

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 6th March 2023 at 7:00pm**

Councillor Attendance

Cllr. Annabelle Peters – Chair	AP	Present	Cllr. Paul Tucker	PT	Present
Cllr. Charlie Cudlip	CC	Present	Cllr. David Griffin	DG	Present
Cllr. Diane Phillips	DP	Present	Cllr. Ken Hunt	KH	Present

Also Present: Cllr. David Fothergill (SCC), ten (10) 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 7:00pm

1.0	Chair’s welcome
	AP welcomed all Councillors and members of the public to the meeting.
	DG joined the meeting at 7.03pm
2.0	Public Question time - Questions asked by the Public and Press will be noted.
	<p>The applicant spoke in support of planning application 14/23/0008 and outlined the reasons for the application, including the need to provide improved access to the property for frail and disabled people.</p> <p>The applicant of planning applications 14/23/0006/LB, 14/23/007 and 14/23/0012 offered to answer any questions relating to the applications. It was agreed to allow the applicant to raise any matters during the discussion on the relevant planning applications. The applicant highlighted that there were concerns with vandalism to the site and to the listed building on the site.</p> <p>A resident raised his concerns about speeding in Creech St Michael village and asked what further steps could be taken by the Parish Council to tackle the issue of motorists ignoring the speed restrictions. The resident had been in contact with Avon and Somerset Police and Somerset West and Taunton Council to raise his concerns with them.</p> <p>CC confirmed that the current measures had taken five years to implement and that the funds required to add more significant measures were not available via the Parish Council. CC suggested that complaints from residents, sent to Avon and Somerset Police were helpful and the data from the Speed Indicator Devices would also be provided to the Police. Cllr. Fothergill also commented on the challenges that were faced in managing speed within the village and encouraged everyone to continue to report issues to the Police.</p> <p>A member of the public asked for an update on the repairs to the Rec. Park Toilets and the progress that was being made to recover the funds paid to the previous contractor. The Clerk and RFO confirmed that a new contractor had started work on the 6th of March 2023 and was expected to complete the repair works</p>

	to schedule and that the process to recover funds from the contractor had been started with a claim made via the Money Claim service. A further update would be provided as the claim was progressed.
3.0	To receive County and District Councillors' Reports
	<p>Cllr. Fothergill provided the following report.</p> <p>Somerset County Council Finances - Somerset County Council continues to show a significant projected overspend of £24.3 as at Month 9, with the main areas of Social Care causing the greatest overspends. The Revenue and Capital budgets for the new Somerset Council were proposed and debated at a Full Council meeting on the 22nd February 2023. There are significant challenges in delivering this budget given the current trend in overspend and the risk to some savings which are planned.</p> <p>Local Government Reorganisation - Following the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) decision to support the move to a single Unitary Council across Somerset, vesting day for the new Unitary Council remains as 1st April 2023.</p> <p>Debate Not Hate - Somerset County Council's last Full Council meeting saw members from all political parties voting to support a motion signing up the new Council to the Local Government Association's Debate Not Hate campaign.</p> <p>School Term dates 2024/5 and 2025/6 - SCC has published two separate consultations: one for the 2024/5 and one for the 2025/26 academic years. https://somerset.inconsult.uk/Termdates2425/consultationHome https://somerset.inconsult.uk/Termdates2526/consultationHome</p> <p>Independent Living Centres - The Somerset Independent Living Centres are filled with useful technology and equipment designed to make daily living at home easier for anyone who may need support living independently, such as older people, or people of any age with disabilities, sensory impairments, or health conditions. There are two such centres in Somerset, one in Wellington and the other in Shepton Mallet. Members of the public can book a free appointment to visit the centre by calling 0300 123 2224 or email adults@somerset.gov.uk</p> <p>Step Up to Social Work - Somerset's 'Step Up to Social Work' programme offers an opportunity to train for a career in social work and receive a tax-free bursary of almost £20,000. Applications can be made via www.susw.eu-careers.pocketrecruiter.com</p> <p>Domestic Abuse - Somerset Integrated Domestic Abuse Service helpline took 301 calls from people between the age of 16 – 20-year-olds since April last year, compared to 128 in 2021/22. Young people can find support by calling on 0800 69 49 999 or at www.somersetsurvivors.org.uk.</p> <p>Secondary School Places - Figures show that 4,785 secondary school applications were received this year compared to 4,866 in 2022. In total, 92.8% (down from 94.8% last year) of children received a place at their first preference school, with 98.12% (down from 98.35% last year) offered one of their top three choices.</p>

	<p>Somerset Community Awards - Community heroes from across Somerset were recognised at the latest Somerset County Council Chair's Award for Service to the Community. The awards-giving has been an annual event for many years and this year's ceremony at Taunton Rugby Club was attended by 140 people, including 43 nominees from across Somerset.</p> <p>Route 1 Advocacy - Somerset County Council's Route1 Advocacy service is seeking Advocates and Independent Visitors to spend quality time with young people and help transform their lives. To find out more about the roles and apply, please visit: https://volunteering.somerset.gov.uk/route1</p> <p>Highways - The B3191 at Cleeve Hill near Watchet is set to remain closed indefinitely for safety reasons. SCC has announced that its bid for funding the Ashcott/Walton bypass has been unsuccessful.</p>				
4.0	To receive any apologies for absence				
	Cllr Norman Cavill's apologies were received. Cllr. Davidson's absence was noted.				
5.0	Declarations of Interests				
	4.1 Declarations of Individual Members				
	DP declared an interest in planning applications 14/23/0006/LB, 14/23/0007 and 14/23/0012 and would not participate in any vote on these applications.				
	4.2 Dispensation Request				
	None.				
6.0	Parish Council Vacancies				
	No applications have been received. AP asked the members of the public present, to make others aware of the vacancies.				
7.0	Minutes				
	7.1. to Review and Approve the minutes of the meeting held on 6 th February 2023. [M]				
	All present confirmed that they had received the minutes of the meeting held on 6 th of February 2023.				
	Cllrs. agreed the minutes of the meeting held on the 6 th February 2023. The Chair signed a copy of the minutes for the records.				
	Prop: AP	Sec: DP	In Favour: 6	Against: 0	Abstain: 0
	7.2. to Review and Approve the minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 16 th February 2023. [M]				
	All present confirmed that they had received the minutes of the meeting held on 16 th of February 2023.				
	Cllrs. agreed the minutes of the meeting held on the 16 th of February 2023. The Chair signed a copy of the minutes for the records.				
	Prop: CC	Sec: PT	In Favour: 4	Against: 0	Abstain: 2
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]				
	14/23/0012 [V]				

	<p>DG outlined concerns relating to the application, specifically that the application conflicts with Somerset West and Taunton Council's adopted strategy and framework, is not an allocated site in open countryside and that the application would be harmful to the character of the site. In addition, DG referenced that the 5-year land supply issue that had been raised in other applications was no longer as relevant as the supply had been proved to be deliverable.</p> <p>DG proposed that the Parish Council object to the application.</p>				
	Prop: DG	Sec: PT	In Favour: 5	Against: 0	Abstain: 1
	14/23/0011 [V]				
	<p>DP stated that she had no objections to the application.</p>				
	Prop: DP	Sec: DG	In Favour: 6	Against: 0	Abstain: 0
	14/23/0008 [V]				
	<p>DP stated that she had no objections to the application.</p>				
	Prop: DP	Sec: CC	In Favour: 6	Against: 0	Abstain: 0
	14/23/0007 [V]				
	<p>DG proposed that the Parish Council object to the application based on concerns relating to the heritage statement that refers to a development of 21 homes and not 33. In addition, it was noted that the Parish had already provided a significant amount of supply of land to meet the District housing targets. DG also raised concerns relating to the impact of the development on the listed farmhouse building that was on the site and the demolition of part of the building.</p> <p>With the permission of the Chair, the Applicant challenged the view that the application would result in the demolition of the listed building stating that it was restricted to a more modern element of the property. The Applicant raised his concerns about vandalism that is occurring on the site with damage to the existing buildings.</p> <p>CC raised his concerns about the shortage of time available to the Parish Council to consult on the application. CC agreed that the listed property needed to be protected but was unsure whether the proposed development was the best option for achieving this.</p> <p>The Applicant offered to invite his planning consultant to brief the Parish Council on the development at a date and time convenient to both.</p> <p>It was proposed that a decision on the application be deferred and that the Clerk and RFO should request an extension to the consultation deadline from Somerset West and Taunton Council.</p>				
	14/23/0006/LB [V]				
	<p>It was proposed that a decision on the application be deferred and that the Clerk and RFO should request an extension to the consultation deadline from Somerset West and Taunton Council.</p>				
	14/23/0005 [V]				
	<p>DP stated that she had no objections to the application. DP noted that the request from Somerset Ecology Services for the installation of a bird/bat box should be adhered to.</p>				

	Prop: DP	Sec: CC	In Favour: 6	Against: 0	Abstain: 0
	Items for Decision				
10.0	Parish Council Planning Committee Terms of Reference – to consider and approve the terms of reference for the planning committee.				
	All present confirmed that they were content with the proposed terms of reference.				
	Prop: DP	Sec: AP	In Favour: 6	Against: 0	Abstain: 1
11.0	Parish Council Planning Committee Membership – to seek nominations for appointment to the planning committee. [M]				
	DP was nominated as Chair of the Planning Committee.				
	Prop: AP	Sec: DG	In Favour: 5	Against: 0	Abstain: 1
	CC and DG were nominated as members of the Planning Committee.				
	Prop: AP	Sec: DP	In Favour: 3	Against: 0	Abstain: 3
12.0	Response to Planning Application – to consider and approve a response to planning application 14/23/0002. [M]				
	DP read a prepared statement in response to planning application 14/23/0002.				
	It was agreed to use the statement in full, as the Parish Council's response to the planning application. DP was thanked by the Chair for the significant amount of work undertaken drafting the response.				
	Prop: AP	Sec: DP	In Favour: 6	Against: 0	Abstain: 0
13.0	Rec Park Committee Chair – to approve the appointment of Sarah Elliott as Chair of the Rec Park Committee. [M]				
	KH expressed some concern relating to the appointment, based on the issue relating to the failed toilet repair project. AP referenced the role of the Parish Council in the original contracting decision and that it was the responsibility of the Council and not an individual.				
	The proposal was approved.				
	Prop: AP	Sec: CC	In Favour: 6	Against: 0	Abstain: 0
14.0	Community Youth Provision – to consider and approve the proposed Service Level Agreement between the Creech St Michael Parish Council and the Community Youth Project. [M]				
	The proposal was approved.				
	Prop: AP	Sec: DP	In Favour: 6	Against: 0	Abstain: 0
15.0	Internal Audit – to consider and approve a proposal to reappoint Jill Larcombe, as the Parish Council's internal auditor. [M]				

	The proposal to appoint Jill Larcome as internal auditor at a cost of £160.00 plus mileage, was approved.				
	Prop: AP	Sec: CC	In Favour: 6	Against: 0	Abstain: 0
16.0	<p>Complaints Policy and Procedure – to consider and approve the Parish Council Complaints Policy. [M]</p> <p>The Clerk and RFO reaffirmed that the policy stated that initial complaints would be managed by the Clerk and RFO. All present agreed that this was appropriate.</p> <p>The proposal to approve the policy was approved.</p>				
	Prop: AP	Sec: CC	In Favour: 6	Against: 0	Abstain: 0
17.0	<p>Anti Bullying and Harassment Policy and Procedure - to consider and approve the Parish Council Anti Bullying and Harassment Policy and Procedure. [M]</p> <p>CC commented that he approved of the way that the new policies and procedures had been produced.</p> <p>The proposal to approve the policy was approved.</p>				
	Prop: AP	Sec: DP	In Favour: 6	Against: 0	Abstain: 0
18.0	<p>Parish Council Website Accessibility Statement – to consider and approve the Parish Council Website Accessibility Statement. [M]</p> <p>The Clerk and RFO, confirmed that the Parish Council has a duty to ensure that the council’s website is as accessible as possible and meets the accessibility regulations.</p> <p>The proposal to approve the statement was approved.</p>				
	Prop: AP	Sec: DP	In Favour: 6	Against: 0	Abstain: 0
19.0	Finance – 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: PT	In Favour: 6	Against: 0	Abstain: 0
	Updates from Committees, Panels and Working Groups				
20.0	Staffing Committee				
	None.				
21.0	Finance Committee				
	21.1. Expenditure against budget year-to-date.				
	The Clerk and RFO reported that expenditure to date was on profile and there had been no significant variations against budgeted income or expenditure.				

	<p>DG asked that current year payments for the Rec. Park be made wherever possible.</p> <p>The Clerk and RFO suggested that savings could be sought in the cost of grass cutting.</p>				
22.0	Newsletter Working Group				
	<p>AP appealed for help from volunteers to distribute the Parish Press newsletter.</p> <p>A resident asked if there had been liaison with the Community newsletter. Ap confirmed that there had been.</p> <p>PT confirmed that he had provided a list of streets in the Parish to AP and the Clerk and RFO to assist with planning distribution.</p>				
23.0	Coronation Celebrations Group				
	<p>Planning is underway and progress is being made. AP appealed for volunteers to contribute to the event, particularly any that are first aid trained.</p> <p>Ruishton Parish Council have made a contribution of £200.00 toward the costs of the event and a resident from Ruishton had made a donation of £100.00 toward the costs of the event.</p> <p>Tickets are available from the Parish Council website for free cream teas.</p>				
	Other Matters				
24.0	Correspondence				
	24.1 To consider any correspondence received that Councillors wish to raise that has already been circulated.				
	None.				
	24.2 To note items of correspondence received by the Clerk and RFO deemed appropriate to be brought to the attention of the Parish council.				
	None.				
25.0	New Matters to be Carried Forward				
	None.				
26.0	Council to Decide if to Exclude Members of the Public and Press for the Following Item(s)				
	[M]				
	Prop: AP	Sec: DP	In Favour: 6	Against: 0	Abstain: 0
	<p>26.1 Appointment of a Candidate to the role of Grounds and Maintenance Operative – to consider and approve the appointment of a candidate to the role. [M]</p> <p>The appointment of the preferred candidate was approved.</p>				
	Prop: CC	Sec: PT	In Favour: 6	Against: 0	Abstain: 0

The meeting ended at 9.08pm

[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:

Monday 06 March 2023	at 7pm in the CSM Village Hall
Monday 03 April 2023	at 7pm in the CSM Village Hall
Monday 15 th May 2023 (Annual Parish Meeting)	At 7pm in the CSM Village Hall