

CREECH ST MICHAEL PARISH COUNCIL

Approved Minutes for the Meeting of Creech St Michael Parish Council [CSMPC] held at Creech St Michael Village Hall on **Monday 5th December 2022 at 7:00pm**

Councillor Attendance

Cllr. Annabelle Peters – Chair	AP	Present	Cllr. Paul Tucker	PT	Present
Cllr. Charlie Cudlip	CC	Present	Cllr. David Griffin	DG	Present
Cllr. Diane Phillips	DP	Present			

Also Present: Cllr. David Fothergill (SCC), Cllr. Norman Cavill (SW&T), six members of the public and Andrew Williams, CSM Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.

Meeting started at 7:00pm

1.0	Chair's welcome
	AP welcomed all Councillors and members of the public to the meeting.
2.0	Public Question time - Questions asked by the Public and Press will be noted.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A member of the public raised a question about the repairs to the toilets at the Rec Park and whether the repairs had been completed. The Clerk and RFO reported that the repairs were still not complete and that the agreement with the current contractor had been terminated and a new contractor was being sought.A member of the public raised his concerns about the lack of integration of wildlife plans with the proposed development at North End, Creech St Michael and asked that the Parish Council consider the impact of the development on the natural environment.A second member of the public raised the issue of whether a phosphate calculation had been undertaken by the developer for the North End development. Cllr. Cavill suggested that it is unlikely to have been completed yet, but that it would be completed as part of the process. It was also requested that the consultation be added to the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting. The Chair confirmed that it would be included on the agenda.A member of the public identified ongoing issues with overgrown vegetation to the rear of properties at Leighton Drive, Creech St Michael. Cllr. Fothergill confirmed that ownership of the roadway remained with Somerset County Council, but the verge was the property of David Wilson Homes. The Clerk and RFO agreed to approach David Wilson Homes to request that they take the necessary steps to deal with the issue.
3.0	To receive County and District Councillors' Reports

	<p>Cllr. Fothergill provided the following points of update.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Somerset County Council Finances: The latest budget monitoring figures show a projected overspend of £22.5m including a £12.7m overspend in Adults and £16.8m in Children’s Services • Local Government Reorganisation: Following the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) decision to support the move to a single Unitary Council across Somerset, vesting day for the new Unitary Council remains as 1st April 2023. • Council Tax: A new, unified Council Tax Reduction Scheme targeting help at people on low incomes, care leavers, and foster carers has been agreed for Somerset from 1 April 2023 when the new Somerset Council comes into being.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single NHS Trust: The board of directors at Somerset NHS Foundation Trust and Yeovil District Hospital NHS Foundation Trust have approved the business case to support the planned merger between the two NHS trusts. If the business case is given the go-ahead by NHS England, then it’s intended that the two trusts will merge, subject to feedback, on 1 April 2023. The new organisation will be called ‘Somerset NHS Foundation Trust’. • Ukraine refugees in Somerset update: An appeal for private landlords to come forward with vacant, or soon-to-be vacant, properties for rent, has been launched. Accommodation is now needed as part of a planned pathway across all Councils for moving guests out of sponsor accommodation and into private accommodation. Somerset Councils are offering a one-off cash incentive of £1,000 per bedroom, with up to a maximum of £4,000 for homes with four bedrooms and above. Full details of the incentive scheme, alongside terms and conditions, are available on www.somerset.gov.uk/Ukraine • Domestic Abuse: To coincide with the national campaign, ‘Sixteen Days of Action’ against domestic abuse, (25 November – 10 December), Somerset County Council has launched a new toolkit for employers. https://somensetsurvivors.org.uk/domestic-abuse-employers-toolkit/ • Annual Flu Vaccinations: Residents are being reminded to protect their health and the health of people around them by getting their flu and Covid-19 vaccinations. https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirusvaccination/ or by calling 119. • Somerset Business Survey: Now in its third year, the Somerset business survey has been developed with the Somerset Chamber of Commerce and the Federation of Small Businesses. https://somerset.inconsult.uk/AnnualBusinessSurvey2022/answerQuestionnaire?qid=8297763
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4.0	To receive any apologies for absence
	Apologies were received from Cllrs. Ken Hunt and Neil Davidson.
5.0	Declarations of Interests
	4.1 Declarations of Individual Members
	CC declared an interest in item 9 Planning Application 14/22/0056 CQ.
	4.2 Dispensation Request
	None
6.0	Parish Council Vacancies
	No applications have been received. AP asked the members of the public present, to make others aware of the vacancies.
7.0	Minutes
	7.1. to Review and Approve the minutes of the meeting held on 7 th November 2022. [M]

	All present confirmed that they had received the minutes of the meeting held on 7 th of November 2022. Cllrs. agreed the minutes of the meeting held on the 7 th of November 2022. The Chair signed a copy of the minutes for the records.				
	Prop: DG	Sec: PT	In Favour: 3	Against: 0	Abstain: 2
8.0	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.				
9.0	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]				
	14/22/0056/CQ [M]				

	Prior approval for proposed change of use from agricultural building to 1 No. dwelling house (Class C3) and associated building operations at Brickyard Farm, Bull Street, Creech St Michael. Cllr. Phillips indicated that the application should be supported.				
	Prop: DP	Sec: DG	In Favour: 4	Against: 0	Abstain: 1
	14/22/0057/T [M] Application to carry out management works to one Birch tree included in Taunton Deane Borough (Creech St. Michael No.1) Tree Preservation Order 1998 at Old Arundels, Hyde Lane, Creech St. Michael (TD410). Cllr. Phillips indicated that the application should be supported as part of ongoing tree management works.				
	Prop: DP	Sec: DG	In Favour: 5	Against: 0	Abstain: 0
	Items for Decision				
10.0	Finance – to review and approve the Financial Transaction Report. [M]				
	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.				
	Prop: DP	Sec: CC	In Favour: 5	Against: 0	Abstain: 0
11.0	Inspection services – to review and approve a proposal to appoint a provider to undertake inspection services at the Rec Park. [M]				
	Two quotes had been received by the Clerk and RFO. The quote supplied by the Play Inspection Company was recommended for approval as it provided the best value for money. It was agreed that RoSPA be approached to provide the service of undertaking a risk assessment. The proposal to appoint the Play Inspection Company was approved.				
	Prop: AP	Sec: PT	In Favour: 5	Against: 0	Abstain: 0
12.0	Fire Extinguisher Purchases – to approve the purchase of fire extinguishers for buildings at the Rec Park. [M]				

	<p>The Clerk and RFO confirmed the need for additional fire extinguishers to be provided at key points within the buildings at the Rec Park. It was recommended to use the existing supplier Devon & Somerset Fire Protection Ltd.</p> <p>The proposal to purchase the required items from Devon & Somerset Fire Protection Ltd was approved.</p>				
	Prop: CC	Sec: PT	In Favour: 5	Against: 0	Abstain: 0
13.0	Speed Indicator Devices – to approve a proposal to purchase two Speed Indicator Devices. [M]				
	<p>CC reported that despite numerous attempts to contact Avon and Somerset Police Community Trust to confirm that the payment of a grant for £5,000.00 would be provided, no response had been received.</p> <p>The Clerk and RFO confirmed that there were funds allocated in the current budget that would allow for the purchase of two Speed Indicator Devices.</p>				
	<p>It was recommended that the purchase of the devices was progressed alongside further attempts to contact Avon and Somerset Police Community Trust.</p> <p>The proposal was approved.</p>				
	Prop: CC	Sec: PT	In Favour: 5	Against: 0	Abstain: 0
14.0	Creech St Michael United Charities – to approve proposal to seek to appoint to the vacant role of Clerk to the Charity. [M]				
	<p>The Clerk and RFO explained that Mr Graham Hodges had stepped down from the role of Clerk to the Creech St Michael United Charities and it was the responsibility for the Parish Council to appoint a successor.</p> <p>It was proposed that the role be taken on by the Clerk and RFO. The proposal was approved.</p>				
	Prop: AP	Sec: PT	In Favour: 5	Against: 0	Abstain: 0
15.0	Spending Priorities for 2023/24 – to consider and approve the priorities for spending for 2023/24 [M]				

	<p>The Clerk and RFO asked members to identify any priorities for spending projects for the 2023/24 financial year to allow for these to be factored in to the budget setting process.</p> <p>DG identified that the Rec Park will require ongoing investment that will take up a significant amount of annual funds. The Clerk and RFO confirmed that operational costs, including those for the Rec Park account for a significant amount of the precept leaving very little for reserves.</p> <p>CC and PT identified a further need for improvement works to the canal area.</p> <p>A member of the public suggested that a sum of monies be set aside for legal expenses in relation to planning applications.</p> <p>No vote was taken.</p>				
	Updates from Committees, Panels and Working Groups				
16.0	Staffing Committee				
	16.1 Update on applications for the role of Grounds and Maintenance Operative.				
	The Clerk and RFO reported that two applications for the post of Grounds and Maintenance Operative had been received to date and the selection process would be undertaken in the new year.				
17.0	Finance Committee				
	17.1. Expenditure against budget year-to-date.				
	<p>DG explained that it was projected that there would be an underspend for the full year. The Clerk and RFO confirmed that the underspend would be in the region of £20,000.00, the majority of this was spend of reserves.</p> <p>The Clerk and RFO confirmed that reserves at the end of the year would be in the region of £105,000.00, down from £136,000.00 at the commencement of the year.</p>				
18.0	Newsletter Working Group				
	AP confirmed that the second edition of the Parish Press had been published and were available throughout the Parish. No feedback had been received. Contributions to the newsletter are welcome from any source.				
	Other Matters				
19.0	Christmas Fayre – attendance and volunteers.				
	<p>AP ran through the arrangements for the Christmas Fayre and requested that anyone with some spare time to come along and help with the set up and management of the day.</p> <p>If the day is successful, it is expected that the event will be run again next year.</p> <p>Expenses incurred will be covered by a combined contribution of £400.00 from the PiP group and the Parish Council. This was approved by a vote.</p>				
	Prop: AP	Sec: CC	In Favour: 5	Against: 0	Abstain: 0
20.0	Correspondence				

	<p>CC raised a matter that had been brought to his attention by a member of the community. The concern related to the morning bus service from the village of Creech St Michael to Taunton. Under normal conditions, the bus service is provided at no charge as it runs after 09.30. Reports indicate that charges are being applied to all passengers.</p> <p>Cllr. Fothergill and Cllr. Cavill agreed to take the matter up with First Bus.</p>				
21.0	New Matters to be Carried Forward				
	None.				
22.0	Council to Decide if to Exclude Members of the Public and Press for the Following Item(s) [M]				
	Prop: AP	Sec: CC	In Favour: 5	Against: 0	Abstain: 0
23.0	NJC Salary Scales – proposal to apply the new NJC salary scales to Parish Council employees. [M]				
	<p>Following agreement of the National Joint Council (NJC) salary scales for the 2022/23 year. It was proposed that all parish council employees be positioned on the scale.</p> <p>The proposal was to include the Caretaker role within points 7 to 12 of the NJC scale.</p> <p>The proposal was approved.</p>				
	Prop: CC	Sec: PT	In Favour: 5	Against: 0	Abstain: 0

The meeting ended at 8.32pm

[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 09 January 2023	at 7pm in the CSM Village Hall
Monday 06 February 2023	at 7pm in the CSM Village Hall
Monday 06 March 2023	at 7pm in the CSM Village Hall