



CREETING ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at the Village Hall, Creeting St Mary on
Thursday, 28th November 2024 at 7.30pm.

Present:

Councillors: S Haynes (Chair)
 L Plummer
 R Coton
 H Craggs
 J Mitchell
 M Broodryk

In Attendance: Mrs J Blackburn - Clerk
 District Cllr T Lawrence
 County Cllr M Hicks

CSM93/24/25 – TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllr Palmer.

CSM94/24/25 – CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR

It was AGREED: That Marie Broodryk be co-opted onto the Parish Council. The relevant papers would be emailed to Marie for completion and signature.

CSM95/24/25 - TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None had been received.

CSM96/24/25 – TO RECEIVE APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION

None had been received.

CSM97/24/25 - TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 24TH OCTOBER 2024

It was AGREED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 24th October 2024 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

CSM98/24/25 – TO RECEIVE THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT – CLLR M HICKS

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

He briefly went through his report, on the following matters:

- Suffolk County Council (SCC) set on major investment to further protect Suffolk from flooding as it calls on Government to ‘step up’
- Government’s new housing targets must put infrastructure first
- Have your say on SCC Budget
- Suffolk Highways unveils new gritting fleet named by county’s young people
- Council to offer interest-free loans to make homes more energy efficient

In relation to Dunches Lane discussed at the previous meeting and whether the Parish Council could be gifted it, Cllr Hicks reported that it was an adopted highway, and obviously a road that was barely used in relation to others. Therefore, it didn't quite receive the maintenance levels of other roads. If the Parish were to come into possession of the road, it would obviously have to take on the legal liabilities, and when the road required significant resurfacing works or drainage works, which could run into hundreds of thousands of pounds.

Cllr Hicks felt that the best solution would be the 'Community Self-help Scheme', which would enable the Parish Council to undertake maintenance works, whilst leaving the liability with the Local Authority.

Cllr Hicks reported that the proposed 30mph speed limit along the A140 end of All Saints Road was in the system and so an update would be available soon.

In relation to the School's parking and crossing issues, a Lollipop Person had been suggested and would be happy to look into that option.

Cllr Craggs asked Cllr Hicks about a report he had read in relation to unspent S.106 funds sat in County Council accounts across the country, to which SCC was on the list, with £50 million not being used.

Cllr Hicks explained that it was likely the money was earmarked for projects that had probably not commenced as yet, but would check and come back to Cllr Craggs.

Cllr Plummer asked Cllr Hicks what the position was with regards to the proposed pylons, to which Cllr Hicks stated that whilst the County Council continued to fight the proposal the situation was not looking good.

CSM99/24/25 - FIREWORK NIGHT 2025

Two residents of Fen Lane were present and wished to voice their concerns over the recent Firework Night held on Friday, 8th November.

They explained that the fireworks were very loud and had caused harm to their horses who had bolted resulting in injury. They also stated that they were not aware that the fireworks would be held on 8th otherwise they would have sedated their horses.

Cllr Haynes explained that the date, which was always the Friday following 5th November, had been widely published including on the back of the latest Newsletter, which the residents confirmed they had received.

A general discussion took place where it was agreed that low noise fireworks would be researched for 2025. **Clerk to action.**

CSM100/24/25 – TO RECEIVE THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

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

Cllr Lawrence reported on the proposed food waste collection due to start in 2026.

CSM101/24/25 – TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) CLERKS REPORT

The Clerk reported on the River Gipping Trust's request for donations. She confirmed that she had sought confirmation from the CiL team that CiL money could be used to make a donation, to which they had replied and had stated that the money could be used as long as it was spent on the footpaths in the parish.

It was AGREED: That the Parish Council donate £500 to the River Gipping Trust. **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 21st November 2024 was £42,796.03.

c) TO AUTHORISE PAYMENTS AND NOTE RECEIPTS

The Clerk reported the following payments be authorised:-

Business Services at CAS Ltd	Insurance for Firework Night	£360.19
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Pay (Nov - inc. backpay)	£528.84
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Office Allowance/Exp (Nov)	£35.33
CFB IT Solutions	Mailbox Hosting	£6.00

It was AGREED: That payments totaling £570.17 be approved.

d) DRAFT BUDGET FOR 2025/26

It was AGREED: That the Draft Budget for 2025/26 be approved.

CSM102/24/25 - PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Ref: DC/24/05084 - Planning Application - Alterations and single storey side extension to Breheny Group HQ Office - Breheny Group HQ Office, Creeting Works, Flordon Road, Creeting St Mary

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

CSM103/24/25 - PLANNING DECISIONS

None had been received.

CSM104/24/25 – VILLAGE HALL FRONT CAR PARK

Cllr Haynes reported that in relation to the kerb needing to be dropped, Josh White, Community Liaison Engineer, was looking into the matter.

Members briefly discussed the issue and whilst the tyre placed at the entrance to the car park had been knocked into, it was felt that by adding another it would stand out more. Reflectors being added to the tyre were also suggested and considered.

The painting of the disabled parking bay and chevrons being painted to differentiate between the front car park and the entrance to the rear car park were approved by Members. Cllr Haynes stated that she would liaise with William Barnes.

CSM105/24/25 – SCHOOL SIGNAGE AND CROSSING PLACES

Cllr Haynes reported that herself, Cllr Palmer and the Clerk had met with Josh White, Community Liaison Engineer at SCC to discuss the parking and speeding issues around the school's location.

Flashing School Children signs had been suggested and Josh White was currently looking at options for the Parish Council to consider further.

In relation to parking Josh again suggested the improvement to the Church Close junction with All Saints Road, which would provide a specified crossing place. The cost to the Parish Council of such works would be below £10,000. This suggestion had been refused by the Parish Council earlier in the year.

Members discussed the plans but continued to refuse the option stating that parents would “just park across the crossing places” so wouldn’t be a beneficial use of the money.

The Clerk reported that Mrs Friar, Headteacher, had also emailed Josh to ask for a pedestrian crossing or a Lollipop Person, to which Josh had replied stating that a pedestrian crossing would be in the region of £75,000, which the Parish Council would not be able to afford.

Members discussed a Lollipop Person and were in support of that option and asked the Clerk to research further.

CSM106/24/25 – SPEED SIGNS

Following an ongoing fault with the Speed Indicator Device (SID) on Jacks Green Road, the Clerk reported that she had liaised with the National Fault Desk at Swarco.

An engineer had been out to the SID and had reported that it was now “unmaintainable”. The Clerk reported that she had contacted Swarco in relation to the £2,030 paid out to them for the Gold Maintenance Plan for the SIDs expecting to receive a refund. She would report back to a future meeting.

CSM107/24/25 – SELF HELP GROUP

The link to the Self Help Group had been shared with the Parish Council, but further research needed to be done.

Members felt that it should be put into the next Newsletter to ask for volunteers. **Clerk to action.**

CSM108/24/25 – DUNCHES LANE

Following on from what Cllr Hicks reported earlier in the meeting, Cllr Craggs suggested that the top part of Dunches Lane, which was very boggy, have a boardwalk laid to enable people to walk along that part of it more easily.

It was AGREED: That the Clerk research recycled plastic boardwalks.

CSM109/24/25 – MEMORIAL FOR PAUL SCULLY

Cllr Haynes reported that Paul’s partner, Pat, suggested a bench near to Five Acres. Cllr Haynes stated that she would speak with the landowner once Cllr Craggs pinpointed an exact location.

CSM110/24/25 – SOLAR LIGHTING AT REAR OF VILLAGE HALL

Cllr Haynes reported that the patio lights, which were sensor lights, had been turned on continuously, which gave light to the rear car park when needed. It was felt that this was sufficient and further solar lights were not required. **Members agreed.**

CSM111/24/25 - GREEN TRIANGLE – JACKS GREEN UPDATE

The Clerk reported that her contact at Vertas Group Ltd had left the company and a new manager had taken up the post. She would therefore liaise with the new contact asap in relation to getting the triangle cut.

CSM112/24/25 – CREETING BOTTOMS SPEED LIMIT

This item had been discussed earlier in the meeting with Cllr Hicks.

CSM113/24/25 – LILLEY’S WOOD

Cllr Haynes reported that another working party were soon to meet when pruning would take place.

She also confirmed that the new seating would be put into place very soon.

CSM114/24/25 - REPORTS

Blacksmiths Field – Cllr Palmer’s reports had been circulated prior to the meeting. There was nothing further to report.

SALC – Cllr Coton had nothing to report.

Footpaths – Cllr Mitchell reported that FP6 from Fen Lane towards Woolney Hall, it was overgrown and fallen trees which made the footpath very difficult to pass. It was also very narrow and alongside a steep ditch which was eroding. It was compounded by a badly maintained fence leaning over from the neighbouring property fence further down near the river crossing.

Cllr Mitchell confirmed she had reported the issue.

Village Hall – Cllr Haynes report had been circulated prior to the meeting which stated that CCTV signs had been placed at the rear of the Hall.

Three new tables and 12 bucket chairs were now in place in the lounge, a further table and four chairs were to be purchased. The four tall bar chairs were to be disposed of. A new consumer unit was to replace the old one.

The Committee had asked for the kerb at the front of the Hall car park to be lowered as it was causing problems with the tyre being hit frequently. They would also like chevrons to be painted over the disabled parking space and possibly at the end of the front car park to outline the access to the rear of the Hall.

Thoughts were being given to upgrade the kitchen, the viability of purchasing an audio visual unit, new curtains and seat covers in the main Hall.

Sustainability – Cllr Craggs had nothing to report.

CSM115/24/25 – PUBLIC FORUM

There were three members of the public present.

Kathryn, Newsletter editor, was present and explained to members that the email storage for the Newsletter was full and therefore asked for approval to pay £1.50 per month for additional storage.

Members agreed and stated that there were ways in which to free up storage and would help outside the meeting.

CSM116/24/25 - MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL

No items were raised.

CSM117/24/25 - DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was AGREED: That the next meeting would be held on Thursday, 23rd January 2025.

The meeting finished at 9.15pm.

Chairman: Dated: