

## 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 04 November 2024 at 7.00pm**

### Councillor Attendance

|                                |    |         |                          |    |         |
|--------------------------------|----|---------|--------------------------|----|---------|
| Cllr. Annabelle Peters – Chair | AP | Present | Cllr. Charlie Cudlip     | CC | Present |
| Cllr. Adrian Birch             | AB | Present | Cllr. Stephen Greenhalgh | SG | Present |
| Cllr. Corinne Giles            | CG | Present | Cllr. Barbara Williams   | BW | Present |
| Cllr. David Griffin            | DG | Present | Cllr. Kieran Roe MBE     | KR | Present |
| Cllr. Martyn Willis            | MW | Present |                          |    |         |

**Also Present:** Eight (8) members of the public, Cllr. David Fothergill (Somerset Council) and Andrew Williams, Creech St Michael Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.

### Meeting started at 7.00pm

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| 1.0 | <p><b>Chair's welcome</b><br/>The Chair welcomed everyone to the November meeting of the Parish Council and invited anyone present in the audience to speak if they wished to.</p>  |
| 2.0 | <p><b>Public Question time</b> - Questions asked by the Public and Press will be noted.<br/>A resident raised his concerns regarding the change in the terms of the covenant that applies to land to the rear of Creech St Michael Village Hall and the potential change in use from a play area to a community space. The resident was invited to attend the next meeting of the Village Hall Committee to discuss his concerns as the matter was not the responsibility of the Parish Council.</p> <p>A resident sought an update on issues they had previously raised relating to planning enforcement and a change of route for the public right of way on land at Whiteleaze Lane, Thurloxtton. The Clerk and RFO confirmed that the Rights of Way team at Somerset Council were aware of the issue regarding the public footpath and that the Planning Enforcement department at Somerset Council had given an assurance that a planning application was due to be submitted by the landowner. The Clerk and RFO to confirm the time frame for the planning application and communicate this to the resident.</p> |
| 3.0 | <p><b>To receive Somerset Council Councillors' Reports</b></p> <p><b>A358 Dualling:</b> A decision has been made by the Government to shelve the £328 million National Highways upgrade of the A358 between Ilminster and Junction 25 of the M5 at Taunton.</p> <p><b>Winter Fuel Payments:</b> In a move to safeguard vulnerable older residents, Somerset Council overwhelmingly passed a motion to oppose the Government's changes to the Winter Fuel Allowance. The Council also pledged to raise awareness about Pension Credit uptake to ensure all eligible pensioners in Somerset receive the support they are entitled to and to work with Voluntary Charity Faith and Social Enterprise (VCSFE) partners to ensure a substantial portion of the Household Support Fund, is directed toward helping Somerset pensioners struggling with fuel poverty.</p> <p><b>Mendip local plan:</b> Somerset Council has submitted proposals to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to update the Mendip Local Plan Part II (LPP2) which runs to</p>                                       |

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|     | <p>2029. The LPP2 site allocations plan was adopted by the former Mendip District Council in December 2021 but was subject to a successful legal challenge. The Council has now met the Court deadline to submit proposals which identifies 9 sites capable of delivering 569 dwellings by 2028. A new Somerset wide plan is in preparation which will consider future housing sites after 2029.</p> <p><b>Safeguarding adults:</b> A series of recommendations have been made by the Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB) following the death of a resident. The recommendations were shared in a report which documents an elderly lady’s life leading up to her death from a COVID-19 infection whilst being treated for injuries arising from an accident.</p> <p><b>Wells Christmas Market:</b> ‘Christmas in Wells’ will take place on Saturday 14th December, 9am-3pm, in Wells Market Place and on the Bishop’s Palace Green featuring over 100 stalls.</p> <p><b>Community Heroes:</b> Forty-eight Community heroes and organisations from across Somerset have been recognised for their service with a Somerset Council Chair’s Award</p> <p><b>Recycling:</b> Somerset Council has been given the green-light to roll out the collection of plastic bags and wrapping to more than 25,000 households. From October 2024 a further 25,000 residents in and around Wells, Draycott, Frome and Chilcompton will benefit from getting these hard to recycle plastics collected from home.</p> <p><b>Dunball roundabout:</b> Construction on the multi-million pound Dunball Roundabout (J23) scheme begins on the 11th November. The project will see the roundabout improved with signals introduced and the addition of a ‘through about’ lane which allows traffic to flow through the middle of it for greater capacity.</p> <p><b>Winter Gritting:</b> Highways partner Kier are working to keep roads safe this winter with the gritter fleet ready to head out when freezing temperatures or snow are forecast</p> <p><b>Sale of Disposable Vapes:</b> Under recently published legal guidance the sale of disposable vapes are to be made illegal from 1st June 2025.</p> |                |                    |                  |                  |
| 4.0 | <p><b>Apologies for absence</b><br/> <b>4.1 To receive any apologies for absence.</b><br/> Apologies had been received from Cllr. Paul Tucker and Cllr. Neil Davidson.<br/> <b>4.2 To approve any apologies for absence.</b><br/> The absences of Cllr. Paul Tucker and Cllr. Neil Davidson were approved.</p>   |                |                    |                  |                  |
|     | <b>Prop: SG</b>  | <b>Sec: CC</b> | <b>In Favour:9</b> | <b>Against:0</b> | <b>Abstain:0</b> |
| 5.0 | <p><b>Declarations of Interests</b><br/> <b>5.1 Declarations of Individual Members</b><br/> None<br/> <b>5.2 Dispensation Request</b><br/> None.</p>   |                |                    |                  |                  |
| 6.0 | <p><b>Minutes</b><br/> To <b>Review and Approve</b> the minutes of the meeting held on [DATE]. <b>[M]</b></p> <p>The minutes were agreed and approved and signed by the Chair of the meeting.</p>  |                |                    |                  |                  |
|     | <b>Prop: AP</b>  | <b>Sec:SG</b>  | <b>In Favour:7</b> | <b>Against:0</b> | <b>Abstain:2</b> |
| 7.0 | <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>   |                |                    |                  |                  |

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| 8.0  | <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). [M]  |               |                    |                  |                  |
|      | <p><b>8.1 Application 24/24/0037</b>- Siting of 2 No. mobile homes to accommodate 2 No. full time agricultural workers for a temporary period of 3 No. years at One Tree Farm, Knapp Road, North Curry (retention of works already undertaken) [M]</p> <p>The applicant was invited to speak to this application and they provided a summary of the application and the reason for it.</p> <p>It was agreed that no objection would be raised against this application and that the Clerk and RFO should submit a statement in support of the application.</p> |               |                    |                  |                  |
|      | <b>Prop:AP</b>   | <b>Sec:SG</b> | <b>In Favour:9</b> | <b>Against:0</b> | <b>Abstain:0</b> |
|      | <p><b>8.2. Application 14/24/0028</b> - Erection of single storey extensions to the side and rear, erection of detached triple garage with formation of associated parking and turning area at The Bungalow, Charlton Road Creech St Michael [M]</p> <p>It was agreed that no objection to this application would be raised.</p>   |               |                    |                  |                  |
|      | <b>Prop:SG</b>   | <b>Sec:CC</b> | <b>In Favour:9</b> | <b>Against:0</b> | <b>Abstain:0</b> |
|      | <b>Items for Decision</b>  |               |                    |                  |                  |
| 9.0  | <b>Replacement of Door Locks</b> – to consider and approve expenditure to fund the replacement of door locks on two buildings at the Recreation Park. [M]  |               |                    |                  |                  |
|      | <p>The proposal was approved and the Taunton Locksmith Co. were selected to undertake the works. CC asked that careful consideration be given to improving the integrity of the doors to improve overall security.</p>   |               |                    |                  |                  |
|      | <b>Prop:AB</b>   | <b>Sec:AP</b> | <b>In Favour:9</b> | <b>Against:0</b> | <b>Abstain:0</b> |
| 10.0 | <b>Annual Pay Award</b> – to approve the adoption of the revised National Local Government Pay Scales for 2024/25. [M]   |               |                    |                  |                  |
|      | <p>The proposal to adopt the revised pay scales was approved.</p>  |               |                    |                  |                  |
|      | <b>Prop:AP</b>   | <b>Sec:CC</b> | <b>In Favour:9</b> | <b>Against:0</b> | <b>Abstain:0</b> |
| 11.0 | <b>New Council Divisions for Somerset Council</b> – to consider and approve a response to the consultation on the reorganisation of Somerset Council boundaries. [M]   |               |                    |                  |                  |
|      | <p>Concerns were expressed by KR, CC and DG about the implications of any changes to the divisions and how this could affect the Parish in the future. It was agreed that the Clerk and RFO would contact Ruishton, Henlade and Thornfalcon Parish Council to seek their approval to combine the two parishes within one division.</p>   |               |                    |                  |                  |
|      | <b>Prop:AP</b>   | <b>Sec:SG</b> | <b>In Favour:9</b> | <b>Against:0</b> | <b>Abstain:0</b> |
| 12.0 | <b>Business Continuity Plan</b> – to consider and approve the Parish Council's draft Business Continuity plan [M]  |               |                    |                  |                  |
|      | <p>The Business Continuity Plan was approved.</p>  |               |                    |                  |                  |
|      | <b>Prop:AP</b>   | <b>Sec:MW</b> | <b>In Favour:9</b> | <b>Against:0</b> | <b>Abstain:0</b> |
| 13.0 | <b>Financial Transactions Report</b> – to review and approve the Financial Transaction Report for the period between 02 October 2024 and 25 October 2024. [M]  |               |                    |                  |                  |
|      | <p>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.</p>   |               |                    |                  |                  |
|      | <b>Prop:AP</b>   | <b>Sec:CC</b> | <b>In Favour:9</b> | <b>Against:0</b> | <b>Abstain:0</b> |
|      | <b>Items for Discussion</b>  |               |                    |                  |                  |

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| 14.0 | <p><b>Feedback from the Taunton Town Garden Advisory Board Meeting 01 November 2024.</b><br/>The Clerk and RFO provided a summary of the key items from the meeting, including an overview of the projects involved with the regeneration of Taunton Town Centre.</p>   |
| 15.0 | <p><b>Somerset Parishes Conference 2024. To be held on Wednesday 13 November 2024 at the Canalside Conference Centre, Marsh Lane, Bridgwater TA6 6LQ.</b><br/>The Clerk and RFO reminded members of the upcoming event.</p>   |
|      | <p><b>Updates from Committees, Panels and Working Groups</b></p>  |
| 16.0 | <p><b>Finance Committee</b><br/>DG summarised the key points from the most recent Finance Committee meeting including the discussions that were held on the plans for the 2025/26 precept and budget and asked that members be aware that a significant increase in the precept may be necessary to replenish reserves and manage the ongoing impact of cuts being implemented by Somerset Council.</p> <p>DG also confirmed that it had been agreed by the Committee that a new internal auditor be sought to provide a fresh perspective on the audit process.</p> <p>16.1 Income and Expenditure Report<br/>The Clerk and RFO reported that there were no concerns related to income and expenditure year-to-date and that all cost centres were on profile.</p> |
| 17.0 | <p><b>Events</b><br/><b>17.1 Family Fun Day</b><br/>AP confirmed that there was a meeting coming up and that an update would be available at the next Parish Council meeting.</p>   |
| 18.0 | <p><b>Footpaths</b><br/><b>18.1 Footpaths volunteer role</b><br/>To date no one had come forward to fill this volunteer role. The Clerk and RFO suggested that it may be necessary to employ someone to take the role on.</p>   |
| 19.0 | <p><b>Highways Working Group</b> (added to the agenda with the permission of the Chair)<br/>MW reported on the group's priorities for the coming period. This included surveying the gateways around Creech St Michael and identifying where there is a need for additional signage.</p> <p>MW also briefed members on his recent attendance at a Community Speedwatch Coordinators meeting, at which he had raised the issue of the use of average speed cameras. MW reported that although Avon and Somerset Police are supportive of these projects, they are not being used to prosecute motorists.</p>   |
|      | <p><b>Other Matters</b></p>   |
| 20.0 | <p><b>Correspondence</b><br/><b>20.1 To consider any correspondence received that Councillors wish to raise that has already been circulated.</b><br/>None.</p> <p><b>20.2 To note items of correspondence received by the Clerk and RFO deemed appropriate to be brought to the attention of the Parish Council.</b><br/>None.</p>   |
| 21.0 | <p><b>New Matters to be Carried Forward</b><br/>None.</p>   |

The meeting ended at 8.25PM

[V] = Where a resolution (vote) is expected

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The next Creech St Michael Parish Council meetings are on:

06 January 2025

at 7pm in the CSM Village Hall

