

CREECH ST MICHAEL PARISH COUNCIL

Approved Minutes for the Meeting of Creech St Michael Parish Council held at Creech St Michael Village Hall on **Monday 4 September 2023 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. Ken Hunt	KH	Present
Cllr. David Griffin	DG	Present	Cllr Kieran Roe MBE	KR	Present
Cllr. Paul Tucker	PT	Present			

Also Present: Cllr. David Fothergill (Somerset Council), Cllr. Norman Cavill (Somerset Council), eighteen (18) 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	Chair's welcome
	AP welcomed members of the public, Somerset Councillors and members to the meeting and invited any contributions from members of the public.
2.0	Public Question time - Questions asked by the Public and Press will be noted.
	<p>A member of the public praised the Parish Press Newsletter and recent articles relating to farming. The member of the public raised his concerns about agricultural vehicles passing through the village of Creech St Michael at speed and also asked if the priority at the junction of Ryesland Way could be adapted to change the priorities for traffic.</p> <p>The same member of the public raised concerns about noise from dogs from households in the Village. AP stated that the Parish Council was limited in its powers, but encouraged anyone who experienced a noise nuisance to contact Somerset Council.</p> <p>The Chair of the Village Hall raised the matter of the possibility of the Village Hall employing the Parish Council's Grounds and Maintenance Operative to undertake the role of caretaker in addition to his current role. The Clerk and RFO confirmed that the matter could be considered at the next full parish council meeting or potentially at an extraordinary meeting. The Clerk and RFO to progress the matter.</p>
3.0	To receive Somerset Council Councillors' Reports
	Cllr. Fothergill provided a verbal update.

Approved by *Annabelle Peters* Date 02.10.2023
Chair of the Meeting

Somerset Council Finances: Somerset Council has warned that it will have to draw on reserves for the second successive year to meet its budget for 2023/24. A recent Executive report describes the council's financial position as "stark and challenging". The latest budget gap for the current year is £28.6m.

Bus Services: Four bus services in the county are to be subsidised to safeguard their future until spring. The following services all require additional financial support, which the Council can provide as part of the Government's Bus Service support funding, which has so far been worth over £12 million for the County. The routes are:

54 Yeovil to Taunton 58/58a Yeovil to Wincanton 25 Taunton to Dulverton 28 Taunton to Minehead

Cllr. Fothergill encouraged everyone to make use of the local bus services or risk losing them.

Covid autumn booster programme: As the result of a newly identified variant the Covid-19 vaccine is being brought forward by one month and offered to those at high risk of serious disease and who are therefore most likely to benefit from the vaccination.

Flu vaccinations: NHS England has confirmed it will start by prioritising flu vaccinations for children from September, to prevent children from getting seriously ill and to break the chain of transmission to the wider population.

Suspected arson attack: Police are investigating a suspected arson attack on a Somerset Council compound in Taunton which destroyed seven minibuses. The incident happened early on Thursday, 24 August in a secure compound at the Silk Mills Park and Ride site. The compound was locked and is monitored by CCTV. There were no injuries, and no other vehicles were damaged.

Gambling policy consultation: Under the Gambling Act 2005 Somerset Council must review its Gambling Policy every three years. Comments are invited on the draft revised Gambling Policy from all interested parties including residents and those running businesses in the County, the consultation documents can be found at <https://somersetcouncil.citizenspace.com/licensing/gambling-policy-consultation>. The consultation closes on 22nd September 2023

Single use plastics ban: Trading Standards are reminding businesses, such as takeaways, sandwich bars, care homes and retailers who supply certain single use plastic items, that a ban comes into force October 1st. The ban includes all single use plastic cutlery, trays, plates, bowls, and balloon sticks, as well as banning the use of certain types of polystyrene cups and food containers used to supply food which is ready to consume.

Soft plastics recycling: More than four tonnes of plastic bags and wrapping such as bread bags and confectionary packets, have been collected for recycling as part of the Council's role in a national project to expand recycling collections. The small-scale pilot involving 3,600 homes across two locations in Frome started at the end of May.

4.0

To receive any apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr. Phillips and Cllr. Davidson.

	SG asked why the meeting wasn't being asked to approve the absence of members who had given their apologies. The Clerk and RFO confirmed that it wasn't a practice that had been used to date but would present a paper at the next meeting to implement a mechanism for approving of notified absence.				
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 29 June 2023. [M]				
	The minutes of the meeting held on the 29 June 2023 were approved and signed by the Chair.				
	Prop:AP	Sec:PT	In Favour:7	Against:0	Abstain:2
	To Review and Approve the minutes of the meeting held on 3 July 2023. [M]				
	The minutes of the meeting held on the 3 July 2023 were approved and signed by the Chair.				
	Prop:AP	Sec:CC	In Favour:9	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	Accounting Application – to consider and approve a proposal for the Parish Council to subscribe to an accounting application. [M]				
	The meeting considered the two options and accepted the recommendation from the Clerk and RFO.				
	The proposal to purchase the Scribe software system was approved.				
	Prop:AP	Sec:KR	In Favour:9	Against:0	Abstain:0
9.0	Recreation Park CCTV Installation – to consider and approve a quotation for the installation of CCTV at the Recreation Park. [M]				
	The Clerk and RFO presented a new proposal containing two quotations for the installation of a four-camera CCTV installation at the Recreation Park. The quotes ranged in cost from £1,912.50 plus VAT to £2,600.00 plus VAT.				
	AB expressed concern of the potential additional costs involved with related electrical works. As a result, the proposal was deferred for further consideration.				
10.0	Allotment Lease Confirmation – to approve the lease agreement with the Landowner for the Allotment site. [M]				
	The Clerk and RFO confirmed that the landowner had signed the new lease agreement with a commencement date of 1 September 2023 for a period of three years.				

	The signing of the lease agreement was approved. The agreement was signed by the Chair and the Clerk and RFO.				
	Prop:AP	Sec:KH	In Favour:9	Against:0	Abstain:0
11.0	<p>Summer 2024 Tug of War Event [M]</p> <p>AP confirmed that she wished to progress planning for a Tug of War event to be held between local parishes in the summer of 2024. It was hoped that traditional activities that had featured in the past could be revived for the event.</p> <p>The proposal to progress the planning for the event was approved.</p>				
	Prop:AP	Sec:SG	In Favour:9	Against:0	Abstain:0
12.0	<p>Financial Transactions Report – to review and approve the Financial Transaction Report for the period between 24.06.2023 and 25.08.2023. [V]</p> <p>The Financial Transaction report was approved.</p>				
	Prop:CC	Sec:PT	In Favour:9	Against:0	Abstain:0
	Items for Discussion				
13.0	<p>Ham Flooding</p> <p>AP reported that she had received contact from the Ham Flooding Group regarding signage within Ham village to warn of potential flooding hazards. AP had attended a meeting with the Rivers Authority and the Traffic Management team at Somerset Council, during which possible locations for signage had been considered. An agreement had resulted to install signage.</p>				
14.0	<p>Derham Close Development (Planning Application 14/23/0017) – concerns relating to the Construction Management Plan.</p> <p>The Clerk and RFO reported that there had been some issues with vehicles servicing the development by using the wrong entrance through Hyde Lane from the Rugby Club end. The Clerk and RFO had been in contact with the developer and raised the issue and worked with them to resolve the matter. The issue needs to continue to be monitored.</p>				
15.0	<p>Events – Remembrance Sunday (12.11.2023) and Christmas Fayre.</p> <p>AP confirmed that a Wreath of Remembrance had been purchased and encouraged all members to attend the Service. The Christmas Fayre would be going ahead again this year and volunteers were needed to assist in the set up and running of the event.</p>				
	Updates from Committees, Panels and Working Groups				
16.0	<p>Finance Committee</p> <p>The income and expenditure records were scrutinised. Spending was on profile with no exceptions to report.</p>				

	DG raised a concern that no progress had been made in respect of the Community Development Fund and this would need to be looked at and a strategy agreed.
17.0	Staffing Committee No report. The Clerk and RFO confirmed that a meeting of the Committee was scheduled for the 18 September 2023.
18.0	Planning Committee No report. The Clerk and RFO confirmed that the next meeting of the Committee was scheduled for the 25 September 2023.
19.0	Recreation Park Committee The Clerk and RFO confirmed that discussions were ongoing with Sutcliffe Play (South West) Ltd to progress the completion of the repair works.
20.0	Traffic Panel CC confirmed that he was still waiting for a response from the Highways team regarding the outstanding works. The Clerk and RFO had written to the Highways team to chase a response. A member of the public raised concerns about speeding in the village of Creech St Michael. KR indicated that the data suggests that the vast majority of vehicles passing through the St Michael road area were keeping to the speed limits. CC reported that there were ongoing discussions about possible changes to the kerb heights alongside the railway bridge on St Michael Road, Creech St Michael. CC was attempting to obtain information from Network Rail about the potential for alterations to the Bridge.
21.0	Canal Panel The Clerk and RFO reported that contact had been received from the Canal and Rivers Trust who had expressed their dissatisfaction with the signage that had been installed by the Parish Council. The Clerk and RFO was arranging a site visit with the Trust to discuss the matter.
22.0	Party in the Park Working Group AB reported that despite the poor weather conditions, there was an almost 80% turnout of ticketholders. Final figures are yet to be confirmed, but it is expected that a surplus would be made.
23.0	Newsletter Working Group AP reminded members of the need for contributions to the Newsletter. It was being received well within the Parish and more distributors were welcome to reach more homes.
24.0	Footpaths The Clerk and RFO reported that works were underway to clear vegetation from the footpaths alongside the Tone and between Langaller and Walford Gate.
	Other Matters

25.0	Correspondence				
	25.1 To consider any correspondence received that Councillors wish to raise that has already been circulated.				
	None.				
	25.2 To note items of correspondence received by the Clerk and RFO deemed appropriate to be brought to the attention of the Parish council.				
	<p>The Clerk and RFO shared correspondence from a resident relating to an incident in Vicarage Lane, Creech St Michael, that resulted in damage to a large stone pillar. The resident was present at the meeting and explained what had occurred.</p> <p>It was agreed that further research be undertaken to clarify who the landowner was and seek to address the damaged pillar.</p>				
26.0	New Matters to be Carried Forward				
	None.				
27.0	Council to Decide if to Exclude Members of the Public and Press for the Following Item(s) [M]				
	<p>A proposal to exclude members of the public and press was approved as items 27.1 and 27.1 contained information that is not currently available in the public domain and has been shared with the Parish Council on the basis that it will not be made available to members of the public at this time.</p>				
	Prop:AP	Sec:CC	In Favour:9	Against:0	Abstain:0
	<p>27.1. Langaller Park Development (formerly MH2) – to consider and approve a joint proposal with West Monkton Parish Council, for the Parish Council to seek to secure control of the Public Open Spaces, Community Buildings and Commercial Properties in the new Langaller Park Development. [M]</p> <p>CC, DG and the Clerk and RFO took the meeting through the plans for the Langaller Park development and the position that was being adopted by both the Parish Council and West Monkton parish Council in respect of the community and commercial infrastructure.</p> <p>The following proposals were considered.</p>				
	The proposal to continue the Parish Council's commitment to work collaboratively with West Monkton Parish Council to deliver the proposed development was approved.				
	Prop:CC	Sec:AP	In Favour:9	Against:0	Abstain:0
	The proposal to approve the Parish Council's commitment to structure spending of CIL funds received from the development, with 80% of funds remaining within the development and 20% to be allocated to general parish projects.				
	Prop:AP	Sec:CC	In Favour:9	Against:0	Abstain:0
	The proposal for the Parish Council's commitment to structure spending of maintenance costs for community infrastructure from precept funds on a ratio of 5 to 1 in favour of Creech St Michael Parish Council was deferred.				

	The proposal to confirm the Parish Council's commitment to becoming a signatory to any S106 agreement related to the proposed development was approved and funds of £5,000.00 were allocated to support this.				
	Prop:AP	Sec:CC	In Favour:9	Against:0	Abstain:0
	The proposal that the Parish Council's remains committed to delivering the necessary community infrastructure projects, specifically a building for multiple uses and a community hall was approved.				
	Prop:AP	Sec:CC	In Favour:9	Against:0	Abstain:0
	The proposal that the Parish Council should maintain a commitment to supporting the proposed management structures for the community and commercial infrastructure projects was approved.				
	Prop:AP	Sec:CC	In Favour:9	Against:0	Abstain:0
	27.2. Langaller Park Development Committee – to consider and approve a proposal to create a Committee of the Parish Council to hold Delegated Powers to oversee the Langaller park Development. [M]				
	The proposal to form a committee was not pursued as it was no longer relevant.				

The meeting ended at

[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:

02 October 2023

at 7pm in the CSM Village Hall

06 November 2023

at 7pm in the CSM Village Hall

04 December 2023

At 7pm in the CSM Village Hall