

CREECH ST MICHAEL PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes for the Meeting of Creech St Michael Parish Council held at Creech St Michael Village Hall on **Monday 3 February 2025 at 7.00pm**

Councillor Attendance

Cllr. Annabelle Peters – Chair	AP	Present	Cllr. Neil Davidson – Vice Chair	ND	Present
Cllr. Martyn Willis	MW	Present	Cllr. Charlie Cudlip	CC	Present
Cllr. Corinne Giles	CG	Present	Cllr. Paul Tucker	PT	Present
Cllr. David Griffin	DG	Present	Cllr. Barbara Williams	BW	Present
			Cllr. Kieran Roe MBE	KR	Present

Also Present: Cllr. David Fothergill (Somerset Council), Cllr. Norman Cavill (Somerset Council), forty-four (44) members of the public (including two (2) via the Zoom stream) and Andrew Williams, Creech St Michael Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.

Meeting started at 7.00pm

1.0	Chair's welcome
	AP welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2.0	<p>Presentation from Spring on proposals to submit a planning application for a solar powered electricity generating installation on land east of Bull Street, Creech St. Michael.</p> <p>A representative from Spring presented information on their proposals to submit a planning application for a solar power generating installation on land off Bull Street, Creech St Michael. The representative from Spring and a colleague answered a number of questions on the application from members of the public.</p> <p>There will be a public exhibition on Tuesday 25 February 2025 hosted by Spring at Creech St Michael Village Hall.</p> <p>Following the conclusion of the presentation, thirty (30) members of the public (including one (1)) on the Zoom platform left the meeting.</p>
3.0	Public Question time - Questions asked by the Public and Press will be noted.
	None.
4.0	To receive Somerset Council Councillors' Reports

	<p>Cllr. Fothergill provided a brief update.</p> <p>Somerset Council's financial position: Somerset Council's request to raise the Council Tax above the 4.9% cap has been approved by Government. This is the only such increase for any County authority and sits alongside only five other requests across the Country.</p> <p>Boundary Proposals: The deadline for phase 2 of consultation has been extended to 4 March 2025 in the absence of a submission from Somerset Council by the original deadline of 20th January.</p> <p>Somerset Local Plan call for sites: A Call for Sites has been launched - whereby Landowners, developers, and site promoters are being invited to submit land they would like to be considered for possible future development.</p> <p>RofW Registration deadline: The deadline for registering historic rights of way is to be scrapped.</p> <p>Bus Service Improvement Plan: Somerset Council has received just over £6 million in funding for 2025/6 from Government for the county's Bus Service Improvement Plan.</p> <p>Metal Packaging recycling: Somerset Council and their waste collections contractor, SUEZ recycling and recovery UK have launched a new campaign promoting recycling metal packaging.</p>				
5.0	<p>Apologies for Absence</p> <p>5.1 To receive any apologies for absence Apologies received from Cllr. Steve Greenhalgh.</p> <p>5.2 To approve any apologies for absence Cllr. Steve Greenhalgh's absence was approved.</p>				
	Prop:CG	Sec:PT	In Favour:9	Against:0	Abstain:0
6.0	<p>Declarations of Interests</p> <p>6.1 Declarations of Individual Members None.</p> <p>6.2 Dispensation Request None.</p>				
	The Chair indicated that item 7.0 on the agenda would be moved to the end of the meeting.				
8.0	<p>Minutes</p> <p>To Review and Approve the minutes of the meeting held on 6 January 2025. [M]</p> <p>CG moved a proposal to amend the minutes of the meeting held on 6 January 2025 to include reference to the allocation of funds for the grant provided to Creech St Michael Village Hall having been split between Paty in the Park funds and grant allocations.</p>				
	Prop:CG	Sec:BW	In Favour:9	Against:0	Abstain:0
	The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 6 January 2025 were approved subject to the changes moved in the previous motion.				
	Prop:CC	Sec:ND	In Favour:9	Against:0	Abstain:0
9.0	Review and Monitor the Actions Outstanding from Past Meetings – See Appendix A for details of action points and progress toward the completion of each action.				
	Items for Decision				
10.0	Parish Council website hosting and domain name change – to agree a new provider for hosting the Parish Council's website and email accounts and to transfer to a .gov.uk domain name. [M]				

	AP spoke in favour of the proposal having consulted with an IT expert and indicated that the proposal from Aubergine be accepted.				
	The proposal was approved and Aubergine was selected as the preferred supplier.				
	Prop:MW	Sec:PT	In Favour:8	Against:0	Abstain:1
11.0	LCN Workshop Attendance – to agree attendance at the LCN Somerset Local Plan workshop 24 February 2025 4.00pm to 6.00pm. [M]				
	It was approved that CC would attend the LCN workshop as the Parish Council's representative.				
	Prop:AP	Sec:PT	In Favour:9	Against:0	Abstain:0
12.0	Poppy of Honour – to consider a proposal to donate the sum of £75.00 to support the development of the Poppy of Honour Memorial at Somerset Wood in the Maidenbrook Country Park in Taunton. [M]				
	The proposal was approved and the wording for the plaque was agreed.				
	Prop:AP	Sec:PT	In Favour:9	Against:0	Abstain:0
13.0	Fish & Chip Supper – to consider and approve a budget and risk assessment for the fish & chip supper organised by the Party in the Park group for Friday 28 March 2025. [M]				
	The budget for the Fish and Chip event was set at £1,375.75 and approved.				
	Prop:ND	Sec:AP	In Favour:9	Against:0	Abstain:0
	The risk assessment was considered. PT suggested that it be amended to remove the reference to needlestick injuries. The risk assessment was approved.				
	Prop:ND	Sec:AP	In Favour:9	Against:0	Abstain:0
14.0	Financial Transactions Report – to review and approve the Financial Transaction Report for the period between 28 December 2024 and 26 January 2025. [M]				
	The Financial Transaction report was approved. See Appendix B for a list of all payments. The Chair signed a copy of the report for the records.				
	Prop:AP	Sec:DG	In Favour:9	Against:0	Abstain:0
	Items for Discussion				
15.0	Play Equipment Inspection Reports.				
	The reports were noted. The Clerk and RFO made reference to the wear and tear issues and that some of these could be managed internally. The next inspections would require the provision of some means of the inspector working at height to fully inspect the zip wire mechanism.				
16.0	Feedback from the LCN meeting held 22 January 2025.				
	KR attended the meeting remotely. KR expressed his frustration with the lack of progress on any action made by the LCN.				

17.0	<p>Feedback from the LCN Children and Young People Working Group meetings held 21 & 28 January 2025.</p> <p>DG had attended the CYP working group and felt that he was now better informed on the CYP project. The project was progressing research on the needs of young people in the LCN area and hoped to be able to commission projects in the new financial year.</p>
18.0	<p>Feedback from the LCN Highways Working Group meeting held 30 January 2025.</p> <p>The Clerk and RFO had attended along with SG. The meeting had discussed a range of issues and it had been agreed that the group would meet more frequently to aid communication. The Clerk and RFO reported that the Enhanced Highways Maintenance Scheme had been discussed and it had been noted that the scheme was only funded until October 2025.</p>
<p>Updates from Committees, Panels and Working Groups</p>	
19.0	<p>Finance Committee</p> <p>The Clerk and RFO confirmed that income and expenditure were on profile and that there were no concerns. There is likely to be a small underspend in some areas and these would be moved to general reserves at year end.</p> <p>DG stated that at the next finance committee meeting he hoped to be able to prepare a plan for the use of the CIL monies held by the Parish Council. MW agreed with this approach and suggested that it tied in with the work of the Highways Working group, as there were several significant projects that were identified as being important to the management of the highways over the coming years.</p>
20.0	<p>Traffic Working Group</p> <p>The Railway Bridge surveillance project had been completed and results would be provided in due course from Somerset Council.</p>
21.0	<p>Events</p> <p>21.1 Village welcome events CG confirmed that the Party in the Park group were planning a series of small events targeted at people who had moved in to the village of Creech St Michael.</p> <p>21.2 Family Fun Fest AP provided an update on plans for the event which would be a day long event including live music in the evening.</p>
<p>Other Matters</p>	
22.0	<p>Correspondence</p>
	<p>22.1 To consider any correspondence received that Councillors wish to raise that has already been circulated. None.</p>
	<p>22.2 To note items of correspondence received by the Clerk and RFO deemed appropriate to be brought to the attention of the Parish council.</p> <p>22.2.1 Email message received from a resident regarding parking outside the shop in Creech St Michael that is blocking access to their property.</p>

	<p>The resident was present at the meeting and spoke about a number of issues relating to motorists parking and blocking access to properties to the rear of the shop in Creech St Michael. The hatching and yellow lines in the area had worn away and were no longer visible. Cllr. David Fothergill agreed to take the matter forward with Somerset Council.</p> <p>22.2.2 Email exchange with a resident regarding the cancellation of the Creech St Michael Flower and Produce Show.</p> <p>The resident's concerns were noted, but the issue was the responsibility of the Creech St Michael Flower and Produce Show committee.</p> <p>22.2.3 Letter received from Emma Hardy MP Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Department for the Environment and Rural Affairs in reply to our letter regarding the postponement of the River Tone maintenance program.</p> <p>The contents of the letter were noted.</p>
7.0	<p>Parish Council Vacancy</p> <p>The two candidates present spoke about their background and experience and how they could support the Parish Council. Both candidates were asked questions by members. AP proposed that the meeting moved to a confidential session. The Clerk and RFO advised the Parish Council that it was not appropriate to move to a session that barred the Press and Public and that there was no justification to do so. The session remained open, no members of the public were present, one (1) person remained on the Zoom broadcast.</p> <p>The candidates chose to withdraw from the meeting room. Members exchanged views on the suitability of the candidates and a closed vote was conducted by the Clerk and RFO.</p> <p>Mr Peter Brown was approved for co option to the vacant seat on the Parish Council by five votes to four. Mr Brown signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and this was signed by AP.</p>
23.0	<p>New Matters to be Carried Forward</p> <p>None.</p>

The meeting ended at 9.24pm

[M] = Where a resolution (vote) is expected

Andrew Williams, CSM PC, Clerk and RFO, 07708 680797, email clerk@creechstmichael.net

The next Creech St Michael (CSM) Parish Council meetings are on:

