

CREECH ST MICHAEL PARISH COUNCIL

Approved Minutes for the Annual Meeting of Crech St Michael Parish Council held at Crech St Michael Village Hall on **Monday 13 May 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. Stephen Greenhalgh	SG	Present
Cllr. Corinne Giles	CG	Present	Cllr. Paul Tucker	PT	Present
Cllr. David Griffin	DG	Present	Cllr Kieran Roe MBE	KR	Present
Cllr. Barbara Williams	BW	Present			


Also Present: Cllr. Norman Cavill (Somerset Council) (from 7.50pm), seven (7) members of the public 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 everyone to the meeting and invited members of the public to speak on any matter they wished to be heard.				
2.0	Public Question time - Questions asked by the Public and Press will be noted.				
	None.				
3.0	Election of a Chair of Crech St Michael Parish Council [M] Cllr. Annabelle Peters was nominated for the role of Chair of Crech St Michael Parish Council and unanimously approved. Cllr. Peters signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.				
	Prop:DG	Sec:KR	In Favour:8	Against:0	Abstain:1
4.0	Election of a Vice Chair of Crech St Michael Parish Council [M] Cllr. Neil Davidson was nominated for the role of Vice Chair of Crech St Michael Parish Council and unanimously approved.				
	Prop:SG	Sec:PT	In Favour:8	Against:0	Abstain:1
5.0	Election of a Chair to the Parish Council Committee. [M]				
	5.1 Finance Committee. Cllr. David Griffin was nominated for the role of Chair of Crech St Michael Parish Council Finance Committee and unanimously approved.				
	Prop:AP	Sec:PT	In Favour:8	Against:0	Abstain:1
	5.2 Staffing Committee.				

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	Cllr. Neil Davidson was nominated for the role of Chair of Creech St Michael Parish Council Staffing Committee and unanimously approved.				
	Prop:AP	Sec:CG	In Favour:8	Against:0	Abstain:1
	5.3 Planning Committee. No nominees were received and as a result no vote was taken.				
6.0	Appointments to the Parish Council Committees. [M]				
	6.1 Finance Committee. Cllrs. Peters, Davidson and Tucker were nominated and approved unanimously.				
	Prop:SG	Sec:CG	In Favour:6	Against:0	Abstain:3
	6.2 Staffing Committee. Cllrs. Peters, Tucker, Greenhalgh and Magaret Gover (Community Representative) were nominated and approved unanimously.				
	Prop:CG	Sec:AB	In Favour:6	Against:0	Abstain:3
	6.3 Planning Committee. Cllrs. Cudlip, Griffin, Roe and Williams were nominated and approved unanimously.				
	Prop:SG	Sec:PT	In Favour:5	Against:0	Abstain:4
	6.4 Joint Committee with West Monkton Parish Council. Cllrs. Cudlip, Williams and Griffin were nominated and approved unanimously.				
	Prop:AP	Sec:SG	In Favour:6	Against:0	Abstain:3
7.0	To Receive Somerset Council Councillors' Reports.				
	<p>Cllr. Cavill provided a report including the following items.</p> <p>Suez waste collection contract: The Council's waste contractor, SUEZ, has disclosed figures showing significant annual losses on its £24m a year contract. It has made a number of contractual claims seeking adjustment to payment and while these are in dispute, without an increase in payments there is a risk that SUEZ may exit the contract, to limit its losses over the contract's remaining six years. A report to the Council's Executive Committee meeting recommends giving the Council's Chief Executive a mandate to negotiate with SUEZ to broker a deal which would stop SUEZ exiting the contract. The ongoing rerouting of collections is helping make rounds more efficient and as cost effective as possible, but even with this SUEZ considers the contract unviable.</p> <p>Roadside grass-cutting: From May 2024, where safe to do so, mowing routines across managed highway verges, open spaces, country parks and council property grounds will be reduced although safety and visibility around verges and public spaces such as play areas will be cut more regularly. On wider verges, only a 1-meter swathe is mowed, leaving the rest untouched to maintain biodiversity. Further information on the cutting schedule can be found at https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/grass-cutting/</p> <p>Action: Clerk and RFO was asked to report overgrown verges at Walford Cross and Monkton Elm.</p> <p>Subsidised Bus Fares in Taunton: Somerset Council has announced revised bus fares for the Taunton Town Zone to keep services sustainable. From 1 June this will be £1.50 for any adult single fare and 80p for a child. The new fares will be reviewed at the end of this year. Across the rest of the county the cost for any single fare will stay at £2 until December 2024, part of the national Government-funded initiative. The fare for the Park and Ride service in Taunton remains £1 for a single fare.</p>				

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	<p>Children and Young Peoples Plan : The new Children and Young People’s Plan (CYPP) for Somerset sets out the Council’s aims for 2024-2030 including how services and communities are accountable for children and young people and how they will work together to ensure the ambitions of the plan are achieved.</p> <p>Volunteer Drivers: Since Covid-19 the numbers of volunteer drivers in Somerset has reduced by about 67 per cent. These dedicated drivers play a pivotal role in the community, providing essential transportation services to residents so the Council are calling out for new volunteers. Many residents who need the service live in rural areas with little or no access to public transport and are unable to drive. If you are working part-time, a parent, retired or just have some spare time on your hands and you have a car and at least half a day to a day to offer then you can get involved and make a positive impact on people’s lives. Volunteer drivers receive training and are reimbursed expenses at 45p per mile (or 50p per mile with passengers).</p>				
8.0	Apologies for absence				
	8.1 To receive apologies for absence. Apologies received from Cllr. Cudlip.				
	8.2 To approve any apologies for absence. Cllr. Cudlip’s absence was approved.				
	Prop:AP	Sec:PT	In Favour:9	Against:0	Abstain:0
9.0	Declarations of Interests				
	9.1 Declarations of Individual Members None.				
	9.2 Dispensation Request None.				
10.0	Parish Council Vacancy No candidates were nominated. AP encouraged members of the public present to consider joining the Parish Council.				
11.0	To Review and Approve the minutes of the meeting held on 8 April 2024. [M] The minutes of the meeting held on 8 April 2024 were approved and signed by the Chair of the meeting.				
	Prop:SG	Sec:KR	In Favour:6	Against:0	Abstain:3
12.0	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 progress toward completing the outstanding matters.				
	Items for Decision				
13.0	Calendar of Meetings 2024/25 – to approve the calendar of meetings for the year ending 31 March 2025. [M] The calendar of meetings was approved.				
	Prop:PT	Sec:AP	In Favour:9	Against:0	Abstain:0

14.0	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]				
	<u>14/24/0015</u> Replacement and enlargement of dormer windows with conversion of loft into ancillary accommodation at 4 The Glebe, Vicarage Lane, Creech St Michael (resubmission of 14/23/0034). [O] [M] KR proposed that no objection be raised and this was approved.				
	Prop:KR	Sec:DG	In Favour:9	Against:0	Abstain:0
	<u>14/24/0013</u> Conversion of loft into ancillary accommodation with erection of dormer at 4 Dillons Road, Creech St Michael. [M] KR proposed that no objection be raised and this was approved.				
	Prop:KR	Sec:AP	In Favour:9	Against:0	Abstain:0
	<u>14/24/0016</u> Erection of a single storey extension to the side and rear of 4 Paddock Close, Creech St Michael (retention of part works already undertaken). [M] It was agreed that no objection would be raised.				
	Prop:AP	Sec:KR	In Favour:9	Against:0	Abstain:0
15.0	Recreation Park Security – to consider a number of options to improve the security of buildings and assets at the Rec. Park and to minimise the impact of anti-social behaviour on users of the Park and neighbouring residents and to approve an approach for implementation. [M] The Clerk and RFO presented a paper on a range of options for improving security at the Recreation Park and this was discussed at length. It was noted that AB and Cllr. Cudlip had prepared a plan for the implementation of CCTV. It was proposed that the Clerk and RFO would prepare quotations for CCTV installation, to replace the lock on the Engine Shed Building and to confirm the ongoing arrangements with Walford Security to provide the locking and unlocking service. It was also proposed that discussions be held with Ruishton Rhinos Football Club to seek their support for maintaining the grass pitch. The proposals were approved.				
	Prop:AP	Sec:SG	In Favour:9	Against:0	Abstain:0
16.0	Recreation Park Electricity Supply – to approve a quotation for a new contract to supply electricity to the Recreation Park. [M] Three quotations were considered and it was agreed to appoint Yu Energy to supply electricity at a fixed price for the next three years.				
	Prop:AP	Sec:SG	In Favour:9	Against:0	Abstain:0
17.0	Tree Survey Report – to receive the report of the survey of trees at the Canal Car Park and to approve expenditure of £575.00 excluding VAT to allow for urgent works to be completed and				

	to transfer £1,000.00 from reserves to the Canal Car Park budget to allow for further works to be completed. [M] The report was noted and it was agreed to appoint Aboricare to undertake the urgent works.				
	Prop:PT	Sec:AB	In Favour:9	Against:0	Abstain:0
18.0	To review and approve the Financial Transaction Report. [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:9	Against:0	Abstain:0
	Items for Discussion				
19.0	Planning Application 48/24/0008 – updated documents and response from developer. It was noted that the applicant had responded positively to the requests from the Parish Council and others to made minor amendments to the plans for the site. These amendments had been recorded on Somerset Council’s Planning Portal.				
20.0	Minutes of the meeting of the LCN – to note the minutes of the LCN Meeting held 17.04.2024. The minutes of the meeting were noted and KR provided a brief summary of the key issues.				
21.0	Somerset Council Grassland Management Briefing – to note the briefing paper provided by Somerset Council. This document was noted and reference was made to the plans to restrict the cutting of verges to a maximum of 1m from the highway.				
	Updates from Committees, Panels and Working Groups				
22.0	Finance Committee DG commented that at this early stage in the year there were no concerns. The Clerk and RFO confirmed that the full year’s precept had been received and £5,319.94 In CIL funds.				
23.0	Staffing Committee ND confirmed that the Clerk and RFO’s appraisal was scheduled and that he welcomed feedback from members.				
24.0	Planning Committee The Committee continues to meet and to consider planning applications.				
25.0	Canal Panel ND confirmed that the panel had met recently and discussed the issues affecting the car park, including the need to lock and unlock the car park and the results of the tree survey. The use of CCTV had also been considered.				
26.0	Party in the Park Working Group AB confirmed that the group would be meeting soon.				
27.0	Events 27.1 Tug of War AP confirmed that planning was still continuing and tickets were being allocated. AP stressed the need for anyone attending to book a ticket to help with planning. AP also asked for anyone who is or knows a face painter to get in contact as one is needed for the event and for any stallholders who might be interested in having space for stalls.				

28.0	<p>Footpaths</p> <p>None. AP had raised a request to have the vegetation alongside the footpath next to the River Tone at Bull Street to be cutback. SG reported that repairs had been completed in Foxhill Lane.</p>
	<p>Other Matters</p>
29.0	<p>Correspondence</p>
	<p>29.1 To consider any correspondence received that Councillors wish to raise that has already been circulated.</p> <p>ND noted that it had been brought to his attention that a football team had been using the Rec Park for training and hadn't booked the facility. The Clerk and RFO confirmed that this was an issue and he was aware of one team that had done this. The Clerk and RFO had contacted the club but had not had a response.</p>
	<p>29.2 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>None.</p>
30.0	<p>New Matters to be Carried Forward</p> <p>None.</p>

The meeting ended at 8.27pm

[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:

3 June 2024

at 7pm in the CSM Village Hall