with the recent Microsoft updates it completely disconnected Internet Explorer from logging in to any secure sites. A friend of the Parish Clerk had to take the laptop away and download the data and then reformat the disc/hard drive. Mr M Best stated that if the Parish was looking to purchase a new laptop, then to bear in mind that South Somerset District Council I. T. department may be able to purchase the laptop slightly cheaper. The Clerk stated that her friend would probably let the Parish Council have the laptop at trade price. The Vice-Chairman stated that the Parish Clerk needs to obtain the model, specifications and the price and bring this to the next Parish Council Meeting. The Parish Clerk agreed to do this

5. Half yearly accounts for the period to the 30th September 2017.

The Vice-Chairman commented that the Parish Council Finances would appear to be in a healthy state. The Vice-Chairman asked Mr H Ploszek if he would put a copy of the accounts for the half year to 30th September 2017 on the website. Mr F Freeman asked why the Clerk's salary had gone down. The Clerk stated that she had not done so many hours up to the 30th September 2017 as the previous year.

10. Correspondence

At the time of preparing the agenda I am unable to state what correspondence has been passed to the councillors as the last update by Microsoft has crashed the laptop and the laptop needs to be formatted for me to gain access to the gmail account of the Parish Council.

The Vice-Chairman stated that normally there is a list of correspondence that has been forwarded to the Parish Councillors but owing to the above problem that has not been possible. The Parish Clerk stated that the Chairman had still been able to get into the e-mails and had forwarded ones like the Somerset Waste Partnership. The Parish Councillors confirmed they had received e-mails and correspondence from the Chairman.

The Clerk stated that one item she had forgotten to put under the heading of Finance was that Grant Thornton had signed off the Audit for the year ended 31st March 2017. The Clerk had given a copy of the notice to Mr H Ploszek to display on the website and the Clerk asked Mr F Freeman if he could display a notice on the Parish Council's noticeboard at the Village Hall. The notice gives the Parishioners of West Crewkerne Parish 14 days to ask to look at the accounts books again or to phone Grant Thornton and ask about the audit for West Crewkerne Parish. The 14 day period starts from the 14th November 2017.

- 11. To confirm that the next meeting of the West Crewkerne Parish Council will be Held on the 9th January 2018 at the Clapton and Wayford Village Hall at 7.00pm**
The Vice-Chairman confirmed that the next Parish Council meeting for West Crewkerne Parish will be held on the 9th January 2018. The Vice-Chairman declared the Parish Council meeting closed at 19.55 and wished everybody a happy Christmas.

Chairman

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