

WEST CREWKERNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 12th September 2017 at Clapton & Wayford Village Hall

Members Present

Mrs Julia Borland
Mr Don Yeomans
Mr Frank Freeman
Mrs Caroline Broom
Mrs Sue Osborne (South Somerset District Councillor)

Also present

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

Before the meeting started officially the Chairman pointed out that the meeting room does have a full induction loop system for the hard of hearing. If anyone would like the system switched on before any of the meetings would they let the Chairman know.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apology received from Mr Barrie Carter.

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 M Wilson asked if he could talk about the leaflet received regarding Life in the Countryside with regard to Broadband. He asked if all the Councillors had seen the leaflet which they had. Mr M Wilson understood that it was a private company that had received Government funding and had private funding to bring fibre broadband to rural areas. Mr D Yeomans had looked on their website and had ascertain there was a £100 connection fee and up to a £100 for fibre but if the fibre broadband had to be brought a considerable distance then the householder would have to pick up the bill. Mr D Yeomans stated that the cost per month is estimated at around £40 but he does not think this includes the line rental. As far as Mr D Yeomans is aware BT have no plans to upgrade the copper wiring and he is not sure whether parts of the West Crewkerne Parish will end up in the 5% that BT are unable to upgrade. No further items from members of the Public.

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

The Chairman asked each member of the Parish Council individually if they had any declarations of Interest in items on the agenda, none of them had any interests.

4. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 11TH July 2017.

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of the 11th July 2017 were proposed for adoption by Mr Don Yeomans and seconded by Mr Frank Freeman.

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

None from Mr D Yeomans and Mr F Freeman. Mrs C Broom stated that the water that has been running across the road on the corner near her property is the result

of a ditch not being dug out. Although Somerset County Council dug out the ditches around this area they missed this ditch due to the fact that an accident had occurred there a couple of years ago and the vehicle went across the ditch and deposited debris which has covered the ditch up. Consequently water is not running away in the ditch and then under the road to the stream by the toll house.

Mr L Graham-Gleed stated that halfway up farm lane by the field of Maize there is a blocked gully there and water is running across the road causing a pothole in the road. Also up past Lyminster Farm there is a gully which goes into a pipe and when Somerset County Council repaired this a couple of years ago they put the wrong size pipe in and the pipe get silted up and then the water runs out into the lane.

The Chairman asked the Clerk to send a letter to Somerset Highways on all three matters.

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.

This application has not gone through yet but the West Crewkerne Parish Council had no objections to this application

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

This application has not gone through yet but the West Crewkerne Parish Council had no objections to this application.

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

Demolish Oven 2 and erection of extension to factory.

Mrs S Osborne (Somerset County Councillor) stated that this application has just gone through as approved.

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.

Mr J Turvill the owner of Furland Farm came to address the Parish Meeting regarding his application and ask the West Crewkerne Parish Council for their approval of the planning application. Mr J Turvill proposes to demolish two redundant farm buildings built out of concrete blocks and replace them with one dwelling built of natural stone and cladding. The proposed dwelling will not be sold but put up for a short term tenancy in the first instance and then if his children come back to the farm, it would be a dwelling for them to reside in. If they do not want to go into farming then the cottage would be used as a residence for a farm manager when he and his wife come to retire. The Chairman asked the Parish Councillors if they had

any objections to the plans, none of the Councillors had any objections to the development in fact they stated it would enhance the existing buildings. The Chairman stated she would send in the West Crewkerne Parish Council response stating no objection on behalf of the Parish Council. The Chairman thanked Mr J Turvill for coming to the meeting and explaining his application and what he proposed to do with the new building,

7. Highway Matters

Clearance of ditches on Cinder Ash Lane Roundham – e-mail from L Braunton. The Clerk read out an e-mail she had received from Les Braunton who stated that the Rights of Way team were responsible for the walking or riding surfaces of the rights of way. Somerset Highways come twice a year and cut the vegetation from ditch to ditch and are scheduled to come within the next week or so. However the Landowner is responsible for the clearance of the ditches. Mr L Braunton stated that they hold a comprehensive list of landowners and Coombe Farm part of the A H Warren Trust own the land either side of Cinder Ash Lane. The Clerk asked the Parish Councillors' permission to write to Mr G Coleman, the estate manager to ask him if the ditches could be cleared. The Parish Councillors gave their approval.

Footbridge in Clapton, letter to the Rights of Way team to make this repair a Priority. Reply received

The Clerk had received a letter from the Rights of Way team stating that the bridge had been reported in April 2017 as being unsafe and had been subsequently closed. The maintenance and replacement of bridges on the public rights of way network is planned over a five year period, however this footbridge has been classed as a high priority and placed in year 1. Planning for the project has commenced but the actual replacement of the bridge is not imminent due to various factors that have to be addressed before the bridge can be replaced. The Rights of Way team were therefore unable to give a date of when the project would commence? Mrs M Wilson stated she had sent a letter on behalf of the Village Hall committee and had received a similar reply. The Chairman stated that the letter was not a very satisfactory reply but at present there was nothing the Parish Council could do.

Maiden Beech Cross-Roads –Update on any progress on the movement of road Signs.

The Chairman has received nothing from Somerset Highways regarding this matter and the Chairman was hoping that Mr M Best (Somerset County Councillor) would have been at the meeting to give any update he may have received. The Chairman asked the Clerk if she could write to Somerset Highways asking them for an update on the movement of signage on the Maiden Beech Cross-Roads. Mrs S Osborne (South Somerset District Councillor) asked the Parish Clerk to copy Mr M Best into the correspondence. Mrs S Osborne also suggested writing to the Rights of Way team stating that the Parish Council was not happy with the response from them regarding the footbridge as this lack of footbridge was impacting on village life and they were treating the footbridge as a priority 1. Therefore could they give a definite date when the footbridge would be replaced?

Adopted Roads in the West Crewkerne Parish, any update on whether the Information can be accessed and at what cost.

The Clerk stated that having found on Somerset County Council website the information that they would charge £40.00 for each road that the Parish Council were asking about within the West Crewkerne Parish at the last Parish Meeting, Mr M Best (Somerset County Councillor) stated he would follow up to see what he could access as a Councillor. The Chairman asked the Clerk to write to Mr M Best and ask him what he had been able to ascertain. Mrs S Osborne (South Somerset District Councillor) stated you maybe able to ascertain some information under the Freedom of Information Act and if the number of hours collating this information was under 18 hours she thought it was then free.

Community Led Housing Projects – Reports

Mr F Freeman and Mr D Yeomans were unable to attend the seminars on the Community Led Housing Projects, so the Chairman asked Mrs S Osborne if she would give a short overview of the project. There is £263,222.00 available for Community led projects in the South West for things such as feasibility studies. The project does not have to be steered by the Parish Council but a trust is created and they manage the project with regard to the building, the funding and the future tenants of the properties. The lady who initiated the Norton Sub Hamdon scheme is willing to come and talk to Parish Councils about setting up a scheme in their area. There are also various other organisations who can help with loans etc. The Chairman stated that she could not think of an expression of need in any of the Parishes that make up West Crewkerne Parish. The Chairman stated that she did not have the time to get involved with a Community Led Housing Project, also echoed by Mr D Yeomans. Mr F Freeman said that he felt that when the last Housing Association property was sold off that there was nothing for people living within the Parish to rent and so was interested in the project. Mrs S Osborne said that she would forward to Mr F Freeman all the information she had received from Lisa Kelly for his perusal.

Letter to StreetClean for the road sweeper to visit Woolminstone and Clapton. Does the Clerk need to follow this item up or have the roads been swept.

The Chairman is sure that Clapton roads have been swept. The road sweeper has been to Woolminstone but only went as far as the triangle then turned around and went back the way it had come in so none of the lanes had been swept. The Clerk asked the Councillors if they wanted her to write to Streetclean again requesting that a road sweeper sweep the lanes around Woolminstone, they confirmed that they would like another letter sent and that the road sweeper needs to sweep from Stakers Cross Lane down to the level crossing.

Parish Noticeboards in Hewish – update.

The Chairman had spoken to some people in Hewish regarding a Parish Noticeboard being sited in Hewish and the Chairman received an indifferent response. Therefore the meeting considered it was not worth pursuing.

Defibrillators for the Parish of West Crewkerne

The meeting considered the best place to place a defibrillator was the Clapton and Wayford village hall because after listening to some statistics that Mr D Yeomans had researched, this was where there was a mass of people at any given time. If the cabinet which housed the defibrillator had to be locked the question was asked as to whether mobile phone network would work if you were calling the emergency

services. One of the members of the public attending the meeting said that he felt sure that when a call was made to the emergency services the call was diverted to a mobile phone network that worked in that area. The Chairman asked if the Clerk would forward on to Mrs M Wilson the e-mail from the Crewkerne Rotary Club that was offering financial assistance towards the purchase of a defibrillator as Mrs M Wilson was on the village hall committee.

Roundham Small Improvement Scheme.

The Chairman stated that the person who is best placed to answer questions on the progress of this scheme is Mr M Best (Somerset County Councillor) who is not present tonight. Mr D Yeomans stated that this scheme has been dragging on for over two years and the Parish Council are no further forward in getting a road traffic scheme implemented than when the process started. Mr D Yeomans asked Mrs S Osborne (South Somerset District Council) if she had any means of obtaining accountability from Somerset Highways. Mrs S Osborne stated that she could offer advice to the Parish Council. The Parish Council should write and ask for clarification of where their submitted scheme was in the process, had the scheme been accepted and what was the timescale for the scheme to be implemented. As new applications for the Small Improvement Scheme are being invited for the end of October 2017 where does our scheme fit into this process and as there is limited funding, will there be funds set aside for the Roundham small improvement scheme? Mrs S Osborne suggested copying Mr M Best into the e-mail together with the portfolio holder who was a Mr John Woodman from Sedgemoor Council. The Parish Council also felt that if Mr M Best was unable to attend the Parish Council Meeting and there were items on the agenda that required his input he should send his apologies for being unable to attend the meeting and send a written report detailing his responses to the items requiring his attention on the Agenda.

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

Mrs C Broome had nothing to report.

Mr F Freeman had nothing to report

Mr D Yeomans had one item to report on. Mr D Yeomans felt that the Parish Council should download all the recordings of the Parish Meetings on to a memory stick once a year so that there is a hard record of the meetings. The Parish Council agreed and Mr D Yeomans agreed to purchase a memory stick and download the information from his computer on to the memory stick.

Mrs J Borland had nothing to report.

Mrs S Osborne (South Somerset District Councillor) gave the following report; Boundary Review – The Boundary Commission is carrying out a review of the boundaries in the South Somerset District Council Area. At present there are 60 District Councillors in the South Somerset Area and the Boundary Commission are satisfied with that number. The initial consultation finishes at the end of October 2017. West Crewkerne Parish Council as far as Mrs S Osborne is aware will not alter in the number of Councillors required. Once the initial consultation period is over then the Boundary Commission will look at how the parishes go together and their findings will then be used to complete Parishes/Councils and the new boundaries will then be open for discussion. The Boundary Commission hope to have the new parishes in place ready for the District elections in 2019.

The District Council has a Financial and an investment strategy in place. The District Council have just done their 5 year plan for Housing supply but do not have 5 years' worth of housing supply they only have 4 years and 2 months. Therefore if a developer comes along with proposals for housing development and it may not be where the district council or the local community have earmarked the area for growth, because there is no 5 year housing supply in place, it makes it harder for the District Council to oppose the development. There is an early review of the Local Plan taking place to take us up to 2034-38. The District Council is looking at housing needs, industrial land, employment land, infrastructure, all the things that go into making up the local plan and there will be a workshop for Councillors at the beginning of October. Mrs S Osborne stated that was all she had to report at this meeting,

9. Finance

A) To pay:-

1. Clerk Salary - £135.99 Cheque No. 276
2. HMRC - £34.20 Cheque No .275
3. SALC Annual Subscription.

The Clerk stated that she had run Justin Robertson regarding the Annual subscription to SALC, their database is compromised and Justin is issuing the invoices by hand. The Clerk asked if the Parish Council had a problem and needed SALC's help or advise would they still be covered even those their subscription had not yet been paid. He stated that the Parish Council would still be covered by SALC,

4. Payment of the Hire of the Village Hall. Cheque No. 274

10. Correspondence

British National Ploughing Championships
Temporary road closures of Dunshams Lane
Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2017.
St Margaret's Hospice Time for Tea
Planning training for Town and Parish Councillors
Recycle for July and August
Chairman's awards Somerset County Council
South Somerset Countryside Events
Road Closures in Winsham
Somerset Rivers Authority end of year report.

The Chairman read out the above correspondence and confirmed with the Parish Councillors that they had all received copies of the correspondence and that some of the correspondence had been put on the website courtesy of Mr H Plozek who maintains the website.

11. The Chairman confirmed that the next West Crewkerne Parish Council meeting will be held on the 14th November 2017 at the Clapton and Wayford Village Hall at 7.00pm.

The Meeting closed at 8,45pm.

Chairman