

## 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 6 November 2023 at 7.00pm**

### Councillor Attendance

Cllr. Annabelle Peters – Chair	AP	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. David Griffin	DG	Present	Cllr. Paul Tucker	PT	Present
Cllr. Diane Phillips	DP	Present	Cllr Kieran Roe MBE	KR	Present

**Also Present:** Twenty-two (22) members of the public (including three (3) via the Zoom stream) Cllr. David Fothergill (Somerset Council), Cllr. Norman Cavill (Somerset Council) (joined the meeting at 7.24pm) and Andrew Williams, Creech St Michael Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.

### Meeting started at 7.00pm

1.0	<b>Chair's welcome</b>
	AP welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited members of the public to speak.
2.0	<b>Public Question time</b> - Questions asked by the Public and Press will be noted.
	<p>A resident raised his concerns about planning application 14/23/0037, in particular issues with regards to the impact of traffic resulting from the facility and questioned whether there was a need for a dog walking facility. The resident encouraged the applicant to use funds to encourage the use of public footpaths.</p> <p>The same resident asked the Parish Council to confirm that it would fund a mini-bus to allow residents to attend the planning hearing related to 14/23/0002 and sought clarification on what response would be made by the Parish Council to the appeal hearing.</p> <p>A member of the public reported that he had received an email from Somerset Council about the Plan It scheme, the member of the public queried why, in the list that was provided of local Neighbourhood Development Plans, Creech St Michael's plan wasn't included.  <b>Cllr. Fothergill agreed to investigate this and report back.</b></p> <p>A resident raised concerns about the lack of street lighting in Curvalion Road, Creech St Michael (see item 29.2.2).</p> <p>The Chair of the Village Hall asked for clarification on the monies allocated to the Christmas Fayre. The Chair of the Committee also made the meeting aware that the Village Hall Committee is desperately</p>

	<p>seeking new members to assist with the management of the Hall and that if no new volunteers were found, the future of the Hall was uncertain.</p> <p>A resident spoke in support of planning application 14/23/0037, suggesting that it would be of benefit to the rural community and would reduce the risk of accidents on local roads from dog walkers.</p>
3.0	<p><b>To receive Somerset Council Councillors' Reports</b></p> <p>Cllr. David Fothergill briefed the Parish Council on matters arising from Somerset Council.</p> <p><b>2023/4 Financial Position:</b> As at the end of Month 5 (September 2023) Somerset Council predicts an end of year overspend of £27.3 million including £14.9m in Adult's and £12m in Children's. Although these figures may be reduced the accepted position is that the budget cannot be achieved, and reserves will have to be used to plug the gap.</p> <p><b>2024/5 Financial Position:</b> The current expected budget gap for next year is £100m which represents 20% of the total budget. Of these over £70m is within Social Care. This situation has been described by the Finance Director as being 'stark and challenging'. He wrote to the Government in September setting out the dire straight of the Council budget if no changes are made. With General Reserves at £48.9m some of which will be needed to plug 2023/24 then there is insufficient cover to meet the £100m shortfall. As a consequence and unless something drastic changes then a Section 114 notice will be issued.</p> <p><b>Highways Contract:</b> Somerset Council has signed a new eight-year contract with Kier Transportation Ltd to deliver core maintenance across its road network. The £225m agreement covers key maintenance works – including road repairs, drainage, verge cutting and winter service, such as gritting and other emergency functions in adverse weather.</p> <p><b>Demolition Work at Priorswood Recycling Centre:</b> Demolition work has started on the Taunton Recycling site following the major fire which has closed the site since early October. The Material Recovery Facility (MRF) adjacent to the public recycling area is beyond repair and the recycling site is not safe to open until it is demolished.</p> <p><b>Recycling:</b> Nearly half the content of the average Somerset bin could have been recycled, Somerset Council revealed. The 48% figure found this year is an impressive 11% decrease on 2018 – the last time the 'composition analysis' was carried out in the county.</p> <p><b>Somerset Gritters:</b> Somerset's fleet of 23 gritters are ready to be mobilised across 900 miles of road as soon as the temperature drops below zero this winter.</p> <p>ND sought clarification from Cllr. Fothergill on the financial situation facing Somerset Council and the options that could be pursued to address the issue.</p> <p>Cllr. Cavill reported on the ongoing boundary review.</p>
4.0	<p><b>To receive any apologies for absence</b></p> <p>The Clerk reported that apologies had been received from Cllr. Hunt.</p>

	It was proposed that Cllr. Hunt's apologies be accepted.				
	<b>Prop:AP</b>	<b>Sec:ND</b>	<b>In Favour:10</b>	<b>Against:0</b>	<b>Abstain:0</b>
5.0	<b>Declarations of Interests</b>				
	<b>5.1 Declarations of Individual Members</b>				
	None.				
	<b>5.2 Dispensation Request</b>				
	None.				
6.0	<b>Minutes</b>				
	To <b>Review and Approve</b> the draft minutes of the meeting held on 02 October 2023. [M]				
	All present confirmed that they had received a copy of the minutes of the meeting held on 02 October 2023. The draft minutes were approved and signed by the Chair of the meeting.				
	<b>Prop:DP</b>	<b>Sec:AP</b>	<b>In Favour:8</b>	<b>Against:0</b>	<b>Abstain:2</b>
7.0	<b>Review and Monitor the Actions Outstanding from Past Meetings</b> – See Appendix A for details of action points and progress toward the completion of each action.				
	This item was not taken during the meeting.				
8.0	<b>Planning Applications</b> – 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]				
	<b>14/23/0032 [V]</b>				
	It was proposed that the Parish Council object to the application on the grounds that the size and scale of the proposed development is out of proportion with the surrounding properties and will result in surrounding properties being adversely affected.				
	<b>Prop:DP</b>	<b>Sec:AP</b>	<b>In Favour:10</b>	<b>Against:0</b>	<b>Abstain:0</b>
	<b>14/23/0034 [V]</b>				
	It was proposed that no objection be made.				
	<b>Prop:DP</b>	<b>Sec:AP</b>	<b>In Favour:10</b>	<b>Against:0</b>	<b>Abstain:0</b>
	<b>14/23/0035 [V]</b>				
	It was proposed that no objection be made.				
	<b>Prop:DP</b>	<b>Sec:AP</b>	<b>In Favour:10</b>	<b>Against:0</b>	<b>Abstain:0</b>
	<b>14/23/0036 [V]</b>				
	It was proposed that no objection be made.				
	<b>Prop:DP</b>	<b>Sec:AP</b>	<b>In Favour:10</b>	<b>Against:0</b>	<b>Abstain:0</b>
	<b>14/23/0037 [V]</b>				
	It was proposed that no objection be raised, although the Parish Council noted that the application was within the designated Green Wedge as prescribed within the Neighbourhood Development Plan, but that the development was not to the detriment of the green space.				

	<b>Prop:CC</b>	<b>Sec:CG</b>	<b>In Favour:8</b>	<b>Against:2</b>	<b>Abstain:0</b>
	<b>14/23/0038 [V]</b>				
	It was proposed that the Parish Council is supportive of the application in its current form. But as a condition of this application, the applicant should not be allowed to use this application as a precursor to the development of the building to be a full residential property.				
	<b>Prop:DP</b>	<b>Sec:AP</b>	<b>In Favour:10</b>	<b>Against:0</b>	<b>Abstain:0</b>
	<b>14/23/0002 [V]</b>				
	ND asked Cllr. Fothergill if Somerset Council would respond to the planning application appeal. Cllr. Fothergill and Cllr. Cavill both confirmed that Somerset Council would defend the decision that was made at the appeal.				
	It was proposed that the Parish Council apply for Rule 6(6) status at the appeal hearing.				
	<b>Prop: DP</b>	<b>Sec: CC</b>	<b>In Favour:10</b>	<b>Against:0</b>	<b>Abstain:0</b>
	It was proposed that the Parish Council fund transport to and from the appeal hearing to allow residents to attend.				
	<b>Prop:DP</b>	<b>Sec:PT</b>	<b>In Favour:10</b>	<b>Against:0</b>	<b>Abstain:0</b>
	<b>14/22/0051 [V]</b>				
	DG noted that the application remained substantially the same, except for the removal of the battery storage facilities.				
	It was proposed that the Parish Council's current response remains unchanged.				
	<b>Prop:DP</b>	<b>Sec:CC</b>	<b>In Favour:10</b>	<b>Against:0</b>	<b>Abstain:0</b>
	<b>Items for Decision</b>				
9.0	<b>Hyde Lane</b> – to seek approval to appoint a contractor to manage the overgrown vegetation affecting the lane between Hyde Lane and Leighton Drive, Creech St Michael. [V]				
	It was proposed and approved that the Clerk and RFO would write to David Wilson Homes and request that they address the issue.				
	<b>Prop:AP</b>	<b>Sec:DP</b>	<b>In Favour:10</b>	<b>Against:0</b>	<b>Abstain:0</b>
10.0	<b>PiP Speed Crafting Event</b> – to consider and approve the risk assessment for the Speed Crafting event and approve an income and expenditure budget. [V]				
	CG reported that the event had been postponed until the new year. The risk assessment and budget were approved.				
	<b>Prop:CG</b>	<b>Sec:SG</b>	<b>In Favour:10</b>	<b>Against:0</b>	<b>Abstain:0</b>
11.0	<b>Christmas Fayre Risk Assessment</b> – to consider and approve the risk assessment for the Christmas Fayre. [V]				
	The risk assessment was approved.				
	<b>Prop:SG</b>	<b>Sec:CC</b>	<b>In Favour:10</b>	<b>Against:0</b>	<b>Abstain:0</b>

12.0	<p><b>Performance Appraisal Policy &amp; Procedure</b> – to review and approve the proposed Performance Appraisal Policy &amp; Procedure, previously approved by the Staffing Committee. [M]</p> <p>ND confirmed that the policy and procedure had been considered by the Staffing Committee and given its approval.</p> <p>The Performance Appraisal Policy &amp; Procedure was approved.</p>				
	<b>Prop:ND</b>	<b>Sec:AP</b>	<b>In Favour:10</b>	<b>Against:0</b>	<b>Abstain:0</b>
13.0	<p><b>Annual Leave Policy</b> – to review and approve the proposed Annual Leave Policy, previously approved by the Staffing Committee. [M]</p> <p>ND confirmed that the policy had been considered by the Staffing Committee and given its approval.</p> <p>The Annual Leave Policy was approved.</p>				
	<b>Prop:ND</b>	<b>Sec:AP</b>	<b>In Favour:10</b>	<b>Against:0</b>	<b>Abstain:0</b>
14.0	<p><b>Post Office Services</b> – to consider a request to make representation to the Post Office to take steps to improve the opening hours of the Post Office Counter in Creech St Michael. [M]</p> <p>The meeting noted the concerns raised by the resident and agreed that ND would approach the Store manager and seek clarification on the matter and a resolution to the disruption.</p> <p>It was approved that ND would seek a meeting with the local store manager.</p>				
	<b>Prop:ND</b>	<b>Sec:CG</b>	<b>In Favour:10</b>	<b>Against:0</b>	<b>Abstain:0</b>
15.0	<p><b>Community of Parishes Meeting</b> – to nominate a representative to attend the Community of Parishes (A358) meeting to be held on the 13 November 2023. [M]</p> <p>It was proposed and approved that no representative be sent to this meeting.</p>				
	<b>Prop:AP</b>	<b>Sec:PT</b>	<b>In Favour:10</b>	<b>Against:0</b>	<b>Abstain:0</b>
16.0	<p><b>Community Review</b> – to approve a submission of an expression of interest in bidding for funds to undertake a community review in 2024. [M]</p> <p>The proposal to submit an expression of interest was approved.</p>				
	<b>Prop:AP</b>	<b>Sec:CC</b>	<b>In Favour:10</b>	<b>Against:0</b>	<b>Abstain:0</b>
17.0	<p><b>Citizens Advice Somerset Grant Donation</b> – to approve a proposal to grant funds of £320.00 to Citizens Advice Somerset. [M]</p> <p>DG confirmed that the proposal had been considered and approved by the Finance Committee. The proposal was approved.</p>				
	<b>Prop:AP</b>	<b>Sec:PT</b>	<b>In Favour:10</b>	<b>Against:0</b>	<b>Abstain:0</b>
18.0	<p><b>Financial Transactions Report</b> – to review and approve the Financial Transaction Report for the period between 23.09.2023 and 27.10.2023. [M]</p>				



	The Financial Transaction report was approved. See <b>Appendix B</b> for a list of all payments. The Chair signed a copy of the report for the records.				
	<b>Prop:AP</b>	<b>Sec:CC</b>	<b>In Favour:10</b>	<b>Against:0</b>	<b>Abstain:0</b>
	<b>Items for Discussion</b>				
19.0	<p><b>Outcome of Standards Investigation</b> – notification from Monitoring Officer of the conclusion of an investigation following a complaint by a member of the public.</p> <p>The Clerk and RFO reported that the local Monitoring officer had undertaken an investigation following a complaint made by a resident. The Monitoring Officer had dismissed the complaint and recommended that AP and CC undertake relevant training on the management of information.</p>				
	<b>Updates from Committees, Panels and Working Groups</b>				
20.0	<b>Finance Committee</b>				
	<p>20.1 Income &amp; Expenditure to date.</p> <p>DG and The Clerk and RFO provided an overview of the income and expenditure budgets year-to-date. It was noted that expenditure was on profile with the exception of the Recreation Park budgets that included commitments from the previous year.</p>				
21.0	<b>Staffing Committee</b>				
	No further updates.				
22.0	<b>Planning Committee</b>				
	<p>22.1 Meeting with Developer &amp; Planning Officer 8 November 2023.</p> <p>The Clerk and RFO reminded members of the forthcoming meeting and encouraged attendance.</p>				
	<p>22.2 Feedback from the Meeting with Rebecca Pow MP.</p> <p>DG reported on the recent meeting with Rebecca Pow MP and confirmed that she was receptive to the Parish Councils position in respect to the Langaller Park development. Contact would be made by Rebecca Pow's office with Somerset Highways and the Developer.</p>				
23.0	<b>Recreation Park Committee</b>				
	<p>23.1 Proposal to dissolve the Recreation Park Committee.</p> <p>The Clerk and RFO confirmed that there would be a proposal brought to the next meeting to dissolve the Recreation Park Committee.</p>				
24.0	<b>Traffic Panel</b>				
	<p>24.1 Speed Indicator Device data.</p> <p>The Clerk and RFO presented the latest data from the Speed Indicator Devices.</p>				

	It was noted that efforts were continuing to secure the additional works required within the Creech St Michael speed restrictions.
25.0	<b>Canal Panel</b>
	25.1 Feedback from the recent meeting with the Canal & Rivers Trust. <b>[CC]</b>  CC reported that the recent meeting with a representative from the Canals & Rivers Trust had been largely positive and that the issues with the location and installation of the new signage seem to have been resolved.
26.0	<b>Party in the Park Working Group</b>  No significant updates.
27.0	<b>Events</b>
	27.1 Tug of War  AP asked members for guidance on whether a hog roast provided for the event, should be free of charge and subsidised by the four Parish Councils. This would be discussed at the forthcoming meeting of the organising group. The group would also be considering a venue for the event.
28.0	<b>Newsletter</b>  AP appealed for volunteers to contribute articles for the newsletter to be passed to the Clerk and RFO.
	<b>Other Matters</b>
29.0	<b>Correspondence</b>
	29.1 To consider any correspondence received that Councillors wish to raise that has already been circulated.
	AP reminded the meeting that Sunday was Remembrance Sunday and she would be attending the service and that anyone else would be welcome to attend.
	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.
	29.2.1 Email from Fiona Roberts – Coombe Road Sign  Ms Roberts was present and spoke at length about the problems residents in Coombe had been experiencing with large vehicles using narrow lanes. A request for support from the Parish Council was made to change the signage positioned at the entry to Coombe Lane to exclude large vehicles from using this route. <b>Action:</b> Clerk and RFO to contact West Monkton Parish Council to collaborate on a submission to Somerset Highways.
	29.2.2 Email from Ben Girling – Street lighting in Curvalion Road, Creech St Michael.

	Mr Girling was present and explained his concerns about the lack of street lighting in Curvalion Road. Councillors asked Mr Girling to survey other residents of the road to ascertain if there was a majority of residents that would welcome street lighting.
30.0	<b>New Matters to be Carried Forward</b>

The meeting ended at 9.44PM

[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:

4 December 2023  
8 January 2024  
5 February 2024

at 7pm in the CSM Village Hall  
at 7pm in the CSM Village Hall  
at 7pm in the CSM Village Hall





