

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 8 April 2024 at 7.00pm**

Councillor Attendance

Cllr. Annabelle Peters – Chair	AP	Present	Cllr, Neil Davidson – Vice Chair	ND	Present
Cllr. Kieran Roe MBE	KR	Present	Cllr. Charlie Cudlip	CC	Present
Cllr. Barbara Williams	BW	Present	Cllr. Stephen Greenhalgh	SG	Present
Cllr. David Griffin (from 7.35pm)	DG	Present			

Also Present: Twelve (12) members of the public, Cllr David Fothergill (Somerset Council) and Cllr. Norman Cavill (Somerset Council) and Andrew Williams, Creech St Michael Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.

Meeting started at 7.00pm

1.0	<p>Chair's welcome</p> <p>The Chair welcomed members of the public to the meeting and encouraged contributions to the meeting.</p>
2.0	<p>Public Question time - Questions asked by the Public and Press will be noted.</p> <p>A resident spoke at length on the matter of opposition to planning application 48/24/0008 and the negative impact of solar panel installations on wildlife and the environment. The resident encouraged the Parish Council to oppose the application.</p> <p>A representative from the developer responsible for application 48/24/0008 clarified that the original proposal was for the installation of a commercial orchard and not a community orchard and as a result the area would not have been accessible to residents.</p>
3.0	<p>To receive Somerset Council Councillors' Reports</p> <p>Cllr Fothergill provided a summary of key issues.</p> <p>Mendip local plan consultation: Following a High Court Order to make amendments to the Mendip Local Plan Part 2 (LPP2) Somerset Council is undertaking a formal consultation to review and reconsider housing sites for at least 505 dwellings in the Mendip area. The consultation runs until 12 April 2024 and can be accessed at https://somersetcouncil.citizenspace.com/planning/mendip-local-plan-part-ii-limited-update-reg-18/</p> <p>Somerset Road Safety: Tragically, 30 people died while travelling on Somerset's roads in 2023 – nearly 43 per cent up on the figure for 2022 and the highest number of fatalities in 10 years. According to Avon and Somerset Police 76 per cent of the collisions involve one or more of the following five behaviours: Intoxicated driving, (drink or drugs); Careless or inconsiderate driving;</p>

	<p>Excessive Speed; Mobile phone use or distraction or Failing to wear a seatbelt. Of the 30 fatal casualties, 11 were car drivers, 12 motorcyclists, four were car passengers, and three were pedestrians.</p> <p>New electric buses: Twenty-five new electric buses are being funded by a £2.2 million grant from the Department for Transport's (DfT) Zero Emission Bus Regional Area scheme, along with a further £12.5million investment from Buses of Somerset. The electric buses will replace part of the current diesel fleet.</p> <p>Voter registration: Residents are being urged to register to vote and check their Voter ID so they can have their say on who represents them in the Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner election. The deadline to register to vote is midnight on Tuesday 16 April.</p> <p>Purple chair scheme: Purple chairs are being installed in Somerset's libraries in Bridgwater, Chard, Frome, Glastonbury, Taunton, Williton and Yeovil to provide a safe space for women and girls to get information about health and wellbeing, as well as support and resources available to them.</p> <p>Additional funding for swimming pools: Somerset Council has been awarded £316,700 of grant funding from Phase 2 of the government's Swimming Pool Support Fund (SPSF).</p> <p>Digital Innovation Centre: The Firepool Centre for Digital Innovation is set to officially open its doors in Taunton.</p> <p>Former Bridgwater Hospital Site: Repair and maintenance works are being carried out on the former Bridgwater Hospital site at Salmon Parade in Bridgwater. The Grade II listed building, which has lain empty since 2014, will have a new lease of life as a state-of-the-art Somerset Academy for Health and Social Care.</p> <p>Go Green Scheme: Somerset Council has secured £100,000 from the Government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund to support 150 eligible companies under the Go Green Scheme. www.gogreenscheme.org.uk</p> <p>Green Business Grants: These grants are available for Somerset based SME's who already have sustainability plans in place. The aim of the grants is to provide financial assistance to take forward identified measures to reduce energy consumption and costs as well as carbon emissions. More information can be found at https://www.somerset.gov.uk/business-economy-and-licences/funding-and-grants-for-business/</p>
4.0	Apologies for Absence
	<p>4.1 To receive apologies for absence.</p> <p>Apologies had been received in advance from Cllr. Giles, Cllr. Birch and Cllr. Tucker. It was also noted that Diane Philips had resigned from her role as Parish Councillor and the vacancy was now being advertised.</p>
	4.2 To approve any apologies for absence.

	Apologies for Cllr. Giles were approved.				
	Prop: SG	Sec:AP	In Favour:6	Against:0	Abstain:0
	Apologies for Cllr. Birch were approved.				
	Prop: SG	Sec:AP	In Favour:6	Against:0	Abstain:0
	Apologies for Cllr. Tucker were approved.				
	Prop: SG	Sec:AP	In Favour:6	Against:0	Abstain:0
5.0	Declarations of Interests				
	5.1 Declarations of Individual Members None.				
	5.2 Dispensation Request None.				
6.0	Minutes				
	To Review and Approve the minutes of the meeting held on 4 March 2024. [M] The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 4 March 2024 were approved and signed by the Chair.				
	Prop: CC	Sec:ND	In Favour:6	Against:0	Abstain:0
7.0	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.				
	Items for Decision				
8.0	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]				
	<p>14/24/0005 Removal of Condition No. 03 of application 14/19/0025 (occupancy of dwelling) at Hillview Barn, Adsborough Lane, Creech St Michael. [M] CC commented that he felt that the application did not present any issues as the property had been used as accommodation for some time. It was proposed that no objection would be raised with the application and this was approved.</p>				
	Prop:CC	Sec:AP	In Favour:6	Against:0	Abstain:0
	<p>48/24/0008 Installation of a ground mounted photovoltaic system (solar panels) to generate carbon free electricity on land off Sweeting Close, Creech St Michael. [M] A representative for the developer spoke about the application and explained that the site was originally intended to be a commercial orchard, but that the developer had decided that the installation of solar panels was a more productive use of the land. CC advised that there was a need for solar power generation and that small sites such as this should be approved as part of efforts to reduce climate change. It was proposed that no objection would be raised subject to assurances being received about planting to the South of the site, to ensure that the view from the canal footpath was protected and that</p>				

	wherever possible, wildflower planting should be used on the site and this was approved. BW objected to the application.				
	Prop: CC	Sec: AP	In Favour:5	Against:1	Abstain:0
	<p><u>14/24/0003</u></p> <p>Application for Outline Planning, with all matters reserved, for the erection of 1 No. bungalow in the garden to the side of Spinneyfield, Creech Heathfield Road, Creech St Michael.</p> <p>CC raised concerns about the location of the proposed development as it was out of line with existing properties. CC also raised concerns about the impact of the proposal on the local landscape.</p> <p>It was proposed that the application be objected to on the grounds that the location of the proposed development and the impact that it could have on the landscape and this was approved.</p>				
	Prop:CC	Sec:SG	In Favour:6	Against:0	Abstain:0
9.0	Committee Appointments				
	<p>9.1 To receive nominations for the role of Chair of the Parish Council Planning Committee and to appoint a member to the role. [M]</p> <p>No nominations were received and the proposal was deferred. DG joined the meeting.</p>				
	<p>9.2 To receive nominations for the appointment of three members to the Joint Committee of Creech St Michael Parish Council and West Monkton Parish Council and to appoint members to the roles. [M]</p> <p>CC, DG and KR were nominated as members of the Committee and were approved.</p>				
	Prop:AP	Sec:SG	In Favour:4	Against:0	Abstain:3
10.0	<p>LCN Working Group Appointments – to receive nominations to the LCN Highways Working Group and the Community Youth Project Working Group and to appoint members to the roles. [M]</p> <p>Nominations were received for BW for the LCN Community Youth Project Working Group and SG for the LCN Highways Working Group and were approved.</p>				
	Prop:CC	Sec:AP	In Favour:5	Against:0	Abstain:2
11.0	<p>Adoption of a Bench – proposal for the Parish Council to adopt, repair and maintain a bench. [M]</p> <p>A resident had asked the Parish Council to take responsibility for a bench near the river, which had been built by a resident and had fallen in to dis-repair. The proposal was approved.</p>				
	Prop:AP	Sec:SG	In Favour:7	Against:0	Abstain:0
12.0	<p>Grant Donation - proposal to donate £200.00 to Creech St Michael Village Hall from Party in the Park funds. [M]</p> <p>The proposal was approved.</p>				
	Prop:SG	Sec:ND	In Favour:7	Against:0	Abstain:0
13.0	<p>Reserves Policy – proposal to approve a Reserves Policy. [M]</p> <p>The policy had been considered and approved by the Parish Council Finance Committee. The proposal was approved.</p>				
	Prop:SG	Sec:AP	In Favour:7	Against:0	Abstain:0

14.0	Financial Transactions Report – to review and approve the Financial Transaction Report for the period between 24.02.2024 and 31.03.2024. [M] The Financial Transaction report was approved and signed by the Chair.				
	Prop:SG	Sec:AP	In Favour:7	Against:0	Abstain:0
	Items for Discussion				
15.0	LCN Community Youth Project Working Group meeting feedback. As no one from the Parish Council attended the meeting, no feedback was available.				
16.0	CPRE Community Energy Visioning Project Update. No update.				
	Updates from Committees, Panels and Working Groups				
17.0	Finance Committee				
	17.1 End of Year Financial Summary The Clerk and RFO summarised the year-end position and reported that expenditure was expected to come within the agreed budget.				
18.0	Staffing Committee ND commented that the process for conducting the Clerk and RFO's appraisal had started and that he would be contacting members for input. The Clerk and RFO confirmed that all other appraisals had been completed.				
19.0	Planning Committee No updates.				
20.0	Traffic Panel No update from the panel. The Clerk and RFO shared information on a new device that acted as an Automatic Speed Watch Detector that could be operated 24 hours a day. These were linked to the Police and would produce letters to the motorists. KR questioned the impact of the Speed Indicator Devices and Speedwatch on motorists within the Village of Creech St Michael.				
21.0	Canal Panel ND to arrange for the panel to meet.				
22.0	Party in the Park Working Group No updates.				
23.0	Events				
	23.1 Tug of War An update will be provided following a meeting that will be held on Thursday 10 April 2024. A face painter is being sought along with referees for the Tug of War. Help will be needed on the day to erect gazebos, etc.				
24.0	Footpaths No updates.				
	Other Matters				
25.0	Health & Safety				
	25.1 Incident Report – Recreation Park. The Clerk and RFO advised on an incident where a member of the public had tripped and fallen in the Recreation Park Car Park. The Member of the Public had met with the Clerk and RFO and				

	identified the issue, which was an old metal post that was protruding from the ground. This needed to be cut away with an angle grinder.
26.0	Correspondence
	26.1 To consider any correspondence received that Councillors wish to raise that has already been circulated.
	26.2 To note items of correspondence received by the Clerk and RFO deemed appropriate to be brought to the attention of the Parish council. CC shared feedback from a resident on the Langaller Park planning application. 26.2.1 Somerset Council - City, Town and Parish Council Update Regarding Sandbags The communication was noted.
27.0	New Matters to be Carried Forward
	None.

The meeting ended at 9.06pm

[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:

Annual Parish Meeting 7 May 2024
13 May 2024

at 6.30pm in the CSM Village Hall
at 7pm in the CSM Village Hall

