

CREECH ST MICHAEL PARISH COUNCIL

Approved Minutes for the Meeting of Creech St Michael Parish Council held at Creech St Michael Village Hall on **Monday 8 January 2024 at 7.00pm**

Councillor Attendance

Cllr. Annabelle Peters – Chair	AP	Present	Cllr, Neil Davidson – Vice Chair	ND	Present
Cllr. David Griffin	DG	Present	Cllr. Charlie Cudlip	CC	Present
Cllr. Diane Phillips	DP	Present	Cllr. Stephen Greenhalgh	SG	Present
Cllr. Paul Tucker	PT	Present	Cllr Kieran Roe MBE	KR	Present
Cllr. Barbara Williams (from item 7.0)	BW	Present			

Also Present: Sixteen (16) 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 7.01pm

1.0	Chair's welcome				
	The Chair wished those present a happy New Year and welcomed everyone to the meeting.				
2.0	Public Question time - Questions asked by the Public and Press will be noted.				
	A resident asked if the Parish Council would provide a larger noticeboard at Adsborough to allow residents to post notices (see agenda item 26.2). The resident also raised his concerns regarding flooding in Adsborough and asked if the Parish Council could look to resolve the problems.				
3.0	To receive Somerset Council Councillors' Reports				
	No Somerset Councillors were present. The Clerk and RFO would circulate their report to members after the meeting.				
4.0	Apologies for Absence				
	4.1 To Receive any Apologies for Absence.				
	Apologies received in advance from Cllr. Giles and Cllr. Birch.				
	4.2 To approve any Apologies for Absence.				
	The received apologies were approved.				
	Prop:SG	Sec:AP	In Favour:8	Against:0	Abstain:0
5.0	Declarations of Interests				
	5.1 Declarations of Individual Members				
	None.				

	5.2 Dispensation Request				
	None.				
6.0	Parish Council Vacancies				
	Two candidates presented themselves for co-option to the vacant Parish Council role. The candidates were questioned by members and a ballot was then held. Barbara Williams was co-opted to the role as she was awarded the majority of votes (6-2). Barbara Williams signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took her seat.				
7.0	Minutes				
	To Review and Approve the minutes of the meeting held on 4 December 2023. [M]				
	The minutes were approved.				
	Prop:AP	Sec:ND	In Favour:8	Against:0	Abstain:1
8.0	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.				
9.0	Planning Applications – to consider and make recommendations to be passed to the relevant authority on the following planning applications (links to the relevant application are available via the planning reference). [M]				
	9.1 14/23/0042 Erection of a single storey extension to the rear of Robinswood, White Street, Creech St Michael. [M] It was agreed that no objection would be raised.				
	Prop:DP	Sec:DG	In Favour:8	Against:0	Abstain:1
	9.2 14/23/0002 Appeal Hearing APP/W3330/W/23/3329488 – A proposal that the Parish Council makes no further representation to the Planning Appeal. [M] It was agreed that no further representation would be made.				
	Prop:DP	Sec:AP	In Favour:9	Against:0	Abstain:0
	Items for Decision				
10.0	Provision of a coach service for the Planning Appeal Hearing in Taunton - to reverse the decision taken at the meeting held on 4 December 2023 item 13 and approve a proposal to provide a coach service for the first day of the appeal hearing and to organise a car share arrangement for those that have no alternative means of transport, for the remaining days of the hearing. [M] Following discussions with residents it was agreed to reverse the decision made at the meeting held on 4 December 2023 and to approve a proposal to supply a coach service on day one of the appeal hearing only and to work with residents to organise a car-share arrangement.				
	Prop:AP	Sec:KR	In Favour:8	Against:0	Abstain:1
11.0	Budget for the 2024/25 Financial Year - to approve the draft budget for the 2024/25 financial year. [M]				

	<p>The Clerk and RFO presented proposals for the 2024/budget and precept. It was proposed that the precept be increased by 8%. The proposals were debated at length and a proposal for an increase of 8% was made and gained no support. A proposal of an increase of 10% in the precept was made and gained no support. A proposal of an increase in the precept of 20% was proposed and approved. SG requested that his opposition be recorded.</p> <p>It was agreed that the decision on the budget would be deferred until the next meeting.</p>				
	Prop:AP	Sec:DP	In Favour:8	Against:1	Abstain:0
12.0	<p>Community Defibrillator Scheme – to approve a 50% contribution toward the cost of purchasing a defibrillator to be sited at the Recreation Park from CIL funds. [M]</p> <p>The proposal was approved and the Clerk and RFO was asked to submit a claim for two defibrillators, with one being sited at the Recreation Park in Creech St Michael and one at a suitable site within Adsborough.</p>				
	Prop:SG	Sec:PT	In Favour:9	Against:0	Abstain:0
13.0	<p>Speed Indicator Device Purchase – to approve a proposal to purchase two additional Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) using CIL funds. [M]</p> <p>The proposal was approved subject to adequate funds being available within the CIL fund. The Clerk and RFO would submit a purchase order for one solar powered Speed Indicator Device.</p>				
	Prop:AP	Sec:DP	In Favour:9	Against:0	Abstain:0
14.0	<p>Changes to the Clerk and RFO role Terms and Conditions – to approve a proposal to increase the number of hours that the Clerk and RFO is employed for from 25 to 35. [M]</p> <p>The proposal was approved and will come in to force with immediate effect.</p>				
	Prop:AP	Sec:ND	In Favour:9	Against:0	Abstain:0
15.0	<p>Finance – to review and approve the Financial Transaction Report. [M]</p> <p>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.</p>				
	Prop:AP	Sec:CC	In Favour:9	Against:0	Abstain:0
	Items for Discussion				
16.0	<p>Arrangements for the appeal hearing APP/W3330/W/23/3329488.</p> <p>The Clerk and RFO outlined the agreed arrangements and timings for the Appeal Hearing.</p>				
17.0	<p>Feedback from the recent LCN meeting attended by Cllr. Cudlip.</p> <p>CC attended the recent LCN meeting. He reported that Somerset Council expected to claw back the likely overspend for next year by cutting services.</p> <p>CC reported on a trial scheme whereby a contractor is engaged to act as a Highway Steward for parish and town councils. The role will cover minor highways works, gully clearance and other small scale projects. This could be run through a partnership of councils to enable costs</p>				

	<p>to be shared. The annual charge for the service would be £50,000.00 which includes all equipment and a vehicle, this would be shared between participating councils.</p> <p>It was suggested at the meeting that Parish Council's build a "war-chest" of funds to enable them to manage the services that Somerset Council will no longer provide.</p> <p>CC noted the name of an individual who could help with funding of youth services and this name was shared with the Clerk and RFO.</p> <p>ND wished to make it clear that the Parish Council would seek to provide the services that cease to be delivered by Somerset Council, but that it was important to ensure that residents were aware that the Parish Council wasn't responsible for those services, this rested with Somerset Council.</p>
	Updates from Committees, Panels and Working Groups
18.0	Finance Committee
	<p>18.1. Income and Expenditure Records.</p> <p>Members had the budgets reports available to them and no issues were raised.</p>
19.0	Staffing Committee
	No update. The next meeting was scheduled for 22 January 2024.
20.0	Planning Committee
	<p>20.1. Update on the Langaller Park Development Application. 20.1.1. Meeting on 15.01.2024 to discuss Section 106 agreement.</p> <p>The Clerk and RFO confirmed that a meeting was scheduled with the Developer and the Lead Planning Officer to discuss the Parish Council's request to be a signatory to the Langaller Park Development S106 agreement.</p>
21.0	Traffic Panel
	CC reported that a resident had offered to provide a power source for one of the Speed Indicator Devices in St Michael Road.
22.0	Canal Panel
	The Clerk and RFO reported that contact had been received from the Canal & Rivers Trust regarding the return of the signs. A reply was given requesting that they are returned, no further response has been received.
23.0	Events
	<p>AP confirmed that no teams had yet come forward for the Tug of War event. The event will most likely be held at Maidenhead Country Park, Monkton Heathfield.</p> <p>SG confirmed that the date for the Fish and Chip Lunch was 2 February 2024.</p>

24.0	Newsletter Working Group A resident confirmed that he would deliver newsletters to Creech Heathfield. He was thanked for his offer and support.
25.0	Footpaths No report.
	Other Matters
26.0	Correspondence
	26.1 To consider any correspondence received that Councillors wish to raise that has already been circulated.
	AP noted that she would respond to the resident who had sought the installation of pedestrian warning signs in Creech Heathfield and notify them that a Speed Indicator Device would be installed in due course.
	26.2 To note items of correspondence received by the Clerk and RFO deemed appropriate to be brought to the attention of the Parish council.
	26.2.1. An email request from a resident for a larger noticeboard space at Adsborough. It was proposed that the resident that had raised the matter be supplied with a key for the noticeboard and allowed to post notices, as long as the Parish Council was allowed priority for important notices.
27.0	New Matters to be Carried Forward
	None.

The meeting ended at 9.05pm

[V] = 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:

5 February 2024

at 7pm in the CSM Village Hall

4 March 2024

at 7pm in the CSM Village Hall

8 April 2024

At 7pm in the CSM Village Hall