

## CREECH ST MICHAEL PARISH COUNCIL

**Draft Minutes** for the Meeting of Creech St Michael Parish Council held at  
Creech St Michael Village Hall on **03 March 2025 at 7.00pm**

### Councillor Attendance

Cllr. Charlie Cudlip - Chair	CC	Present	Cllr. Neil Davidson – Vice Chair	ND	Present
Cllr. David Griffin	DG	Present	Cllr. Barbara Williams	BW	Present
Cllr. Martyn Willis	MW	Present	Cllr. Kieran Roe MBE	KR	Present
Cllr. Paul Tucker	PT	Present	Cllr. Peter Brown	PB	Present

**Also Present:** Cllr. David Fothergill (Somerset Council), Cllr Norman Cavill (Somerset Council), nine (9) members of the public (including one (1) via the Zoom stream) and Andrew Williams, Creech St Michael Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.

### Meeting started at 7.00pm

1.0	<p><b>Chair's welcome</b> The Vice Chair ND welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p>					
2.0	<p><b>Election of a Chair of the Parish Council</b> CC was appointed Chair of the Parish Council and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office. CC took the seat as Chair of the meeting.</p>					
	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>Prop:PT</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>Sec:MW</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>In Favour:8</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>Against:0</b></td> <td style="width: 20%;"><b>Abstain:0</b></td> </tr> </table>	<b>Prop:PT</b>	<b>Sec:MW</b>	<b>In Favour:8</b>	<b>Against:0</b>	<b>Abstain:0</b>
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3.0	<p><b>Public Question time</b> - Questions asked by the Public and Press will be noted. The Chair invited contributions from members of the public. The Chair of the Village Hall Committee announced that there would be a public meeting held at Creech St Michael Village Hall on Wednesday 26 March 2025 regarding the proposed solar power generation installation on land off Bull Street Creech St Michael.</p> <p>A resident confirmed that the developer of the proposed solar power generation installation on land off Bull Street Creech St Michael, had requested a new screening opinion from the Planning Authority.</p> <p>A resident reported that contractors had started cutting back the hedgerow on the pathway through from Hyde Lane. Another resident present at the time had asked the contractors to stop their work because of fears around nesting birds in hedgerows.</p> <p>MW raised concerns about the piece of land off Hyde Lane that has been subject to fly-tipping. The Clerk and RFO agreed to investigate who owns the land.</p>					

4.0	<p><b>To receive Somerset Council Councillors' Reports</b>  Cllr. David Fothergill provided the following update.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Extended Boundary Commission Review is concluding on 4 March 2025. Somerset Council have agreed a scheme and this will be submitted for consideration.</li> <li>- Somerset Council must set a budget by Wednesday 13 March 2025 and currently has a deficit of £52 million. Council tax will be increased by 7.5% and there will be a £43 million capitalisation order that allows for the sale of assets.</li> <li>- Auditors have raised Statutory Recommendations. These require Somerset Council to report on plans to close the budget gap and on the transformation project.</li> <li>- A proposal to increase car parking charges is being considered by Somerset Council to increase revenue.</li> <li>- Wok is stating on the Agratas Site in Bridgwater.</li> <li>- Trading Standards conducted a sweep of vaping stores. 13 of the 14 were found to be selling illegal vapes.</li> </ul>				
5.0	<p><b>Apologies for Absence</b></p>				
	<p>5.1 To receive any apologies for absence.  Apologies had been received from Cllr. Giles and Cllr. Greenhalgh.  5.2 To approve any apologies for absence.  The apologies were approved.</p>				
	<p><b>Prop:PT</b></p>	<p><b>Sec:BW</b></p>	<p><b>In Favour:8</b></p>	<p><b>Against:0</b></p>	<p><b>Abstain:0</b></p>
6.0	<p><b>Declarations of Interests</b>  <b>6.1 Declarations of Individual Members</b>  None.  <b>6.2 Dispensation Request</b>  None.</p>				
7.0	<p><b>Minutes</b>  To <b>Review and Approve</b> the minutes of the meeting held on 3 February 2025. [M]  The Clerk and RFO commented on item 22.2.1 stating that Somerset Highways had been notified of the issues relating to the line marking and these would be addressed.   The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.</p>				
	<p><b>Prop:MW</b></p>	<p><b>Sec:DG</b></p>	<p><b>In Favour:8</b></p>	<p><b>Against:0</b></p>	<p><b>Abstain:0</b></p>
8.0	<p><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.</p>				
	<p><b>Items for Decision</b></p>				
9.0	<p><b>Letter to Planning Authority</b> – to approve a letter to be sent to the Planning Authority that requests that the need for an Environmental Impact Assessment be conducted for the proposed solar power generation installation site on land of Bull Street, Creech St Michael, be reconsidered as the initial advice given by the Planning Authority was incorrect. [M]   It was agreed that the proposed letter would be modified in light of the information received about the proposed reassessment of the appraisal of the site and the need for an Environmental Impact Assessment.</p>				
	<p><b>Prop:PB</b></p>	<p><b>Sec:DG</b></p>	<p><b>In Favour:8</b></p>	<p><b>Against:0</b></p>	<p><b>Abstain:0</b></p>

10.0	<b>Annual Parish Meeting</b> – to approve the date and format of the Annual Parish Meeting. [M] The date of the 7 May 2025 was agreed and approved. Members agreed that they would propose ideas for guest speakers at the next full meeting of the Council.				
	<b>Prop:ND</b>	<b>Sec:PT</b>	<b>In Favour:8</b>	<b>Against:0</b>	<b>Abstain:0</b>
11.0	<b>Quotation for Grass Cutting at the Recreation Park</b> – to consider and approve a quotation for the provision of a grass cutting service at the Recreation Park. [M] The three quotations were considered and it was agreed to approve the quotation supplied by Somerset Council at £234.05 per cut.				
	<b>Prop:PT</b>	<b>Sec:PB</b>	<b>In Favour:8</b>	<b>Against:0</b>	<b>Abstain:0</b>
12.0	<b>Quotation for Dog Waste Removal Service</b> – to consider and approve a quotation for the provision of a dog waste removal service. [M] The quotation provided by Somerset Council was approved at a rate of £6.50 per bin.				
	<b>Prop:BW</b>	<b>Sec:PT</b>	<b>In Favour:8</b>	<b>Against:0</b>	<b>Abstain:0</b>
13.0	<b>Quotation for the Installation of 3 Speed Indicator Devices</b> – to review and approve a quotation for the installation of 3 posts for Speed Indicator Devices. [M] It was agreed and approved that the Clerk and RFO should revert to the quotation provided by Somerset Highways.				
	<b>Prop:PT</b>	<b>Sec:MW</b>	<b>In Favour:8</b>	<b>Against:0</b>	<b>Abstain:0</b>
14.0	<b>Appointment of an Internal Auditor</b> – to approve the appointment of J Lacombe as the Parish Council's Internal Auditor for the year ending 31 March 2025. [M] The appointment of J Larcombe as internal auditor was approved.				
	<b>Prop:PT</b>	<b>Sec:DG</b>	<b>In Favour:8</b>	<b>Against:0</b>	<b>Abstain:0</b>
15.0	<b>Banking Arrangements</b> – to approve the appointment of Cllr. Steve Greenhalgh as an authorising signatory to the Parish Council bank account. [M] The appointment was approved.				
	<b>Prop:PB</b>	<b>Sec:ND</b>	<b>In Favour:8</b>	<b>Against:0</b>	<b>Abstain:0</b>
16.0	Financial Transactions Report – to review and approve the Financial Transaction Report for the period between 27 January 2025 and 21 February 2025. [M]  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:BW</b>	<b>Sec:DG</b>	<b>In Favour:8</b>	<b>Against:0</b>	<b>Abstain:0</b>
	<b>Items for Discussion</b>				
17.0	<b>LCN Local Plan Workshop 24 February 2025</b> – feedback. CC summarised the key points from the workshop, including the call for sites and the various requests from those present to deliver the needed infrastructure. CC commented that it was inevitable that much of the new housing development sites would be located along the M5 corridor.				
18.0	<b>LCN Children &amp; Young People Working group</b> – update. The Clerk and RFO confirmed that a bid for grant funds from SALC was due to be submitted and the expectation was that the application would be supported. Funds would be used to support the delivery of provision across the LCN. DG asked if this included engagement with schools and the Clerk and RFO confirmed that this was the intention.				

	<b>Updates from Committees Working Groups &amp; Panels</b>
19.0	<p><b>Planning Committee</b></p> <p><b>19.1 Planning Application 14/25/0002</b></p> <p>The Clerk and RFO confirmed that a letter was being written to the Highways and Planning Authorities demanding that the planning conditions imposed by the Planning Inspector in respect of application 14/23/0002 be fully complied with. Contact had also been made with the developer requesting that they reconsider the naming of the site.</p> <p><b>19.2 Planning Log</b></p> <p>The meeting viewed the Planning Log and the updates recorded to date.</p>
20.0	<p><b>Finance Committee</b></p> <p><b>20.1. Meeting Held 24.02.2024</b></p> <p>DG updated the meeting on the proposed CIL Policy that would define how the Parish Council managed CIL funds. This would be coming to the April meeting of the Parish Council for approval.</p> <p><b>20.2. Budget Report Year-to-date.</b></p> <p>The Clerk and RFO confirmed that the budget was on profile and there were no concerns.</p>
21.0	<p><b>Traffic Working Group</b></p> <p><b>21.1. Update.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MW reported that there was ongoing discussions with Somerset Highways and Avon and Somerset Police regarding the installation of speed camera signs, after concerns were raised by Avon and Somerset Police.</li> <li>- The Speedwatch team continues to be active. MW reported that 27% of traffic recorded was over the speed limit and reported to Avon and Somerset Police.</li> <li>- MW presented a map of the local routes in to the village of Creech S Michael and their respective speed limits. MW believed that if these limits were reduced and consistent it would have a positive impact on traffic management within the community. The Clerk and RFO would be consulting with neighbouring parish councils to gauge their opinion on the proposal.</li> </ul>
	<b>Other Matters</b>
22.0	<b>Correspondence</b>
	<p><b>22.1 To consider any correspondence received that Councillors wish to raise that has already been circulated.</b></p> <p>None.</p>
	<p><b>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.</b></p> <p>The email message from Gideon Amos OBE MP was noted.</p>
23.0	<b>New Matters to be Carried Forward</b>

The meeting ended at 8.53pm

[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:

