**Crewe Town Council**

**Town Council Meeting**

1 Chantry Court

Forge Street,

Crewe

CW1 2DL

[www.crewetowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.crewetowncoucnil.gov.uk)

Tel: 01270 756975

**Minutes of the meeting held on the 6th August 2019**

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| ***19/2/01*** | Present |
|  | Cllr Buckley, Cllr Coiley, Cllr Cosby, Cllr Dunlop, Cllr Faddes, Cllr Flude, Cllr Hogben, Cllr Keefe, Cllr Messent, Cllr B Minshall, Cllr Morrissey, Cllr Palin, Cllr Jill Rhodes, Cllr John Rhodes, Cllr Roberts and Cllr Walton.In attendance: Steve McQuade (Town Clerk) |
| ***19/2/02*** | To receive and consider apologies for absence:Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Howes, Houston and Toth. |
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| ***19/2/03*** | To note declarations of Members’ interests |
|  | Cllr Minshall declared a pecuniary interest in relation to the payments schedules (Element).Cllr Cosby declared an interest in matters related to the Railway Cottages by virtue of his partner being a committee member of that Association. |
| ***19/2/04*** | To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 14th May 2019  |
|  | The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and signed as an accurate record. |
| ***19/2/05*** | Public ParticipationA period not exceeding 15 minutes for members of the public to ask questions or submit comments |
|  | The following statements and questions were raised by members of the public:* Mr Moore – Raised a question about the town centre and homelessness. Cllr Flude replied citing the complexity of the problems. Cllr Roberts updated members on the current situation and the scale of the issues. Many homeless people had been helped into accommodation.
* Mr Roberts – Raised issues related to an emerging county wide bus strategy that is in development and the need for the service to map to peoples’ needs and issues such as air quality. The Council was asked to use what influence it had to address matters, particularly access to evening services and to cross border issues. Cllr Faddes replied pointing to the consultation on the local transport plan and also highlighted Sunday services and connections to the hospital. The Clerk was asked to provide further information and write to the interested parties checking that formal consultation would take place. It was agreed that Planning Committee would lead and appropriate letters be sent.
* Mrs Jones – Thanks were given for the attendance of Cllrs including the Mayor at a consultation event on the Bus Station. Mrs Wilkinson reported further safety problems on the bus station. The Mayor added that meetings were planned with Arriva to discuss a range of issues.
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| ***19/2/06*** | To receive a report from the Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor in relation to civic engagements attended  |
|  | Members noted the engagements undertaken by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor. The total number of engagements now totalled fifty two. Cllr Dunlop reported on the engagements he had attended. |
| ***19/2/07*** | To receive updates from Committee Chairs in relation to meetings held since the previous Town Council meeting:1. Finance and Governance (Cllr Jill Rhodes) – Minutes of the meeting held on 1st July (Draft). Items for Council consideration:
* That a Crewe Town Council Social Media Policy is adopted
* To consider the creation of two committees by splitting the current Town Development Committee. Draft terms of reference are set out in the notes to the agenda and if agreed Council is asked to nominate members to each committee.
* To consider any consequential changes to overall committee membership arising from the creation of an extra committee.

Members ***resolved*** to adopt the Social Media Policy, subject to it confirming its application to officers[[1]](#footnote-1). Cllr Cosby was asked to liaise with employees over the matter.Members ***resolved*** to create the new committees and adopt the Terms of Reference.Members ***resolved*** to change the membership of a number of committees. The membership of the committees is set out at the annex to these minutes.1. Town Development (Cllr Messent) – Minutes of the meeting on 28th May (Final) and 25th June (Draft). Items for Council consideration, none.

Members noted the minutes.1. Planning Committee (Cllr John Rhodes) – Minutes of the meetings held on 21st May (Final), 18th June (Final) and 16th July (Draft). Items for Council consideration: None

Members noted the minutes.1. Community Plan Committee (Cllr Dunlop) – Minutes of the meetings held on 20th May (Final) and 25th June (Draft). Items for Council consideration: None

Members noted the minutes. |
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| ***19/2/08*** | To consider urgent grant applications (Cllr Dunlop)There were no items to determine. |
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| ***19/2/09*** | To note any updates from members having attended external meetings.The following updates were provided by respective members:* Cllr Cosby updated members in relation to his attendance (also Cllr Hogben) at the AGM of the Railway Cottages Residents Association. Cllr Cosby outlined the programme of work envisaged and mentioned the prospect of future requests for Council funding.
* Cllr Walton attended the Allotment prize giving day along with Cllr John Rhodes. Cllr Walton declared a gift at this point as a recipient of a bag of potatoes.
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| ***19/2/10*** | To note, consider and approve payments since the previous meeting as set out in the schedule.Members noted and approved the payments. |
| ***19/2/11*** | To note and consider the year to date financial summaryMembers noted the financial summary. |
| ***19/2/12*** | To consider an update in relation to policing in Crewe Members noted the policing update. Members agreed that Cllr Flude acts as lead member on contacts with the local police. Cllr Flude applauded all the police officers for their hard work and for the support of various community agencies. Members asked for information in relation to the levels of dug crime. |
| ***19/2/13*** | To consider upgrading ICT/Display provision in the meeting room at Chantry Court.Members discussed a possible upgrade to ICT provision but asked this this be deferred while dialogue continues with regard a possible move to the Municipal Building. Members ***resolved*** to create an accommodation sub-committee and asked Cllr Messent to lead via his committee. |
| ***19/2/14*** | To receive and adopt the revised Community Plan Action Plan Members ***resolved*** to approve the papers as presented. |
| ***19/2/15*** | To receive and adopt policy changes to the Council’s grants schemeMembers ***resolved*** to approve the papers as presented. |
| ***19/2/16*** | Member questions to the Town Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer.There were no questions raised. |
| ***19/2/17*** | To receive an update from the Leader in relation to the strategic review and the recruitment of a Proper Officer/Responsible Financial Officer. |
|  | Cllr Rhodes reported on a meeting with the Leader and Chief Executive at Cheshire East, matters covered included:* The bus station state of repair.
* Future High Streets Funding.
* Plans for the town centre focussed on the Royal Arcade.
* Increases in housing in the town, e.g. Delamere Car Park.
* City status.
* Improvement to the towns parks.
* Access to the Municipal Building.
* The heritage value of the Railway Cottages.
* Issues related to the state of the back streets in Crewe[[2]](#footnote-2).

The Leader updated members on the progress made to date in taking forward the Strategic Review and selection of a new Clerk. It was noted that the Leader wished to see a focus on[[3]](#footnote-3):* Policy reviews.
* The appointment of consultants to support the strategic review.
* Progressing the review of the Strategic Plan including facilitated workshops.
* The Strategic Plan informing the budget.

Cllr Rhodes requested that matters such as procurement are referred to the next meeting of Finance and Governance Committee along with the matter of recruitment, including issues such as the development of job description/person specification with recommendations made to Council on how to progress these matters. The Finance and Governance Committee would then act on the guidance of Council to implement the recommendations. |
| ***19/2/18*** | To note the date of the next meeting – 24th September. |
|  | Members noted the date of the next meeting. |

**Meeting closed: 20:39**

**Annex: Revisions to Committee Membership**

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| **Community Plan** | **Planning** | **Marketing ad Events** | **Operations and Improvement** |
| Cllr BuckleyCllr CoileyCllr DunlopCllr FludeCllr KeefeCllr MinshallCllr MorriseyCllr Jill RhodesCllr RobertsCllr Straine-FrancisCllr Walton | Cllr CosbyCllr DunlopCllr FludeCllr HoustonCllr HowesGary PalinCllr John RhodesCllr RobertsCllr Straine-FrancisCllr Toth | Cllr CosbyCllr DunlopCllr FaddesCllr HoustonCllr HowesCllr KeefeCllr MessentCllr MorriseyCllr Jill RhodesCllr RobertsCllr Straine-Francis | Cllr CoileyCllr CosbyCllr FaddesCllr FludeCllr HogbenCllr HowesCllr MessentCllr MinshallCllr MorriseyCllr PalinCllr TothCllr Walton |

1. The Clerk advised members that this action may be unlawful, that there had been no consultation with employees whose freedom of speech may be infringed and cautioned against taking such action without consultation and legal advice. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Cllr Palin left the meeting at this point. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Members resolved to discuss the remainder of this item in closed session due to it having relevance to one or more employees contract and as relating to commercial contracts. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)