

CREECH ST MICHAEL PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes for the Meeting of Crech St Michael Parish Council held at
Crech St Michael Village Hall on **Monday 6 January 2025 at 7.00pm**

Councillor Attendance

Cllr. Annabelle Peters – Chair	AP	Present	Cllr. Neil Davidson – Vice Chair	ND	Present
Cllr. Paul Tucker	PT	Present	Cllr. Charlie Cudlip	CC	Present
Cllr. Corinne Giles	CG	Present	Cllr. Stephen Greenhalgh	SG	Present
Cllr. David Griffin	DG	Present	Cllr. Barbara Williams	BW	Present From 7.04pm
Cllr. Martyn Willis	MW	Present	Cllr. Kieran Roe MBE	KR	Present

Also Present: Cllr. Norman Cavill (Somerset Council), Cllr. David Fothergill (from 7.11 pm) (Somerset Council), thirteen (13) members of the public (including one (1) via the Zoom stream) and Andrew Williams, Crech St Michael Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.

Meeting started at 7.01pm

1.0	<p>Chair's welcome The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited members of the public that were present to speak on any issue they wished to bring to the attention of the Parish Council.</p>
2.0	<p>Public Question time - Questions asked by the Public and Press will be noted. The Chair of the Village Hall committee spoke in support of their bid for a Community Development Fund grant and explained how the monies would be used to benefit the community. The Chair also explained that early plans are being discussed regarding an extension to the Village Hall. The Chair also asked if the Parish Council had considered developing an area plan for the village of Crech St Michael that could be implemented in emergency situations. DG questioned the Chair on the use of the grant funds.</p> <p>A resident from Mill Lane, Crech St Michael, spoke about the urgent need for a pump to be installed to fully utilise the divert that was installed in 2009 by the Environment Agency. During the recent storms, the Environment Agency, was unable to commit to supplying a pump. The resident encouraged the Parish Council to apply for a Somerset Rivers Authority grant to fund this.</p>
3.0	<p>Apologies for absence 3.1 To receive apologies for absence. None. AP noted that Adrian Birch had resigned from the role of Councillor. 3.2 To approve any apologies for absence. [M] None.</p>

4.0	Declarations of Interests				
	4.1 Declarations of Individual Members None.				
	4.2 Dispensation Request BW was granted dispensation to speak on item 11.0. All members were granted dispensation to speak to item 8.0.				
5.0	Minutes				
	To Review and Approve the minutes of the meeting held on 2 December 2024. [M] The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.				
	Prop:AP	Sec:MW	In Favour:9	Against:0	Abstain:1
6.0	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.				
7.0	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]				
	7.1. Application 14/24/0032 Variation of Condition No. 02 (approved plans) of application 14/24/0004 at Ham Mills, White Street, Creech St Michael. [M] It was agreed that there were no grounds for an objection and none would be raised.				
	Prop:CC	Sec:AP	In Favour:10	Against:0	Abstain:0
	7.2. Application 14/24/0027 Erection of a two storey extension to the side of Unit 14 Creech Paper Mill, Mill Lane, Creech St Michael. [M] It was agreed that objections would be raised on the grounds that the further development of the Mill Lane site would significantly impact traffic volumes and the number of vehicles using the junction of Mill Lane and St Michael Road. It was proposed and agreed to raise a Grampian Condition request relating to the state of the surface of Mill Lane.				
	Prop:AP	Sec:CC	In Favour:10	Against:0	Abstain:0
	Items for Decision				
8.0	Precept Request – to approve the Parish Council Precept request for the 2025/26 financial year. [M] A number of members including KR, SG and CG raised concerns regarding the size of the increase in the precept request. DG explained that the increase was reasonable and would allow the Parish Council to deliver a balanced budget. The precept request for the sum of £118,075.00 was approved.				
	Prop:AP	Sec:DG	In Favour:9	Against:1	Abstain:0
9.0	Railway Bridge Video Surveillance – to approve expenditure of £1,760.30 + VAT (£2,112.36) to undertake a period of video surveillance to monitor and report on traffic movements crossing the Railway Bridge in Creech St Michael. [M] MW stated that the programme of surveillance would provide important data that would help to shape future proposals for traffic management in the village of Creech St Michael.				

	The proposal to fund the expenditure of £1,760.30 + VAT for the video surveillance project was approved.				
	Prop:PT	Sec:AP	In Favour:10	Against:0	Abstain:0
10.0	<p>Speed Indicator Devices – to approve the purchase of two new solar powered speed indicator devices (SIDs) and the installation of poles to three new sites within the Parish. [M]</p> <p>The proposal to fund the purchase of two Speed Indicator Devices supplied by Elan City and the installation of posts, to be conducted by Kier under the Enhanced Highways Maintenance Pilot scheme, was approved.</p>				
	Prop:SG	Sec:AP	In Favour:10	Against:0	Abstain:0
11.0	<p>Award of a Grant – to consider an application for grant funding of £5,000.00 from Creech St Michael Village Hall. [M]</p> <p>The grant application for the sum of £5,000.00 was approved.</p>				
	Prop:SG	Sec:PT	In Favour:10	Against:0	Abstain:0
12.0	<p>Somerset Rivers Authority Grant – to seek approval to progress a submission of a grant application to the Somerset Rivers Authority for the purpose of purchasing a diesel pump/permanent electric pump and creating a community flood action group for the residents of Mill Lane, Creech St Michael. [M]</p> <p>It was agreed that the Clerk and RFO should progress the grant application, working with residents to ensure that the application is submitted.</p>				
	Prop:SG	Sec:CG	In Favour:0	Against:0	Abstain:0
13.0	<p>Financial Transactions Report – to review and approve the Financial Transaction Report for the period between 26 November 2024 and 27 December 2024. [M]</p> <p>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.</p>				
	Prop:CC	Sec:ND	In Favour:10	Against:0	Abstain:0
	Items for Discussion				
14.0	<p>Meeting with the Lead Planning Officer from Somerset Council – feedback on the progress of the Langaller Park application 14/21/0047.</p> <p>DG and the Clerk and RFO provided an update on discussions relating to the planning application. It was felt that the meeting had been useful. No further updates on the progress of the planning application had been received.</p>				
	Updates from Committees, Panels and Working Groups				
15.0	Finance Committee				
	<p>15.1 Budget report year-to-date [Clerk]</p> <p>There were no areas of concern and this was noted by members.</p>				
16.0	Traffic Working Group				
	<p>MW confirmed that he would be calling a meeting of the Working Group in the coming weeks.</p>				

17.0	Events
	<p>17.1 Party in the Park. [CG]</p> <p>CG announced that there would a fish and chip supper in the near future and that she would bring the proposal to the next Parish Council meeting.</p> <p>SG raised the issue of access to buildings at the Recreation Park and voiced concern that no councillor had a key. The Clerk and RFO confirmed that all employees had access to a key and as a result could provide access to the buildings. SG asked that the matter be brought to the next meeting of the Parish Council.</p>
18.0	Recreation Park
	<p>18.1 Storm Damage</p> <p>The Clerk and RFO reported that two large branches has been felled in a recent storm. The trees had been checked by a tree surgeon and showed no further signs of damage.</p>
19.0	Correspondence
	<p>19.1 To consider any correspondence received that Councillors wish to raise that has already been circulated.</p> <p>None.</p>
	<p>19.2 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>19.2.1 Letter from Gideon Amos MP regarding Project Gigabit. The letter was noted.</p>

The meeting ended at 8.31pm

[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 3 February 2025

at 7pm in the CSM Village Hall

