



CREETING ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at the Village Hall, Creeting St Mary on
Thursday, 30th January 2025 at 7.30pm.

Present:

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

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

CSM118/24/25 – TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllr Haynes.

CSM119/24/25 - TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Craggs declared an interest in item 9 on the Agenda.

CSM120/24/25 – TO RECEIVE APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION

None had been received.

CSM121/24/25 - TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 28TH NOVEMBER 2024

It was AGREED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 28th November 2024 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

CSM122/24/25 – PUBLIC FORUM

Three members of the public were present. They confirmed they were interested in the planning items on the Agenda.

CSM123/24/25 – PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Ref: DC/25/00173 - Full Planning Application - Erection of 1No single storey dwelling (utilising existing vehicular access) - Land Adjacent Highfields, All Saints Road, Creeting St Mary

Members of the public present at the meeting expressed their concerns over the application.

Members of the Parish Council agreed with those concerns which were as follows:

- Increased traffic – access to the site, on an already dangerous bend in the road.
- Public Footpath would be affected. The footpath was one of the main paths in the parish and was widely used.
- Out of building line
- Overdevelopment of the site

Members stated that if the applications was to go ahead, then the amount of vehicles on All Saints Road would cause major obstruction.

It was AGREED: That the Parish Council **OBJECT** to the application for the reasons stated above.
Clerk to action.

Members raised their concerns with the District Cllr that mud on All Saints Road from another part of the site was dangerous and needed urgent attention.

They also stated that the footpath across the site was being ignored and was currently blocked due to another development on the site from the same applicant.

Cllr Piper asked the Clerk to email those concerns and he would report the mud and look into the footpath issue further. **Clerk to action.**

Ref: DC/24/05543 - Planning Application - Erection of 1No. single storey detached 2 bedroom self-build dwelling including parking, with New Vehicular Access from Jack's Green Road - 18 St Mary's Gardens, Creting St Mary

Members were concerned about the application as if agreed would result in increased traffic on Jacks Green Road. They also felt it was overdevelopment of the site.

Previous applications for the site had been refused by the District Council the reason of which being out of keeping and out of character.

It was AGREED: That the Parish Council **OBJECT** to the application for the reasons stated above.
Clerk to action.

CSM124/24/25 - PLANNING DECISIONS

The following planning decisions were noted:

Ref: DC/24/04750 - Householder Planning Application - Erection of oak framed ancillary outbuilding (following demolition of barn) - All Saints Barn, Low Lane, Creting St Mary – **Refused**

Ref: DC/24/04598 - Householder Application - Erection of a single storey rear extension - 13 St Mary's Road, Creting St Mary – **Granted**

Ref: DC/24/03674 - Householder Application - Erection of double garage with garden store (following demolition of existing outbuildings) - 3 All Saints Road, Creting St Mary – **Refused**

Ref: DC/24/05084 - Full Planning Application - Alterations and single storey side extension to Breheny Group HQ Office - Breheny Group HQ Office, Creting Works, Flordon Road, Creting St Mary – **Granted (Subject to conditions)**

CSM125/24/25 – TO RECEIVE THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

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

He briefly went through the Devolution item bringing it to the attention of the Councillors.

CSM126/24/25 - 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.

Cllr Hicks also talked about the Devolution and the intention of Suffolk becoming Unitary Councils. He explained that the Government wanted Business Plans by August and Suffolk County Council had applied.

He briefly went through his report on the following issues:

- Budget – over £800 million – 75p in every pound of the budget would be spent on Adult and Children’s Services.
- £40 million for roads – New contractor proving to be an improvement with better quality of works carried out. More potholes had been filled than previously and more positive feedback was being received.
- Council Tax – increase of 2.49%

Cllr Plummer asked for an update on the proposed pylons to which Cllr Hicks replied that it wasn’t looking good. He explained that a consultation had commenced where members of the public could have their say with drop in sessions for residents taking place.

CSM127/24/25 – 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 24th January 2025 was £41,306.63.

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

The Clerk reported the following payments be authorised:-

Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Pay (Dec)	£436.98
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Office Allowance/Exp (Dec)	£34.33
HMRC	PAYE to end of 5th Jan	£29.20
CFB IT Solutions	Mailbox Hosting (Dec)	£6.00
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Pay (Jan)	£436.98
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Office Allowance/Exp (Jan)	£4.80
Great Bricett PC	Black Ink Cartridge - reimbursement	£27.15
CFB IT Solutions	Mailbox Hosting (Jan)	£6.00
Red Cow Ltd	Hay Cut & Removal - Blacksmiths Field	£648.00
Vertas Group Ltd	Grass Cutting (Jan-Mar 2025)	£412.75

It was AGREED: That payments totaling £1,605.24 be approved.

d) **FINAL BUDGET FOR 2025/26**

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

e) **PRECEPT FOR 2025/26**

It was AGREED: That the Precept of £11,686 for 2025/26 be approved. **Clerk to action.**

CSM128/24/25 – SUFFOLK DAY

Cllr Plummer explained that on 21st June 2025, an old fashioned fete was being planned for Suffolk Day. Ideas being investigated included a Dog Show, WI tent selling cakes, Fire Engine, Vikings reenactment, Tug of War, Punch and Judy plus lots more.

The Clerk was asked to contact Dynamic Fireworks to look into silent fireworks and what £500 would buy.

The Tug of War would be a competition, possibly with teams from other parishes.

If anyone had any ideas they were asked to contact the Social Club, as well as any residents who could volunteer with the plans and help out on the day.

CSM129/24/25 – UPDATE - VILLAGE HALL FRONT CAR PARK

There was nothing to report.

CSM130/24/25 – SCHOOL FLASHING SIGNAGE

The Clerk reported that she needed to complete an application for a license for the signs, which asked questions for example, depth of excavation. Members suggested that the Clerk liaise with Matt Deeley from MJDAGRI Services, who had carried out various works for the Parish Council in the past, and ask for a quote. **Clerk to action.**

Exact locations for the signs would be required and Cllr Palmer agreed to take photographs of the proposed locations the following day which she would send to the Clerk.

The Clerk stated that following an application made by the School for a Lollipop person, an update had not been received. **Clerk to chase.**

CSM131/24/25 – DUNCHES LANE

Dunches Lane was a valuable bridleway/C road that connected All Saints Road with The Lords Highway. During the winter months and even for a good part of the rest of the year, the top section was very boggy and waterlogged, which seriously deterred from its use as a right of way.

A site meeting had been held on 25th January 2025 where Cllrs Haynes, Palmer and Broodryk had been present along with Matt Deeley (MJDAGRI Services) and William Barnes.

It was ascertained that the main problem was that the first section of the Lane to the point where the gradient steepened. That section was undulating and below road level. Accordingly, water flowed from the road, and probably also percolated out from the south side, and was then held in the lower parts creating ponding and waterlogged ground.

Lower down, the trackway had a gully to the north side but was quite uneven and would get worse with the erosion from water flowing down it, again some from the top section and probably some percolating in from the side banks.

It was felt that the way forward would be in stages, allowing the Parish Council to see the impact of a first limited change before committing to further action and further spend. If that seemed reasonable then the following might be reasonably economical and have the least impact in terms of changing the character of the lane:

Wait until a period of better weather and more sunshine had enabled the lane to dry out to a substantial extent.

Close off the lane to traffic for a few days.

Excavate the soil from the first 20 to 30 yards to the depth of approx. nine inches spreading the soil along the next 100 yards to the point where the gradient increased, aiming to achieve a consistent gentle down slope towards the west end of this section.

Fill the excavated section with road planings, laid over Terram or similar permeable membrane, to ensure that the planings, when consolidated, were at a level just above the roadway grading the slope from the road edge to the higher point.

With a small excavator, improve the flatness of the steeper sections of the lane by scraping down along the track, cutting away material where appropriate on the south side of the track and using any surplus material to reduce the depth of the gully on the north side of the steep section so that it was less of a hazard to horse riders and cyclists while still acting as a conduit for any rainwater that needed to run down the track.

It was felt that this alone may be sufficient to reduce the water flow onto the land and remove the problem of pooling and bogginess in the upper sections. If it turned out not to be enough then a second phase could look at replacing more of the soil on the next 100 meters with more road planings in order to make the trackway more resilient in periods of wet weather, albeit that there might then be a need to consider how to get rid of the greater amount of water that might then be routed into the next section of lane. A third phase could involve putting a land drain along the steeper sections of the lane, likely where the gully was now. That would involve larger expense and raise the question as to where the water was to go to.

Members suggested that locality funding could be sought.

CSM132/24/25 – MEMORIAL FOR PAUL SCULLY

A further discussion took place in relation to the location for a memorial bench for Cllr Paul Scully who passed away last year.

The verge near to Two Acres was discussed and would be investigated further. The landowner would need to be approached in order to acquire permission.

CSM133/24/25 – REPORTS

Blacksmiths Field – Cllr Palmer’s report had been circulated prior to the meeting. She had nothing further to add.

SALC – Cllr Coton had nothing to report.

Footpaths – Cllr Mitchell reported that footpath 5 (at the Boardwalk) was currently closed and would be for six months. This was because of the boardwalk being severely damaged.

Village Hall – There was nothing to report.

Sustainability – Cllr Craggs had nothing to report.

CSM134/24/25 - MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL

- Cil monies expected
- Ruby Homes Development – play equipment – no updates received

CSM135/24/25 - DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was AGREED: That the next meeting would be held on Thursday, 6th March 2025.

The meeting finished at 9pm.

Chairman: Dated: