

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 4 December 2023 at 7.00pm**

Councillor Attendance

Cllr. Paul Tucker	PT	Present	Cllr, Neil Davidson – Vice Chair	ND	Present
Cllr. Adrian Birch	AB	Present	Cllr. Charlie Cudlip	CC	Present
Cllr. Corinne Giles	CG	Present	Cllr. Stephen Greenhalgh	SG	Present
Cllr. Diane Phillips	DP	Present	Cllr Kieran Roe MBE	KR	Present

Also Present: Cllr. Norman Cavill, Cllr. David Fothergill (from 7.11pm), fifteen (15) members of the public (including five (5) 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
	In the absence of AP, ND Chaired the meeting. ND welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited any members of the public to speak.
2.0	Public Question time - Questions asked by the Public and Press will be noted.
	A member of the Village Hall Committee reported that the Christmas Fayre had raised £330.00 to date.
3.0	To receive Somerset Council Councillors' Reports
	<p>Cllr. Fothergill provided a briefing.</p> <p>Council's Financial Position: Latest budget papers, published ahead of the Council's Executive on 6 December, show the in-year overspend for 2023/24 has reduced from £27m to £19m, while the budget gap for 2024/25 has reduced from £100m to £87m.</p> <p>Closure of A Block, County Hall: Customers who need to talk to Somerset Council staff face to face about enquiries that cannot be dealt with online or by phone will need to visit Deane House from December. The reception desk at A Block, County Hall, closed on 30 November as the building will be closed off in response to the financial emergency to reduce costs.</p> <p>Changes to waste collection days: Recycling and rubbish collection days will be changing for more than 120,000 homes in Somerset in February next year. The new routes will make rounds more efficient, more manageable for crews whilst reducing mileage and carbon emissions. The changes come at no cost to the council.</p>

Approved by *Anabelle Peters*
Chair of the Meeting

Date 8 January 2024

The M5 Willow Man: A plan to revive the once-iconic Willow Man sculpture has received a funding boost from National Highways, the company responsible for England’s motorways and major A roads.

National Landscapes: In November all designated Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) in England and Wales became National Landscapes, including Somerset’s Mendip Hills, Quantock Hills, and Blackdown Hills National Landscapes.

Bridgwater Town Deal: Residents are invited to have their say on proposals to restore and regenerate Bridgwater Docks, as part of the government’s Levelling Up programme to transform Bridgwater Town Centre.

Tone Works and Tone Dale Project: The Government has awarded nearly £20 million for Tone Works and Tone Dale project. The award will provide an opportunity to transform and regenerate the nationally significant heritage site at Tone Works and enhance associated land for community use.

Recycling: Each January the amount of cardboard collected rises as much as an extra 682 tonnes – a staggering 44% increase. Somerset Council is asking shoppers if they could cut the cardboard by buying gifts that don’t need boxes and by shopping on the High Street.

Fight against Domestic Abuse: A new campaign aims to raise the profile of lesser-known types of domestic abuse and encourage those who may not realise they are being abused to come forward for support and advice.

Cllr. Cavill provided a briefing.

Local Community Networks (LCN): The Hestercombe LCN had hosted a meeting focused on flooding and waterways. For the first time, of all the interested parties had attended and sat around a table.

Zero Carbon Housing Project: Additional funding of £5 million had been secured to support a project to deliver 129 zero carbon houses in North Taunton.

Library Services: Although library services are a statutory requirement, they don’t have to be delivered in the traditional format. Libraries deliver a range of services, including digital connectivity and loan services for items such as infra-red cameras for heat-loss detections in homes.

4.0	To receive any apologies for absence				
	4.1 To receive any apologies for absence.				
	Apologies had been received from Cllr. Peters and Cllr. Griffin.				
	4.2 To approve any apologies for absence. [V]				
	The apologies for absence were approved.				
	Prop:ND	Sec:PT	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	Minutes				
	To Review and Approve the minutes of the meeting held on 6 November 2023. [M]				
	All present confirmed that they had received the minutes of the meeting held on 6 November 2023 and these were approved and signed by the Chair.				
	Prop:SG	Sec:CC	In Favour:8	Against:0	Abstain:0
7.0	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. The Clerk and RFO provided an update on outstanding actions. ND confirmed that he had visited the village store and discussed the issues with the Post Office opening hours.				
	Items for Decision				
8.0	Somerset Bus Partnership – to consider and approve a request for funding support. The item was deferred, and the Clerk and RFO was asked to obtain more information on the scale of funding required. Action: Clerk and RFO to contact Somerset Bus Partnership for more information.				
	Prop:-	Sec:-	In Favour:-	Against:-	Abstain:-
9.0	Somerset Council Asset and Service Devolution Proposal – to consider and respond to the request from Somerset Council for financial support in the delivery of services and resources. [M] The item was debated at length. It was agreed that the Clerk and RFO should respond to the letter from the Leader of Somerset Council stating that at this time the Parish Council did not wish to pursue any opportunities but would keep an open mind once more information became available. Action: Clerk and RFO to respond to the Leader of Somerset Council.				
	Prop:SG	Sec:ND	In Favour:8	Against:0	Abstain:0
10.0	Community Fish & Chip Lunch – to approve an event risk assessment and outline budget for a community lunch. [M] AB stated that the date for the event was still to be confirmed, but it was likely to be in January or February. The risk assessment and budget of £1,102.50 was approved.				
	Prop:ND	Sec:PT	In Favour:8	Against:0	Abstain:0
11.0	Pavilion Room Refurbishment – to approve a proposal to spend £691.79 plus VAT of CIL monies to purchase and install a large screen monitor and 4G WiFi. [M]				

	<p>The proposal was discussed and concerns were raised about the impact of using the room as a meeting space on the Village Hall.</p> <p>The proposal was defeated.</p>				
	Prop:SG	Sec:AB	In Favour:0	Against:8	Abstain:0
12.0	<p>Pay Award 2023/24 – to consider and approve a proposal to award the nationally agreed pay award for 2023/24. [M]</p> <p>The Pay Award for 2023/24 had been discussed by the Staffing Committee and the committee had given outline approval for the increase to be applied.</p> <p>The proposal to award the nationally agreed pay award was approved.</p>				
	Prop:SG	Sec:PT	In Favour:8	Against:0	Abstain:0
13.0	<p>Quotations for the Provision of a Coach – to consider a series of quotes acquired for the provision of a daily coach service to the planning appeal for application 14/23/0002. [M]</p> <p>Three quotes were presented and considered. The quote provided by Upton Coaches Ltd, at £300.00 per day was approved.</p>				
	Prop:DP	Sec:CC	In Favour:8	Against:0	Abstain:0
14.0	<p>CPRE Community Energy Visioning Expression of Interest – to approve a proposal to support a bid by CPRE to undertake a Community Energy Visioning project within the Parish. [M]</p> <p>The Clerk and RFO explained the purpose of the project and confirmed that there was no initial financial commitment from the Parish Council.</p> <p>The proposal was approved.</p>				
	Prop:CC	Sec:DP	In Favour:8	Against:0	Abstain:0
15.0	<p>Finance – to review and approve the Financial Transaction Report for the period between 28.10.2023 and 24.11.2023. [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:SG	Sec:ND	In Favour:8	Against:0	Abstain:0
	Items for Discussion				
16.0	<p>Community Youth Project – six month report.</p> <p>Members had received a copy of the Youth Project report. The Clerk and RFO reported that feedback from users of the project was positive and the weekly sessions provided a good opportunity for those attending to gain support from the Youth Workers.</p>				

	SG asked for more information on the home locations of the users. Action: Clerk and RFO to request this data.
	Updates from Committees, Panels and Working Groups
17.0	Finance Committee
	17.1 Income & Expenditure Summary The summary was discussed and the Clerk and RFO confirmed that income and expenditure was in line with what was forecast. SG asked if the precept covered day-to-day costs. The Clerk and RFO confirmed that it did not and had not for some years and was unlikely to do so in the next year unless a significant increase was applied to the precept.
18.0	Staffing Committee
	Nothing to report.
19.0	Planning Committee
	DP provided an update of key matters discussed at the recent meeting of the Committee. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agreed to support the provision of a coach service to the planning hearing. - The updates to the neighbourhood plan are scheduled to be discussed in January. - Additional risks had been added to the risk register. - The Application for the Solar Farm at Ham was discussed and it was agreed that the existing objection should stand. <p>A resident raised the issue of the forthcoming planning appeal and asked who was likely to be speaking at the appeal. The resident noted that any speaker would need to bring new evidence to the hearing and not repeat existing objections.</p> <p>The topics of flooding and traffic were identified as being potential areas for new evidence to be introduced. CC encouraged as many residents to attend as possible.</p>
20.0	Recreation Park
	20.1 Inspection Reports The play equipment operational inspection reports were shared and considered. No significant issues were reported, although the need for regular maintenance was highlighted along with the cost of undertaking such works.
21.0	Traffic Panel
	A proposal to purchase additional Speed Indicator Devices would be presented at the January Parish Council meeting. CC reported on the positive impact that the Speed Indicator Devices had on speeding through Creech St Michael.
22.0	Canal Panel
	Nothing to report.
23.0	Party in the Park Working Group

	Nothing to report.
24.0	Events
	24.1 Tug of War Event CC reported that the event was now being held at Maidenbrook Park and that it would be a bring-your-own picnic event.
25.0	Newsletter Working Group
	The Clerk and RFO reported that 800 copies of the most recent publication had been distributed.
26.0	Footpaths
	Nothing to report.
	Other Matters
27.0	Correspondence
	27.1 To consider any correspondence received that Councillors wish to raise that has already been circulated.
	DP raised the matter of concerns identified by some parishioners about fumes from household fires that were causing concerns as different types of materials were being used and causing noxious fumes to be expelled. KR agreed to investigate the matter further.
	27.2 To note items of correspondence received by the Clerk and RFO deemed appropriate to be brought to the attention of the Parish council.
	27.2.1 Note from a resident relating to use of funds. The communication was noted.
	27.2.2 Email exchange with a resident regarding parking in Rocketts Cottages, Creech St Michael. The email and its contents were noted.
28.0	New Matters to be Carried Forward
	None.

The meeting ended at 8.56pm

[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:

8 January 2024	at 7pm in the CSM Village Hall
5 February 2024	at 7pm in the CSM Village Hall
4 March 2024	At 7pm in the CSM Village Hall

Approved by *Anabelle Peters*
Chair of the Meeting

Date 8 January 2024