



CREETING ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at the Village Hall, Creeting St Mary on
Thursday, 12th September 2024 at 7.30pm.

Present:

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

In Attendance: J Blackburn - Clerk
 District Cllr R Piper
 County Cllr M Hicks

CSM52/24/25 – TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllr Haynes and Cllr Piper.

CSM53/24/25 – TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None had been received.

CSM54/24/25 – TO RECEIVE APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION

None had been received.

CSM55/24/25 - TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20TH JUNE 2024

It was AGREED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 20th June 2024 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

CSM56/24/25 – PUBLIC FORUM

No members of the public were present.

CSM57/24/25 – 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 the main points of his report as follows:

- Proper disposal of batteries
- Children’s Services Ofsted report published – small improvements needed
- Solar Together launched in Suffolk

Cllr Hicks asked members what the position was in relation to an extension of the 30mph speed limit along the A140 end of All Saints Road, to which Cllr Palmer replied that nothing further had been heard. Cllr Hicks stated that he would chase it up with Highways.

Cllr Craggs asked Cllr Hicks how many children were in care in Suffolk to which Cllr Hicks replied approximately 900.

Cllr Plummer asked Cllr Hicks what the position was in relation to the Pylons proposal to which Cllr Hicks explained that Suffolk, Norfolk, Essex and Lincolnshire were all looking at challenging the proposal legally. All reports showed that from 2035 the off shore option would be the same price as the on shore option although technology would take five years to reach that stage. Therefore, the counties were trying to encourage Central Government to change their target from 2030 to 2035 so that the off shore option could then be considered.

CSM58/24/25 – TO RECEIVE THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT

Cllr Piper’s report was circulated prior to the meeting and would be published on the village website.

He briefly went through the main points of his report as follows:

- Sports Facilities at Chiltern Fields
- Sale of former Needham Market offices – developer had pulled out
- Discussions on new waste collection service – food waste planned to be collected

CSM59/24/25 – 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 6th September 2024 was £21,916.00.

c) TO AUTHORISE PAYMENTS AND NOTE RECEIPTS

The Clerk reported the following payments be authorised:-

Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Pay (Jun)	£423.80
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Office Allowance/Exp (Jun)	£39.13
CSM PCC	Church Wall Repair	£1,850.00
Outdoor Places & Spaces Ltd	Deposit for basket ball	£4,661.64
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Pay (Jul)	£423.80
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Office Allowance/Exp (Jul)	£34.33
Vertas Group Ltd	Grass Cutting (Jul - Sept)	£412.75
MSDC	Bin Emptying 2024/25	£876.70
CFB IT Solutions	Mailbox Hosting (Jul)	£6.00
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Pay (Aug)	£423.80
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Office Allowance/Exp (Aug)	£34.33
Dynamic Fireworks	Fireworks	£1,489.80
ICO	Data Protection Renewal	£35.00
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Pay (Sept)	£423.80
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Office Allowance/Exp (Sept)	£34.33
CFB IT Solutions	Mailbox Hosting (Aug)	£6.00
CFB IT Solutions	Mailbox Hosting (Sept)	£6.00
PKF Littlejohn	External Audit 2023/24	£378.00
Suffolk Cloud	Website Hosting	£120.00
Outdoor Places & Spaces Ltd	Balance for Basket Ball Net	£10,876.36

It was AGREED: That payments totaling £22,555.57 be approved.

d) FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

It was AGREED: That the Financial Regulations be adopted.

e) **EXTERNAL AUDITORS REPORT**

It was AGREED: That the External Auditor's report be approved.

f) **INSURANCE RENEWAL**

The Clerk reported that the insurance was due for renewal with the renewal quote being £806.67. Members briefly discussed the quote and asked the Clerk to seek a further quote from Zurich so a comparison could be made.

It was AGREED: That the Clerk seek a quote from Zurich Insurance.

CSM60/24/25 - PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None had been received.

CSM61/24/25 - PLANNING DECISIONS

The following planning decision was noted:

Ref: DC/24/02433 - Householder Application - Erection of single storey rear extension - 24 St Mary's Gardens, Creeting St Mary - **Granted**

CSM62/24/25 – GREEN TRIANGLE – JACKS GREEN

Members discussed the triangle of land on Jacks Green on which the Village Sign was located.

Following works to the new development access the triangle needed to be considered. Whilst the developer had stated that grass seed had been sown it was clear that just weeds were taking over the area and so a way forward needed to be agreed.

Cllr Craggs and Cllr Mitchell favoured the option of wildflowers being sown, whilst Cllr Palmer, Cllr Plummer and Cllr Coton felt that grass seed would make the area look much neater and would easily be able to be maintained.

Following a brief discussion, it was felt that this item be deferred to the next meeting where other members would be present and a further discussion could take place. Also, it was felt that residents should be able to have a say and that the Clerk put the question in the next edition of the Newsletter, and also on the website

It was AGREED: That this item be deferred to the next meeting.

CSM63/24/25 – DUNCHES LANE UPDATE

Cllr Plummer reported that someone had very kindly cut the top of Dunches Lane making it more accessible, although further work needed to be carried out. She added that since the four adjacent bungalows had been built, rainwater would go down the drainpipes and into the pond at the front of the properties. If excessive water had fallen, the pond would overflow and the water would seep into Dunches Lane.

Members felt that the developers should be contacted in order to discuss the issue.

CSM64/24/25 – CREETING BOTTOMS SPEED LIMIT

This item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

CSM65/24/25 – NOTICEBOARD AT CREETING BOTTOMS

There was nothing to report.

CSM66/24/25 – LILLEY'S WOOD

There was nothing to report.

CSM67/24/25 - REPORTS

Blacksmiths Field – Cllr Palmer reported that a resident had very kindly moved a fallen tree which had been blocking the lower pathway around Blacksmiths Lane.

SALC – Cllr Coton reported that the next Forum was due to be held on 19th September.

Footpaths – Cllr Mitchell reported that most footpaths had been cut back.

It was noted that the River Gipping Trust had carried out a lot of work along the river path from Needham Market to Stowmarket.

Village Hall – Cllr Haynes had circulated a report prior to the meeting which reported the following:

The lounge refurbishment was nearing completion, with the tables and chairs yet to be purchased and added to those already there. A new consumer unit was going to be installed to replace the old one and the CCTV has been renewed.

Member input was needed on the following two items:

William Barnes had brought up the drain that ran along Rob Brittain's house from the Hall ditch. When the drain at the village hall was cleared last year, Rob's piece was and still was blocked, so, it could possibly cause a build-up of water if heavy rain occurred.

Members discussed the drainage and felt that the problem had not occurred last winter and perhaps it was best to leave it to see what happened over the coming months.

Wheelies were being performed in the car park behind the Hall again, churning up the surface. The perpetrators were known to a nearby resident. Rather than one person confronting them with possible repercussions, the new CCTV cameras, with suitable notices, could be used to identify them and any action taken from there. The Hall needed agreement from the Parish Council to use the cameras. It was thought the drivers were not local.

Members agreed that the CCTV should be renewed and used.

The rear car park was also in need of weeding. Whilst the Harrisons would do the hedge, should someone be found to weed the car park?

Members felt that the car park should be left and the weeds would probably die back over the winter months.

Sustainability – There was nothing to report.

CSM68/24/25 - MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL

No matters were raised.

CSM69/24/25 - DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was AGREED: That the next meeting would be held on Thursday, 24th October 2024.

The meeting finished at 8.58pm

Chairman: Dated: