

## 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 7 April 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. Kieran Roe MBE	KR	Present
Cllr. Paul Tucker	PT	Present	Cllr. Stephen Greenhalgh	SG	Present
Cllr. Peter Brown	PB	Absent	Cllr. Barbara Williams	BW	Present
Cllr. Martyn Willis	MW	Present	Cllr. Mike Saffin	MS	Present From item 6

**Also Present:** Eleven (11) members of the public, including 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	<b>Chair's welcome</b> CC welcomed everyone to the meeting.				
2.0	<b>Public Question time</b> - Questions asked by the Public and Press will be noted. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Chair of the Village Hall Committee asked if the Parish Council could investigate whether the site of the vehicle sales business was available for purchase at some point in the future, as it had been suggested that the owner would consider selling the site. DG and MW suggested that the cost of such an exercise would be beyond the capability of the Parish Council.</li> <li>- Representatives from the Rapid Relief Team, based locally, offered to organise a litter pick within the community. This was welcomed and it was asked that this was coordinated with the Clerk and RFO. The activity would be the responsibility of the Rapid Relief Team.</li> </ul>				
3.0	<b>Apologies for Absence</b>				
	<b>3.1 To Receive any Apologies for Absence</b> Apologies received in advance from Peter Brown. It was noted that Corinne Giles had resigned from the Parish Council.				
	<b>3.2 To Approve any Apologies for Absence [M]</b> Peter Brown's absence was approved.				
	<b>Prop:PT</b>	<b>Sec:ND</b>	<b>In Favour:8</b>	<b>Against:0</b>	<b>Abstain:0</b>
4.0	<b>Declarations of Interests</b>				
	<b>4.1 Declarations of Individual Members</b> None.				
	<b>4.2 Dispensation Request</b>				

	None.				
5.0	<b>Parish Council Vacancy</b>				
	<b>5.1 To move to co-opt to the vacant seat.</b> Mike Saffin was proposed as a candidate to fill the vacant Parish Council seat. Mike Saffin was appointed and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took his seat at the meeting.				
	<b>Prop:MW</b>	<b>Sec:SG</b>	<b>In Favour:8</b>	<b>Against:0</b>	<b>Abstain:0</b>
6.0	<b>To receive Somerset Council Councillors' Reports</b> Cllr. David Fothergill provided an update on key issues. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Somerset Recycling sites Now Operating on Spring/Summer Hours.</li> <li>- Somerset Council is One of Only 6 English Councils to have been given permission for an increase above the 4.99% Council Tax Cap.</li> <li>- New and increased car parking charges. Somerset Council announced their intention to introduce a new parking policy that will see residents across the county pay more for parking. Following considerable challenge it was decided to not proceed with new overnight charges.</li> <li>- There will be a formal review into the local government and electoral arrangements for Langport and Huish Episcopi.</li> <li>- Bus priority at traffic lights. Work started on 24 March on signals along East Reach to install new technology which will see a smart system effectively link oncoming buses with the signals and enable the lights to change to allow them through.</li> <li>- Dog Control Order Currently out for Consultation – Somerset South Dog Fouling and Somerset South Dog Exclusion Ninesprings. The Council is proposing to extend two existing orders; the first relates to a dog exclusion zone in part of the Ninesprings Park in Yeovil while the second covers dog fouling and keeping dogs on leads in public places across the former South Somerset District Council area.</li> </ul>				
7.0	<b>Minutes</b>				
	To <b>Review and Approve</b> the minutes of the meeting held on 3 March 2025. [M] Item 19.1 The Clerk and RFO confirmed that a response had been received from the Highways Authority in which they confirmed that they were in discussion with the developer and acknowledged our request. Cllr. Cavill offered support to escalate this matter should progress not be made.  The draft minutes were approved.				
	<b>Prop:KR</b>	<b>Sec:ND</b>	<b>In Favour:8</b>	<b>Against:0</b>	<b>Abstain:1</b>
8.0	<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.				
	<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).				
9.0	<b>Application 14/25/0010</b> - Erection of 7 No. bungalows with associated works on land off Dillons Road, Creech St Michael. To consider the planning application and respond to the Planning Authority. [M] It was agreed that no objection would be raised, but that a comment regarding the need for a traffic management plan and for measures to reduce the transfer of soil and waste from the site to the main highway should be required.				
	<b>Prop:ND</b>	<b>Sec:SG</b>	<b>In Favour:9</b>	<b>Against:0</b>	<b>Abstain:0</b>

10.0	<b>Application 14/25/0007</b> - Erection of a single storey extension to the rear with alterations to windows at the front of 6 Francis Close, Creech St Michael. To consider the planning application and respond to the Planning Authority. [M] It was agreed that no objection would be raised.				
	<b>Prop:PT</b>	<b>Sec:KR</b>	<b>In Favour:9</b>	<b>Against:0</b>	<b>Abstain:0</b>
	<b>Items for Decision</b>				
11.0	<b>Langaller Park Development Application</b> – to consider and approve a letter to be sent to Somerset Council’s Lead Member for Economic Development Planning and Assets. [M] ND proposed that a minor amendment be made to the letter in paragraph two, changing wording from “committed to” to “understood that it had been agreed”.  The draft letter was approved to be sent, subject to any minor changes suggested by West Monkton Parish Council and the change proposed by ND. It was also proposed that the Clerk and RFO identify an option to appoint a legal specialist advisor for the Parish Councils.				
	<b>Prop:MW</b>	<b>Sec:PT</b>	<b>In Favour:9</b>	<b>Against:0</b>	<b>Abstain:0</b>
12.0	<b>Railway Bridge Surveillance</b> – to receive the findings of the surveillance of the Railway Bridge and agree the actions that the Parish Council should take. [M]  MW stressed that the letter was a fist call to the Highways Authority to act on safety fears. Should a response not be received, then further steps would be taken.				
	<b>Prop:MW</b>	<b>Sec:PT</b>	<b>In Favour:9</b>	<b>Against:0</b>	<b>Abstain:0</b>
13.0	<b>Community Infrastructure Policy</b> – to consider a policy on the allocation of Community Infrastructure Levy funds. [M] The Policy was approved. Councillors were asked to propose projects for inclusion in the policy.				
	<b>Prop:ND</b>	<b>Sec:PT</b>	<b>In Favour:9</b>	<b>Against:0</b>	<b>Abstain:0</b>
14.0	<b>Hestercombe LCN/Creech St Michael Youth Provision</b> – to approve expenditure of £4,300.00 for the Youth Club provision for the 2025/26 year. [M]  The proposal to approve expenditure of £4,300.00 was agreed. SG asked that the provider record the home postcodes of those attending the sessions.				
	<b>Prop:KR</b>	<b>Sec:PT</b>	<b>In Favour:8</b>	<b>Against:1</b>	<b>Abstain:0</b>
15.0	<b>Grant Application</b> – to consider an application from Somerset Carers for funds to support the Creech St Michael Carers Group with a grant of £250.00. [M]  The grant application was approved and an offer of additional funds would be made, if required.				
	<b>Prop:SG</b>	<b>Sec:PT</b>	<b>In Favour:9</b>	<b>Against:0</b>	<b>Abstain:0</b>
16.0	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:ND</b>	<b>Sec:DG</b>	<b>In Favour:9</b>	<b>Against:0</b>	<b>Abstain:0</b>
	<b>Items for Discussion</b>				
17.0	<b>Feedback from the meeting of the Hestercombe LCN held 13.03.2024.</b>				

	The agenda for the meeting was noted. CC felt that the discussions at the meeting had been more productive.
18.0	<b>Feedback from the Taunton Garden Town Advisory Board meeting held 14.03.2025.</b> The agenda from this meeting was noted.
19.0	<b>Footpaths</b> – Issue reported related to T10/14 and 14A The Clerk and RFO reported that he had been supporting a resident’s complaint about the footpath being blocked to users. The Clerk and RFO also reminded the meeting that there continues to be a vacancy for the role of Volunteer Footpaths Officer.
	<b>Updates from Committees, Panels and Working Groups</b>
20.0	<b>Finance Committee</b>
	<b>20.1. Budget report year-to-date.</b> The Clerk and RFO reported that there were no areas of concern on the budget and as soon as the end of year process was complete a further analysis of the areas of underspend would be undertaken by the Finance Committee.
21.0	<b>Highways Working Group</b>
	<b>21.1 Update</b> MW confirmed that progress was being made regarding new speed monitoring signs within the Parish. MW would provide a list of sites for new 20mph signs.  The Clerk and RFO confirmed that Ruishton and Thornfalcon Parish Council supported the proposal to amend the speed limits leading in to Creech St Michael village.  MW also noted that some of the signs locally required repositioning and/or cleaning.
22.0	<b>Events</b>
	<b>22.1 Fish &amp; Chip Event</b> SG reported that the event was very well attended and went well.
	<b>Other Matters</b>
23.0	<b>Correspondence</b>
	<b>23.1 To consider any correspondence received that Councillors wish to raise that has already been circulated.</b> None.
	<b>23.2 To note items of correspondence received by the Clerk and RFO deemed appropriate to be brought to the attention of the Parish Council.</b> 23.2.1. Email from Colin Fisher, Chair Stoke St. Mary Parish Council regarding a meeting to discuss neighbourhood plans. ND agreed to attend the proposed meeting with the Chair of Stoke St. Gregory Parish Council to discuss the Local Plan. 23.2.2. Two email comments from residents regarding planning application 14/25/0002. The comments were noted. A resident who submitted the comment was present and asked if there were plans to open up the proposals for changes to the highways to be consulted on. It was confirmed that there would be a planning application and this would be open to scrutiny. The Highways Working Group would monitor the situation. 23.2.3. Email correspondence from a resident regarding the precept.

	The correspondence was noted. 23.2.4. Email correspondence with a resident regarding access to bus stops in Creech Heathfield for people with disabilities. The Clerk and RFO confirmed that the issue has been reported to Somerset Council.
24.0	<b>New Matters to be Carried Forward</b> None.

The meeting ended at 9.21pm

[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 12 May 2025

at 7pm in the CSM Village Hall

