

WEST CREWKERNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 9TH May 2017 at Clapton & Wayford Village Hall

Members Present

Mrs Julia Borland
Mr Frank Freeman
Mrs Caroline Broom
Mrs Sue Osborne (South Somerset District Councillor)
Mr John Dyke (Retired Somerset County Councillor)
Mr Mike Best (Somerset County Councillor)

Also present

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

1. The election of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Joint Burial Committee members.

Mrs Caroline Broom proposed Mrs Julia Borland as Chairman and this was seconded by Mr Frank Freeman, as there were no other nominations, Mrs J Borland was duly elected. The Clerk stated that Mr Don Yeomans was willing to stand as Vice-Chairman. Mrs Julia Borland proposed Mr Don Yeomans as Vice-Chairman and Mr Frank Freeman seconded the proposal and as there were no other nominations Mr D Yeomans was duly elected. The Joint Burial Board committee members, Mrs J Borland asked Mr F Freeman and Mrs C Broom if they were both prepared to stand again, both were willing to stand again and Mrs J Borland stated she was willing to stand again.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from;
Mr D Yeomans (Parish Councillor)
Mr B Carter (Parish Councillor)
Mr & Mrs M Wilson
Mrs M Ashby
Mr L Graham-Gleed
Mr J Wyatt

3. 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 H Ploszek brought to the attention of the Parish Clerk that under Paragraph 3 of the Openness of Local Government regulations 2013 it is the filming of vulnerable adults or children that the public can object to not the recording of a meeting.

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

The Chairman asked Mrs C Broom and Mr F Freeman if they had any interest in any items on the agenda to declare. Neither Councillors had any interests to declare and neither did the Chairman.

5. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 14th March 2017

The minutes of the above meeting were accepted by the Parish Councillors and proposed for adoption by Mr F Freeman and seconded by Mrs J Borland.

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

The Chairman stated that as far as she could see all the Matters arising from the minutes were covered on the Agenda and she asked the other Parish Councillors if they agreed with that statement, unanimously agreed.

7. Planning Matters.

A): 17/00934/AGN, Maincombe Woodland Roundham Somerset. The erection of a metal implement storage shed.

Permission not required.

B): 17/01236/FUL, Unit C Lower Coombe Farm Roundham, Crewkerne, Somerset TA18 8RL. Internal & External alterations and the change of use of existing store to use in connection with Car Sales.

Application permitted with conditions.

C): 17/01452/FUL, Barnside, Hewish, Crewkerne Somerset TA18 8QT. Erection of a single storey rear extension.

All the above applications had been circulated to all the West Crewkerne Parish Councillors and none of them had had any objections to any of the above planning applications.

8. Highway Matters

Grit Bins for the B3165

The Parish Clerk had received a reply to her letter to Mike Fear (Somerset Highways). He stated that he was prepared to site the grit bin for the Parish Council but that the Parish Council had to purchase the grit bin themselves. The Clerk had obtained some costings and the one that was suitable for footpaths and the side of the road would cost £102.96 plus vat. The Chairman stated that the problem that the grit bin was required for is water across the road, if the ditch is sorted out in this area by Somerset Highways then there will be no water across the road and therefore no need for a grit bin. All the Parish Councillors agreed for the present to put this matter on hold.

Parish Noticeboard for Hewish

The Parish Clerk had written to the occupier of the Old Manor Farmhouse and she had received a reply from Dr Pamela Priest who after careful consideration would not allow West Crewkerne Parish Council to erect a Parish Noticeboard on either her garage wall or the land next to the garage. She considered that a better place to erect the noticeboard would be around by the Church. Mrs C Broom (Parish Councillor) stated that there was already a decent noticeboard by the Church. The Chairman asked if the noticeboard was large enough to display the Parish minutes, Mrs C Broom stated that it was more than adequate and there was also the noticeboard inside the porch of the Church. The Chairman would discuss the matter with the churchwarden of Hewish Church and would also contact Mr Alcock with regard to the noticeboard potentially being made by his son-in-law, this would no longer be required due to the response from the landowner.

Clearance of ditches on Cinder Ash Lane Roundham

The Clerk had written to Mr Les Braunton at South Somerset District Council regarding the clearance of the ditches and Restricted Byway and had stated that the residents on this

restricted byway were all elderly and unable to clear the footpath or the ditches but had received no reply as yet. The Clerk was informed that Mr L Braunton was in fact employed at Somerset County Council. The Clerk stated she would write to Mr L Braunton at Somerset County Council, Mr J Dyke stated that he would forward on Mr Braunton's e-mail address at Somerset County Council. Mrs S Osborne (South Somerset District Councillor) asked if the Parish Council knew who the land owner was? The Clerk stated that Mr B Carter (Parish Councillor) had stated at the last meeting that they did not know who the land owner was.

Small Improvement Scheme for Roundham

Mr J Dyke gave an overview of the meeting at County Hall. Mr B Carter had organised a meeting for the residents of Roundham and 14 residents turned up at the meeting. He ascertained what the residents would like to see done about the traffic in Roundham and when he went to the meeting at County Hall with Mr J Dyke he had a "shopping list" of what the residents would like to see done. The meeting was productive with Mr S Lawrence at County Hall and the residents through Mr B Carter had given him suggestions to think about. The suggestions were endorsed by the West Crewkerne Parish Council by way of a letter to Mr S Lawrence at Somerset County Council. The Chairman thanked Mr J Dyke for his hard work and patience on this scheme.

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

Mr F Freeman (Parish Councillor) asked if the Clerk would send a letter to the Rights of Way team at South Somerset District Councillor regarding this footbridge at Clapton. The bridge has been closed because it is unsafe but it is the only footpath around the village that people can use to walk around the village. Mr F Freeman would like the Rights of Way team to make the re-opening of this bridge a priority, so that a letter from the Parish Council may help. Mr F Freeman stated the person dealing with the footpath was Rachel Pearce.

Mr H Ploszek asked a question as to whether the Parish Clerk would write to Somerset County Council and ask for a list of adopted roads by the County in West Crewkerne Parish and whether they had been adopted from side to side or from hedge to hedge. If they have been adopted from hedge to hedge then the ditches are the responsibility of the highways department of Somerset County Council. It may help to sort out this problem of responsibility of ditches and drains.

Mr R Jeffery a member of the public brought up the mini-roundabout at Severalls Park in Crewkerne, although he realises it is not in our Parish, it is a very dangerous roundabout because of the number of people who just drive straight through the roundabout without realising it is there. Would it be possible to bring it to the attention of Crewkerne Town Council.

Request from Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance for night landing sites.

The Parish Clerk had received a request from Mr M Wilson to bring to the attention of the Parish Council for discussion an article on the above air ambulance for landing sites within the Parish. The site needs to be free of obstacles and have access to get an injured person to the Air Ambulance. Coombe Farm was suggested as a possible landing site as it was near the A30. Mr Frank Freeman suggested a site in Clapton and he would follow that up with the landowner. The Clerk will write to Coombe Farm. Mr H Ploszek stated that the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance were taking possession of a new helicopter with night flying facilities, so they wanted new landing sites for practice sessions and also in case of emergency

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

The Chairman stated that Mr M Best on behalf of Crewkerne Town Council and herself had had a joint meeting with Highways Department regarding the signage on the Maiden Beech cross roads. She was now going to defer to Mr M Best as he had had further dealings with the Highways Department. Mr M Best stated that the road had been resurfaced at the Maiden Beech Crossroads but nothing had happen regarding the signage. Mr M Best will be contacting Mr C Fletcher of Highways Department in the very near future as he has several matters to bring up with him. He will report back at the next meeting.

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

The Chairman asked Mrs S Osborne (South Somerset District Councillor) for her report. All meetings have been put back because of the General Election called. The Planning department are now going to be charging for pre- planning application advice. The majority of calls asking for advice are coming from agents acting for clients. There has been an Income Generation Board set up by the District Council looking at ways to generate income and to make best possible use of the assets that the District Council own. There has also been an ambitious Transformation Plan just signed off where they look at how the District Council carry out their tasks. It is hoped that this plan will result in savings that will enable the District Council to fund and maintain the services they provide. The Transformation from one system to another it is hoped will not impact on the residents of South Somerset District Council. The Parish Council should be hearing from the Boundary Commissioners shortly regarding the review of the West Crewkerne Parish Boundaries. Mrs S Osborne stated that it is vital that the rural parishes are heard in this review that is being carried out otherwise they will be swallowed up into larger parishes and the rural parish will have lost its voice.

The Chairman asked the retired County Councillor Mr J Dyke if he had anything to report. He had nothing to report as the Council was in perda until June after the election. Mr J Dyke stated that it had been a great pleasure working with West Crewkerne Parish Council over the years.

The Chairman welcomed Mr M Best (Somerset County Councillor) to the meeting. Mr M Best reiterated what Mr J Dyke had said that although he has been elected as a County Councillor no meetings or decisions are being made until after the General Election as the Council is in perda.

The Chairman asked Mr F Freeman and Mrs C Broom if they had anything to report, they had nothing to report. Mrs J Borland, The Chairman, had nothing to report either.

10. Finance

A) To pay:-

1. Clerk Salary of £177.38 Paid Cheque No. 269
2. HMRC of £39.00 Paid Cheque No. 268
3. Crewkerne Joint Burial Board Precept of £2979.00 Paid Cheque No. 266
4. Annual Public Liability Insurance of £253.00 Paid Cheque No. 267
5. SALC Annual Subscription – SALC have a problem with their computer database and they are sending the invoices manually. They are happy to wait for payment until July.
6. Grant to the Village Hall as agreed in the Precept – Payment has been deferred until the July meeting.

- B) To approve the Annual Receipts and Payments account for the year ended 31st March 2017
These were agreed by the Parish Councillors and the meeting and were proposed for adoption by Mr F Freeman and Seconded by Mrs C Broom
- C) To agree the bank reconciliation as at 31st March 2017.
The Bank reconciliation statement was agreed at the meeting by the Parish Councillors and the members present.
- D) To approve the Annual Governance Statement
The Chairman read out the various headings on the Annual Governance Statement and went through them individually. The Annual Governance Statement was proposed for adoption by Mr F Freeman and seconded by Mrs C Broom and the Chairman signed the external auditor's statement.
- E) To approve the Annual Statement of Accounts to 31st March 2017
The Annual Statement of Accounts to 31st March 2017 was approved by the Parish Councillors and the members present. The Accounts were proposed for acceptance by Mr F Freeman and seconded by Mrs C Broom. The Chairman signed the external auditor's statement.
- F) To confirm the internal auditor
The Chairman confirmed that the internal auditor was Mr M Wilson and he was willing to continue as internal auditor for the next year.

11. Correspondence

The following memos sent to Parish Councillors;
Rivers Authority
Footpath Closures in Wayford and West Crewkerne
Avian Flu
Closure of Dunsham Lane & Higher Farm Lane
Somerset Waste Partnership for April
Temporary Closure of Hewish Gates Crewkerne

The Chairman asked the Parish Councillors if they had received the above memos from the Clerk, they confirmed they had. Mr H Ploszek a member of the public asked if Somerset County Council had contacted the parish council with a diversion for higher farm lane as the road is supposed to be closed for 7 days for resurfacing. However the road is a dead end and there is no other access to the road or properties. The Chairman asked the Clerk if she could follow up with Somerset County Council.

- 12. To confirm that the next meeting of the West Crewkerne Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 11th July 2017 at Clapton & Wayford Village Hall at 7.00pm.

Chairman