



CREETING ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at the Village Hall, Creeting St Mary on
Thursday, 18th January 2024 at 7.30pm.

Present:

Councillors: S Haynes (Chair)
 J Palmer
 R Coton
 H Craggs
 L Plummer

In Attendance: J Blackburn - Clerk
 M Hicks – County Councillor
 T Lawrence – District Councillor

CSM141/23/24 – TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllr Piper.

Cllr Cage had sent a resignation email to the Clerk.

CSM142/23/24 – TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None had been received.

CSM143/23/24 – TO RECEIVE APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION

None had been received.

CSM144/23/24 - TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 30th NOVEMBER 2023

It was AGREED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 30th November 2023 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

CSM145/23/24 – PUBLIC FORUM

No members of the public were present.

CSM146/23/24 – TO RECEIVE THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – CLLR M HICKS

Cllr Hicks' report had been circulated prior to the meeting and would be published on the village website.

He briefly went through his report commenting on the following topics:

- More public money for adult and children's care
- Beware of five scams warn Trading Standards
- Foxhall Recycling Centre redevelopment
- Grit Spreading

Cllr Hicks reported that there was potential for the 30mph speed limit to continue down All Saints Road to the A140 junction, due to the new housing being built. He explained that it would firstly be assessed and if approved the process could take up to 18 months to be completed. The cost was believed to be in the region of £12,000 which the Parish Council could fund using its CiL money.

Cllr Coton raised the issues with the junction of All Saints Road and the A140 in relation to the uneven road surface with potholes forming. He explained that the issues had been reported but Highways had stated that they would not be carrying out works at this time. Cllr Hicks explained that the junction would not be a priority at the current time.

CSM147/23/24 – TO RECEIVE THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT

Cllr Piper’s and Cllr Lawrence’s reports were circulated prior to the meeting and would be published on the village website.

Cllr Lawrence was asked about the Gypsy Lane Crossing and footpath works to which he explained that they had been delayed and it was hoped they would commence in March.

CSM148/23/24 – TO RECEIVE THE CLERK’S REPORT AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) **CLERKS REPORT**

The Clerk had nothing to report other than what was on the Agenda.

b) **TO RECEIVE THE CLERK’S FINANCIAL REPORT**

The Clerk reported on the Council’s current financial position and movements since the last meeting. It was reported that the balance in the accounts on 11th January 2024 was £40,284.38.

c) **TO AUTHORISE PAYMENTS AND NOTE RECEIPTS**

The Clerk reported the following payments be authorised:-

Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Pay (Dec)	£381.20
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Office Allowance/Exp (Dec)	£34.33
HMRC	PAYE to end 5th Jan	£159.40
CFB IT Solutions	Mailbox Hosting (Jan)	£6.00
Sue Haynes	Planter (entrance to VH) reimbursement	£69.99
College Farm	Cultivation & Seeding of Driftway (VH)	£60.00
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Pay (Jan)	£381.00
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Office Allowance/Exp (Jan)	£34.33

It was AGREED: That payments totaling £1,126.25 be approved.

The following receipt had been received:

Booth Tarmacadam Ltd	Car Park Resurfacing	£26,784.00
CSM Newsletter	Donation	£500.00

d) **BANK RECONCILIATION**

It was AGREED: That the Bank Reconciliation be approved.

e) **SID MAINTENANCE PLAN**

The Clerk reported that the Gold Maintenance Plan for the two Speed Indicator Devices was due for renewal, the cost of which would be £2,068.12 (inc. VAT) for three years.

It was AGREED: That the renewal be approved and paid. **Clerk to action.**

f) **FINAL BUDGET FOR 2024/25**

It was AGREED: That the Final Budget for 2024/25 be approved.

g) **PRECEPT FOR 2024/25**

It was AGREED: That the Precept of £11,686 be approved. **Clerk to action.**

CSM149/23/24 - PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None had been received.

CSM150/23/24 - PLANNING DECISIONS

None had been received.

CSM151/23/24 – DELEGATION OF CLERK

The Clerk reported that in relation to Planning Applications received, a Delegation to Clerk would be beneficial. It would have in place an approved process, that if a Planning Application was received and the timescale for comments for that application could not be met, then the Delegation to Clerk would mean that the Clerk could email Councillors for their comments on that application. The Clerk would then submit those comments made to the Planning Department.

It was AGREED: That the Delegation to Clerk (Planning) be approved.

CSM152/23/24 – PLUG IN SUFFOLK INITIATIVE

Prior to the meeting, the Clerk circulated information on 'Plug In Suffolk' initiative. An initiative where Suffolk County Council were calling for potential sites for EV charges.

It was AGREED: That the Parish Council express an interest in this scheme. **Clerk to action.**

CSM153/23/24 – DUNCHES LANE

Cllr Craggs reported that himself and District Cllrs Ross Piper and Terry Lawrence recently walked Dunches Lane and were in agreement that it should be made more usable. In order to support the works a village survey would be useful where the views and expressions of interest to use the lane once completed would be good evidence.

Cllr Lawrence confirmed that his locality funding could contribute towards costs.

It was AGREED: That Cllr Haynes would put a survey into the next Newsletter.
That the Clerk would put the survey onto the website.

CSM154/23/24 – BLACKSMITHS FIELD SURVEY RESULTS

The Clerk reported that the survey for the possible Skatepark on Blacksmiths Field had now closed and the results of the survey were 13 in favour and 41 against.

In relation to an outside Table Tennis Table the Clerk reported that 27 were in favour and 21 against. On reflection, looking into the costs of a Table Tennis Table, which were in the region of £5,000, and also taking into account the comments made by residents, the Parish Council decided that provision of a Table Tennis Table would not be continued.

Members discussed other suggestions made by residents, with a zip wire and basketball net being possible additions to Blacksmiths Field and they would be looked into further.

Other equipment should also be considered to enhance the Field.

It was AGREED: That the option of a Skatepark would not be continued.
That the option of a Table Tennis Table would not be continued.
That other equipment be researched, including a Zip Wire and Basketball Net.

CSM155/23/24 - SPEED LIMIT – CREETING BOTTOMS

This item was discussed earlier in the meeting, during the report of Cllr Hicks.

CSM156/23/24 – POND

It was reported that works to the pond would commence during February 2024.

CSM156/23/24 – TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON BENCHES – BLACKSMITHS FIELD

Members felt that two benches be installed. One at the entrance to the field and the other at the edge of the wildflower meadow. It was suggested that this bench be a backless one to enable persons sitting on it to either face the football pitch, or the wildflower area.

In relation to the wildflower area, it was reported that the area needed to be cut on a three-year rotation. Cllr Haynes suggested that Roger Beecroft could be approached to carry out the works.

It was AGREED: That two benches be purchased for the Field.
That Cllr Haynes contact Roger Beecroft in relation to the cutting of the wildflower area.

CSM157/23/24 – NOTICEBOARD – CREETING BOTTOMS

There was nothing to report.

CSM158/23/24 – LILLEY’S WOOD – BENCHES

It was confirmed that two benches were needed for Lilley’s Wood but further details were needed before being ordered.

CSM159/23/24 - AMENITY LAND – JACKS GREEN DEVELOPMENT

There was nothing to report.

CSM160/23/24 – REPORTS

Blacksmiths Field – Cllr Palmer reported that the grass at the side of the village hall needed to be added onto the cutting schedule with the Field. **Clerk to obtain quotes.**

SALC – There was nothing to report.

Footpaths – There was nothing to report.

Village Hall – Cllr Haynes reported that the floor in the hall was due to be buffed and oiled. She explained that the doors between the lounge and pool room were no longer going to be replaced, they would be removed and the opening would be made wider. These works would cost in the region of £5,000 and the Parish Council would be approached for a contribution.

Members were happy to consider a contribution once a quote had been received.

Sustainability – Cllr Craggs reported that James ?? would be able to carry out works to clear the pathway along All Saints Road up to the Church using the Pride in your Place grant awarded to the Parish Council for £250. Cllr Craggs would also send the details to the Clerk.

CSM161/23/24 - MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL

Following the sad and sudden passing of Cllr Paul Scully, members noted that the funeral would take place on Friday, 2nd February 2024 at 10.30am at Seven Hills Crematorium in Ipswich.

Three vacancies on the Parish Council were noted.

CSM162/23/24 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was AGREED: That the next meeting would be held on Thursday, 29th February 2024

The meeting finished at 9.05pm.

Chairman: Dated: