



CREETING ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at the Village Hall, Creting St Mary on **Thursday, 29th February 2024 at 7.30pm.**

Present:

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

In Attendance: J Blackburn - Clerk
R Piper – District Councillor

CSM163/23/24 – TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from County Cllr Hicks.

CSM164/23/24 – TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None had been received.

CSM165/23/24 – TO RECEIVE APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION

None had been received.

CSM166/23/24 - TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18th JANUARY 2024

It was AGREED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 18th January 2024 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

CSM167/23/24 – PUBLIC FORUM

There were four members of the public present. No issues were raised.

CSM168/23/24 – TO RECEIVE THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – CLLR M HICKS

Cllr Hicks was not present at the meeting. His report had been circulated prior to the meeting and would be published on the village website.

CSM169/23/24 – 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 Piper reported that parking on Needham Market High Street was being reviewed with the view of the one-hour parking being extended to two hours parking. He asked that the residents of Creting St Mary give their views on this matter as it would be very useful.

CSM170/23/24 - PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Ref: DC/23/05894 - Planning Application - Change of use of land to enable as a Forest and Field outdoor play area and nature reserve with compost toilet, outdoors washing station, a container for storage and sale of take away refreshments. All aspects of the plans ensure no permanent structures are used - Agricultural Land Currently Used for Animal Grazing, Creting Hills, Creting St Mary

The applicant was present at the meeting and explained the application to members.

She explained that her family had lived at the property for 42 years and loved the area and nature. She stated that she was a teacher and had taught at two primary schools where Forrest Schools took place, which the children loved. Whilst the applicant would not call the proposal a Forrest School, it would be a similar venture but there would be more playing activities such as plastic tunnels and mud kitchens.

She stated that the woodland would be made larger with native fruit trees being planted which would enable the children to pick fruit in the Spring, there would be a pond area too.

Infrastructre needed would consist of water to wash hands, a compost toilet and a container to store the toys. There would also be a coffee hatch for visitors

Access would be at Creting Hills as All Saints Road was too busy and visibility splays would not be appropriate.

The sessions would start small – toddlers and babies and weekends would be dedicated to parties.

Members briefly discussed the plans. Four members were in favour of the proposal with two abstaining.

It was AGREED: That the Parish Council had no objections to the application. **Clerk to action.**

Ref: DC/24/00798 - Householder Application - Construction of oak extension to porch on northern elevation, including installation of insulated cladding; Installation of new windows and door on western elevation; Installation of rooflight and modifications to windows on eastern elevation; Installation of rooflight, standing seam zinc roof, and solar panels on existing conservatory on southern elevation, together with modified opening - Poplar Farm, All Saints Road, Creting St Mary

It was AGREED: That the Parish Council had no objections to the application. **Clerk to action.**

CSM171/23/24 – JUNCTION ADJACENT SCHOOL

Mrs Friar, Head teacher, was present and explained the issues surrounding road safety around the school. She explained that there were a small number of children who made up a Road Safety Team and who had carried out small activities in order to see where the problems lay for pupils.

Mrs Friar explained that from September 2023 children no longer entered the school via the front gates from the road, but from the side entrance.

Suffolk County Council Highways (SCCH) had been approached in order to assess any possible ways forward with pathways in the school vicinity where children could safely walk to the school. Josh White, Community Liaison Engineer with SCCH had visited the school and also looked at what could be done re safety. He had proposed that the junction of All Saints Road and Church Close be improved in order for a crossing facility to link the pathways.

Cllr Coton reported that, as a resident of Church Close, when the Close was built the residents contributed to the piece of highway and pathways for Church Close by way of payments, so to change the pathways would not be an option.

Members were sympathetic to the situation of pupils walking to the school and the safety issues that were currently present. They suggested other options were looked at including a 'walking bus'. Members felt that the proposed changes would only cause more of an issue with parents parking inappropriately.

Members explained that the Parish Council were constantly investigating possible land for school parking and speeding measures through the village, but unfortunately landowners were not willing to sell land or use their land for parking.

It was AGREED: That the Parish Council did not support the proposed changes to Church Close and the pathways.

CSM172/23/24 - PLANNING DECISIONS

The following decision was received and noted:

Ref: DC/23/05604 - Householder Application - Erection of one and a half storey extension to form chalet bungalow and front porch, including first floor extension to garage to form home office - 26 St Mary's Road, Creeting St Mary - **Granted**

CSM173/23/24 – TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) CLERKS REPORT

The Clerk reported that:

- The changing of the mandate for the bank, to include Cllr Plummer, was ongoing. The bank required a 'Board Resolution' form to be completed and signed – **All Agreed – form signed.**
- She had contacted Vertas in relation to the cutting of Blacksmiths Field. She explained that the first cut would be during March when weather allowed them to do so.
- The grass at the side of the Village Hall would be visited by Vertas and a quote would be issued
- Speedwatch Location (near school) – Suffolk were in the middle of a re-organisation with the Community teams. The request had been given for someone to carry out the necessary checks whilst they were waiting to find out who would be looking after who.

The Clerk also reported that an email had been received from a lady who was setting up a 'Hedgehog Highway Project'. She had reached out to all Parish Councils nationally asking them to sign up to the scheme, which meant that 50 surrounds for holes in fencing would be received, which would help hedgehogs to move around and have access to food and shelter minimising their risk of extinction. The cost of signing up to the scheme was £150.

It was AGREED: That the Parish Council sign up to the Hedgehog Highway Scheme. **Clerk to action.**

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 22nd February 2024 was £39,846.99.

c) TO AUTHORISE PAYMENTS AND NOTE RECEIPTS

The Clerk reported the following payments be authorised:-

Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Pay (Feb)	£381.00
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Office Allowance/Exp (Feb)	£38.32
Great Bricett Parish Council	Contribution to Ink cartridge	£14.77

Vertas Group Ltd	Grass Cutting (January-March 2024)	£375.23
Red Cow Ltd	Pond works on Blacksmiths Field	£4,410.00
CFB IT Solutions	Mailbox Hosting (Feb)	£6.00

It was AGREED: That payments totaling £5,225.32 be approved.

No receipts had been received.

CSM174/23/24 – BENCHES AND BASES – BLACKSMITHS FIELD

It was AGREED: That Matt Deeley's quote be accepted. **Cllr Haynes to action.**

CSM175/23/24 – ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT – BLACKSMITHS FIELD

Cllr Palmer reported that she had obtained quotes for a Zip-Wire and also for a Basketball net and surface for Blacksmiths Field, which were briefly discussed.

Members agreed that the best way forward would be to accept the quote of £8,924 (exc. VAT) from Mr Treehouse, for the Zip Wire and also the quote of £11,099 (exc. VAT) from Outdoor Places and Spaces for the Basket Ball Net.

Members discussed what CiL money was available and what should be forthcoming from the District Council in the following year. It was felt that the additional equipment should be installed during May following receipt of further CiL monies.

It was AGREED: That the Zip Wire and Basketball quotes be accepted. **Cllr Palmer to action.**

CSM176/23/24 - DUNCHES LANE

Cllr Craggs reported that following a site visit with District Cllrs Terry Lawrence and Ross Piper, CiL money from the District Council would be the best option due to the project being expensive. Other funding could be applied for such as Biffa's Recreation Grants and the District Council's Infrastructure Funding.

Dunches Lane was 350 metres long. Resurfacing it should include better drainage.

The District Cllrs felt that receiving the views of residents and those that would use the lane once improved would help to obtain much needed funding.

It was AGREED: That the Clerk ask for resident's views on this project via the website and next Newsletter.

CSM177/23/24 - SPEED LIMIT – CREETING BOTTOMS

Cllr Hicks had confirmed via email that he would fund the initial assessment for a proposed reduction of speed limit at Creeting Bottoms from 60mph to 30mph.

CSM178/23/24 – POND – BLACKSMITHS FIELD

Members were pleased with the clearing of the pond by Roger Beecroft.

CSM179/23/24 – NOTICEBOARD – CREETING BOTTOMS

The Clerk had researched a noticeboard for Creeting Bottoms with prices ranging from £600 to £15,000.

District Cllr Piper reported that he had the details of a carpenter who may be able to make a noticeboard for the Parish Council and would therefore send the details to the Parish Clerk.

CSM180/23/24 – LILLEY’S WOOD – BENCHES

There was nothing to report.

CSM181/23/24 – REPORTS

Blacksmiths Field – There was nothing to report.

SALC – There was nothing to report.

Footpaths – There was nothing to report

Village Hall – Cllr Haynes reported that the Village Hall Management Committee were waiting for an updated quote to knock through to the pool room, the delay was due to the uncertainty of how large the opening needed to be and a structural engineer’s report to be received by the builder prior to being able to provide an updated quote.

In relation to the raised kerb at the entrance to the hall’s front car park Cllr Haynes suggested a horse trough which would stop people driving up the kerb – **All Agreed.**

Sustainability – There was nothing to report.

CSM182/23/24 - MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL

No matters were raised.

CSM183/23/24 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was AGREED: That the next meeting would be held on Thursday, 28th March 2024

The meeting finished at 9.10pm.

Chairman: Dated: