

CREECH ST MICHAEL PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes for the Meeting of Crech St Michael Parish Council held at
Crech St Michael Village Hall on **2 December 2024 at 7.00pm**

Councillor Attendance

Cllr. Annabelle Peters – Chair	AP	Present	Cllr. Neil Davidson – Vice Chair	ND	Present
Cllr. Adrian Birch	AB	Present	Cllr. Paul Tucker	PT	Present
Cllr. Corinne Giles	CG	Present	Cllr. Stephen Greenhalgh	SG	Present
Cllr. David Griffin	DG	Present	Cllr. Barbara Williams	BW	Present
Cllr. Martyn Willis	MW	Present	Cllr. Kieran Roe MBE	KR	Present

Also Present: Six (6) members of the public and Cllr. David Fothergill (Somerset Council) and Cllr. Norman Cavill (Somerset Council) and Andrew Williams, Crech St Michael Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.

Meeting started at 7.00pm

1.0	Chair's welcome
	The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting and invited members of the public that were present to speak if they wished to do so.
2.0	Public Question time - Questions asked by the Public and Press will be noted.
	<p>A resident asked for an update on the actions taken by Somerset Council Planning Enforcement following the report of a potential breach at Whiteleaze Lane, Thurloxtton. The Clerk and RFO responded by confirming that the Planning Enforcement team had confirmed that the applicant had requested a pre-application meeting and therefore it was expected that an application was due to be submitted in the near future. The Clerk and RFO also reported that the Planning Enforcement team had confirmed to him that in future they would be addressing "serious high harm/risk breaches of planning" in the future because of budget constraints. Cllr. Fothergill agreed to take the matter up on behalf of the resident.</p> <p>A resident provided an update on the progress being made by a local community group to establish a religious meeting place within Crech Heathfield. They had conducted a traffic survey and were planning to contact residents in the nearby area to consult on proposals.</p>
3.0	To receive Somerset Council Councillors' Reports
	<p>Cllr. Fothergill provided an update on key issues.</p> <p>Boundary Commission Review. The data being used has been questioned as it shows only a small rise in population in the Parish.</p> <p>Online Portal. A new portal is going live which will allow people to pay their council bills online.</p> <p>Council Tax Reduction Scheme. The savings that will be delivered on this scheme have been reduced to £3.9 millions.</p>

	Consultation of County-Wide Pharmacy. The consultation is now live. Cllr. Norman Cavill added that following the establishment of the unitary authority there were a number of years worth of accounts to sign off from the District Authorities. After a lengthy process the accounts have been “accepted” by auditors.				
4.0	Apologies for absence 4.1 To receive any apologies for absence An apology had been received from Cllr. Charlie Cudlip. 4.2 To approve any apologies for absence. The absence of Cllr. Cudlip was approved.				
	Prop:SG	Sec:AP	In Favour:10	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 4 November 2024. [M] The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair for the record.				
	Prop:AP	Sec:MW	In Favour:8	Against:0	Abstain:2
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.				
	Items for Decision				
8.0	Budget for the 2025/26 Financial Year – to approve the draft budget for the 2025/26 financial year. [M] The Clerk and RFO set out the draft budget for the 2025/26 financial year. This had been considered by the Finance Committee and recommended by the Committee for approval by the Parish Council. ND expressed his concern about the budget, but warned that there were many unknowns ahead because of the situation at Somerset Council and that the Parish Council needed to be prepared for this. SG expressed concern about the sum of money set aside for the Rec. Park project. KR indicated that the current reserves held were adequate and didn’t justify the significant increase in the precept request and the Parish Council should use reserves first. The budget for the 2025/26 financial year was approved.				
	Prop:AP	Sec:PT	In Favour:6	Against:4	Abstain:0
9.0	Precept Request – to approve the Parish Council Precept request for the 2025/26 financial year. [M]				

	Prior to a vote being taken CG stated that she felt that the budget had not been scrutinised adequately and more time to do this was required. The Clerk and RFO confirmed that the budget had been approved by a majority of members and as a result a decision on the precept request should be taken. It was agreed to delay the decision on the precept request until the January meeting.				
10.0	Letter to the Minister for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs – to approve a draft letter sent in support of the Ham Village Flood Committee. [P] [M] The letter was approved and was signed by the Chair and the Clerk.				
	Prop:SG	Sec:ND	In Favour:10	Against:0	Abstain:0
11.0	Somerset Council Local Plan Consultation - to confirm and approve a response to the initial consultation exercise on the Somerset Council Local Plan. It was agreed that the Clerk and RFO would seek a further deferment of the deadline for the consultation and members would provide feedback on the key questions by Thursday 5 December 2024.				
	Prop:PT	Sec:MW	In Favour:10	Against:0	Abstain:0
12.0	Citizen’s Advice Somerset – to consider a request to support Citizen’s Advice Somerset with a grant of £500.00. SG proposed that the donation be £250.00 and this was approved.				
	Prop:AP	Sec:SG	In Favour:10	Against:0	Abstain:0
13.0	Financial Transactions Report – to review and approve the Financial Transaction Report for the period between 26 October 2024 and 25 November 2024. [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:ND	In Favour:10	Against:0	Abstain:0
	Items for Discussion				
14.0	Somerset Parishes Conference – feedback from the event. The Clerk and RFO reported that the event had not provided any further insight in to the likely changes in services or provisions for next year.				
15.0	Langaller Park Development Planning Application 14/21/0047 – update following the meeting with the Developer and Lead Planning Officer. Members who attended the meeting provided an update on the discussions that took place with the developer’s representatives, including progress on the application and that there remained concerns that the school provision for the site would not be fully delivered.				
16.0	LCN Children & Young People Working group – feedback from recent LCN working group meetings. No further update was required as the topic had been discussed during item 8.0				
	Updates from Committees, Panels and Working Groups				
17.0	Finance Committee 17.1. Budget report year-to-date The year-to-date budget report was shared and no concerns were highlighted.				

18.0	<p>Planning Committee</p> <p>18.1. Planning Log. The Planning Log was shared and recent updates noted.</p>
19.0	<p>Traffic Working Group</p> <p>19.1. Update. MW provided an update on outline plans to improve traffic management with the village of Creech St Michael, including the completion of a survey of signage to establish what needs to be changed and cleaned and the installation of new poles for sites to locate the Speed Indicator Devices. MW also identified the need for a review of speed limits across the Parish and neighbouring parishes in light of the major developments at Langaller Park.</p>
20.0	<p>Canal Working Group</p> <p>20.1. Update. ND reported that the locking rota had been working well and thanked everyone for their help. The site is now being locked at dusk each day to ease the burden of the process and to ensure the site is closed before dark.</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. Two items were shared and noted from residents regarding concerns over traffic speeds and volumes, including the North End area and the Railway Bridge in Creech St Michael. A resident who was present explained the issues affecting North End and the impact of traffic on the area of the Village. A communication from Connecting Devon and Somerset was also noted.</p>
23.0	<p>New Matters to be Carried Forward None.</p>

The meeting ended at 8.59pm

[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:

6 January 2025

at 7pm in the CSM Village Hall