

WEST CREWKERNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 8th September 2015 at Clapton & Wayford Village Hall

Members Present

Mrs Julia Borland

Mr Don Yeomans

Mr Frank Freeman

Mrs Caroline Broom

Mr John Dyke Somerset County Councillor

Mrs Sue Osborne South Somerset District Councillor

Also present

Miss Jackie Parsons (Parish Clerk)

4 Members of the Public

Meeting commenced at 7pm

1. Apologies for Absence
None received
2. Public Open Forum
A question was asked about the gun shop on the Coombe Farm estate, had they received the appropriate planning permission. The Chairman said this would be covered under planning on the agenda.
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 7th July 2015.
The minutes were approved by the meeting, proposed by Mr D Yeomans and seconded by Mr F Freeman.
5. Matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere on the Agenda.
Mr D Yeomans asked the Chairman if she had invited Mr M Fear to the meeting, she had not. The Chairman stated that she had asked Wayford Parish Council if they would like to attend a meeting with someone from Highway as yet no reply had been received. The Chairman would invite Mr Mike Fear to our next meeting and inform Wayford Parish Council of this council's intentions at their next meeting.
Mr D Yeomans stated some Highways work had been carried out in Woolminstone and some of the drains had been cleared and flushed through. However some of the drains had not been cleared because the ditches had not been cleared. Mr D Yeomans asked if letters had been sent to the farmers requesting clearance of the ditches. The Clerk showed Mr D Yeomans letters she had written to Mr R Johnson

Court Dairy Farm and Mr M Warner Lyminster Farm. Mr D Yeomans read out the letters to the Council Meeting and requested a follow up letter be issued to the above with a deadline to reply by the end of September 2015.

The Clerk stated that a letter had been sent to Mr Dave Grabham at Somerset County Council on behalf of the Roundham residents regarding speed through the village together with a copy of the letter from a Roundham resident Mr M Le Brocq. The copy of the letter sent was passed to Mr D Yeomans who read out the letter to the meeting. Mr D Yeomans asked if any reply had been received to the letter, The Clerk stated none at present. Mr D Yeomans would like a follow up letter sent to Mr D Grabham.

Mr J Dyke Somerset County Councillor stated that he had spoken to Dave Grabham at County Hall. Mr D Grabham was considering asking the Police for a greater presence at Roundham. The Chairman suggested that maybe Roundham residents might form a speed monitor group themselves like Clapton residents have done. Mr J Dyke felt that it was a pity that nobody from Roundham parish had attended this meeting to voice their concerns as this would have added weight to any arguments put forward by the West Crewkerne Parish Council. As Roundham is a major trunk road Mr D Yeomans feels that the concerns of Roundham residents should be treated differently from minor traffic infringements. Mr J Dyke was considering whether the traffic problems at Roundham might be a candidate for one of the two Small Investment Schemes he was permitted to make when the Scheme window opens at the end of September.

He asked if the West Crewkerne Parish Council would like him under this remit to ask Somerset County Council to investigate the speed problems at Roundham. The Parish Councillors all agreed on behalf of the Roundham residents that they would like this as one of Mr J Dyke projects to go forward to the Somerset County Council. Mrs J Borland also stated that perhaps we invite the Police to the next West Crewkerne Parish Council meeting on the 10th November 2015. Mr J Dyke also stated that he had given a copy of Mr M Le Brocq's letter to Mr Colin Fletcher in Somerset County Council Highways department.

Mrs J Borland also stated that in the minutes of the meeting held on the 7th July 2015 she had asked the Parish Councillors to bring any ideas to the September meeting for engaging residents of the West Crewkerne Parish, in the Parish Council work either as Councillors or participating in Parish Meetings. Mrs J Borland had acquired a welcome pack from Hardington Mandeville Parish and asked the Councillors to look at it and report back to her by the 15th September 2015. Mrs J Borland's proposal was that we did something in a similar vein for West Crewkerne Parish and mailed the welcome pack out to all the residents initially. Mrs S Osborne stated that Winsham Parish Council had a welcome pack and Mr J Dyke also stated that Misterton Parish Council did a welcome pack and a monthly newsletter and he would bring along a copy to the next West Crewkerne Parish Council meeting. Mr D Yeomans stated that regarding the notice boards for the parish, Mr H Ploszek had advertised on the website and Mr D Yeomans had put a message on facebook, but nobody had come forward with an offer to make the notice boards.

6. Planning Matters

A): 15/00220/FUL A H Warren Trust Ltd Coombe Farm Roundham Crewkerne Somerset TA18 8RR. Demolition of existing stables and store building, erection of building to provide function room, café and retail unit. (GR341040/109531).

Consultation ongoing

B):15/00480/FUL Unit D, Lower Coombe Farm, Roundham, Crewkerne Somerset TA18 8RL. Alterations and extension of existing agricultural storage building. Temporary change of use to Use Class A1 (retail – to include the sale of guns and clothing) (GR341615/109700).

The clerk stated she had telephoned Linda Hayden at South Somerset County Council Planning Department because of the advertisement that had appeared in the Western Gazette. Linda Hayden stated that under the new Government planning legislation, Coombe Farm can change the use of an agricultural building into a small retail unit without having to obtain planning permission. The Clerk asked if a gun was tested before purchasing would this count as one of their 28 days? Mrs L Hayden stated that it would. I asked how this could be monitored and Mrs L Hayden stated that it would be up to the local parishioners to monitor the activity.

7. Highway Matters.

Mrs C Broom asked why the County Council dug out and cleared the drains but then piled the waste back on the side where the drains are, only for it to be washed back into the drain when a heavy downpour of rain occurs. Mr Mick Wilson (member of the public) stated that the waste is contaminated waste so would have to be sent to a specialist site. Mr D Yeomans stated that in Woolminstone they had cleared out some of the drains and flushed them through. Two of the drains which were blocked are now flowing freely. Mr J Dyke suggested that the Council ask for clarification from Somerset County Council why waste is not removed at the time for when there is a heavy downpour it is washed back into the drain, which is then re blocked. Mrs J Borland stated that there are yellow markings on the roads around the parish and each one is numbered. She was not sure what the significance of these marking was.

Mrs J Borland asked about the car that appears to have been abandoned. Mrs C Broom said that the matter had been reported to the police but nothing appeared to have happened. The matter was then reported to the District Council who came out and put a statutory notice on the car with tape around it, so hopefully the car should be gone fairly soon. There are documents in the car stating that it belongs to a Mr S Broome (no relation to Mrs C Broom).

The clerk stated that she had received notification that Cathole Bridge road would be closed on 3rd October 2015 from 23.45 to 08.00 hours for the relining of the crossing.

8. Reports from Councillors.

Mrs J Borland, Mr D Yeomans, Mrs C Broom, Mr F Freeman and Mr J Dyke had nothing further to report.

Mrs S Osborne gave her report.

The local plan was adopted by SSDC in March 2015 as it had been declared sound by the local plan inspector. One of the requirements of a local plan is that the council must have at all times a 5 year housing land supply and must report on this at least

annually. Since the adoption, the 5 year housing land supply report has been produced and reported on and it now finds that less than 12 months into adoption , the 5 year housing land figure has not been met and that SSDC now only has a housing land supply figure of 4 years and 4 months. This means that the plan policies relating to housing, including policy SS2, are deemed out of date and therefore less weight is attached to them. This has implications for housing appeals and leaves SSDC open to the submission of speculative applications that may succeed as a result. I will keep your Parish Council updated on this situation.

Westlands Leisure Centre – The closure announcement was made in May 2015 with a closure date of the end of September 2015. Over the summer SSDC Officers have met with Augusta Westland staff. A report was produced for SSDC recommending that further work was done on the feasibility of SSDC taking over the site which needs considerable investment. It was agreed that a project management board should be set up to do this work and report back to Council as soon as practicably possible.

In the South Somerset District Council Area, we will be expected to take some Syrian refugees that Mr Cameron has stated will be allowed into the United Kingdom over the next five years.

Wayford Woods – A reporter on behalf of a National newspaper had approached Mrs S Osborne for comments on the woods, she had stated that the decision had been taken by the Trustees of Wayford Woods and the community. She referred him to the press officer for South Somerset District Council.

The no.99 bus service was likely to be erratic around the villages because of the road works in Yeovil and Chard.

John Sullivan the Chairman of Winsham Parish Council could be approached regarding the Welcome Pack.

Mrs S Osborne stated because of the central government budget cuts this will have a knock on effect on local budgets. South Somerset District Council would appear to be managing the cuts until 2017 but then a review of services and income coming in would have to be undertaken.

Mr J Dyke – stated that Misterton produce a welcome pack. Mr D Yeomans asked how he knew about new residents in the parish. Mr J Dyke said mainly through the parish grapevine.

Mrs J Borland stated that two black dustbins complete with liners inside had been fly tipped in Axe Road. Mrs Borland went into the Crewkerne Council Office to report the incident and they were very helpful and the black dustbins have now gone.

Mrs J Borland stated that this weekend is heritage weekend at Crewkerne Cemetery and the burial records would be open for inspection.

9. Finance.

1. Clerks Salary made up as follows;

Salary £361.16p (April to end of August)

SLCC Roadshow £106.80

Travelling £48.15

Books £150.00

Total £666.11p

2. HMRC £90.40

3. Hire charges for the meeting room for the year £57.50

4 & 5. Somerset Association of Local Councils Affiliation Fees and Councillors Courses £180.19.

6. Audit Observations for last year's accounts.

The Council completed Section 2 of the Annual Return – the annual governance statement on 28th April 2015 and has responded “Yes” to Assertion 6, confirming that the council has maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the council's accounting records and control systems. Section 4, the independent internal auditor's report was completed by the internal auditor on 25th May 2015, 27 days after the council gave a positive response to Assertion 6 on Section 2 of the Annual Return.

IF the Council gives a positive response to Assertion 6 before the independent internal auditor has completed their report at Section 4, the Council must be able to explain on what basis it was appropriate to give a positive response to the assertion that it has maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the council's accounting records and control systems.

10. Correspondence.

E-Mails had all been sent to the Councillors.

Somerset County Council telephone number does not appear on our website.

Flood Risk Management, Council has been notified of four Councillors attending the event.

Crewkerne U3A holding a Macmillan coffee morning on 25th September 2015 in Crewkerne library. Mrs J Borland stated that a coffee morning was going to be held at Clapton and Wayford village Hall for Macmillan nurses on 26th September 2015. The Clerk asked about the Rural Lettings Policy for which she is receiving weekly updates of properties available to let. Mrs S Osborne suggested that a link be put on the West Crewkerne Parish website to the Rural lettings site.

Mr D Yeomans requested a website link for all correspondence sent to Councillors like MacMillan coffee morning, SSDC Health & Wellbeing, Spotlight on Young People etc to be placed on the Parish Website.

Letter from Roundham Resident regarding speeding through the village already dealt with under Highways.

11. To confirm the date of the next Parish Council Meeting.

Confirmed that the next meeting of the West Crewkerne Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 10th November 2015 at Clapton and Wayford village hall at 7.00pm.

Meeting finished at 8.10pm.

Chairman