



## **CREETING ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at the Village Hall, Creeting St Mary on  
**Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 7.30pm.**

### **Present:**

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

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

### **CSM01/25/26 – TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE**

Apologies had been received from Cllr Palmer and Cllr Craggs.

### **CSM02/25/26 - TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None had been received.

### **CSM03/25/26 – TO RECEIVE APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION**

None had been received.

### **CSM04/25/26 - TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2025**

**It was AGREED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2025 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

### **CSM05/25/26 – PUBLIC FORUM**

Three members of the public were present.

No items were raised.

### **CSM06/25/26 - 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 reported on the Devolution deal and explained that two proposals had been submitted to the Government. The first, which Suffolk County Council proposed, was for one Council for the whole of Suffolk. That would mean savings of £104 million.

The second, which the District Council had favoured, would be for two or three Councils across Suffolk. That option would cost £52 million more than the system currently in place.

He confirmed that further consultations would be held during the Summer.

In relation to the Tilbury to Bramford Pylons proposal he reported that the National Grid had tweaked the detail and it seemed that the proposal would be going ahead.

In relation to the 30mph speed limit being installed for the Creeping Bottoms end of All Saints Road, the report had been finalised and submitted. The results of the proposals could take up to eight weeks.

## **CSM07/25/26 – TO RECEIVE THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

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

## **CSM08/25/26 – TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL MATTERS**

### **a) CLERKS REPORT**

The Clerk reported that she had received an email from a resident at Creeping Hills. The email had brought to the attention of the Parish Council that a large driveway was under construction which encroached onto Cooles Green, Common Land owned by the Parish (not the Parish Council).

Concerns had been raised about the extent of the driveway, its positioning, change of use for two businesses on the adjacent land with no planning permission having been sought.

Cllr Haynes reported that in relation to the 'businesses' the resident building the driveway kept bees as a hobby. As part of that hobby it was her understanding that he would often show keen bee keepers what to do and advise them, but did not profit from this.

It was noted that the resident who had contacted the Parish Clerk had reported the issues to Enforcement at the District Council, which would have been the suggestion in the first instance.

Cllrs agreed to wait to see what action Enforcement would take. **Clerk to reply to resident.**

### **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 10<sup>th</sup> April 2025 was £35,734.42.

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

The Clerk reported the following payments be authorised:-

SALC	Payroll for 6 months	£54.00
SALC	Membership Renewal	£379.75
MJD Agri Services	Dunches Lane works - stage 1	£4,514.40
CFB IT Solutions	Mailbox Hosting (Apr)	£7.20
NBB Recycled Furniture	Memorial Bench (church)	£612.00
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Pay (Apr)	£436.98
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Office Allowance/Exp (Apr)	£34.33
Vertas Group Ltd	Grass Cutting	460.22

**It was AGREED:** That payments totaling £6,498.88 be approved.

The Clerk reported the following payments be ratified:-

HMRC	PAYE to end 5th April	£9.60
DHF Products Ltd	Flashing Signage (All Saints Road)	£2,824.80

The following receipts were noted:-

Refund - Gold Maintenance Plan - Jacks Green Rd SID	£689.38
Recycling Bin Credit	£93.33

d) **DOMAIN NAME FOR WEBSITE AND CLERK'S EMAIL**

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had received notification from Suffolk County Council that email addresses and website ending in **suffolk.gov.uk** were being stopped at the end of April.

Following consultation with the Chair and Councillors of the Parish Council the Clerk liaised with the host of the website, Suffolk.Cloud, who changed the domain of the website moving forward. Within the domain for the website a new email address for the Clerk was included.

**It was AGREED:** That the change of domain for the website be ratified along with the new email address for the Clerk.

**CSM09/25/26 – PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

None had been received.

**CSM10/25/26 - PLANNING DECISIONS**

None had been received.

**CSM11/25/26 – FIREWORK NIGHT ARRANGEMENTS**

The Parish Council had been asked by the Social Club for confirmation of the purchase of fireworks for the Firework Night event in November. They also asked for 300 sparklers, an increase due to the popularity.

The fireworks were suggested to be quieter ones and be delivered and stored in the container at the Village Hall. Insurance quotes for the event also needed to be sought nearer the time.

**It was AGREED:** That the Parish Council purchase the fireworks and 300 sparklers. **Clerk to action.**

**CSM12/25/26 – SELF HELP SCHEME**

Councillors were interested in joining the scheme, but felt more information was needed, such as how long the training days were, when they took place and also a list of jobs that could be carried out under the scheme. **Clerk to gather more information.**

**CSM13/25/26 – SCHOOL PLAYGROUND / DISABLED PARKING BAY**

Nicci Beanie, Chair of the PSA at the Primary School was present and reported on the state of the playground at the school. She also reported the school's financial position and that the PSA were trying to help alleviate costs by trying to find outside funding for this project.

Large cracks had emerged on the surface and the condition of the playground was generally poor. It needed resurfacing and the Parish Council were asked if a contribution could be made from their CiL pot.

Nicci explained that quotes had been received which had been in the area of £9,000 with the highest being £17,000.

Members were concerned to hear the condition of the playground and the school's financial position. They felt that due to the level of funding needed the CiL pot at the District Council would be a more appropriate option and full funding should be applied for.

The Clerk stated that the next round of CiL funding from the District Council would be in May and all Clerks were usually notified by email. Once the email had been received the Clerk would forward all the necessary details to Nicci. **Clerk to action.**

## **CSM14/25/26 – ZIP WIRE SERVICE CONTRACT**

Following confirmation from the installer of the Zip Wire that he would heighten the seat for free, the Clerk reported that an invoice had been received for the heightening of the seat plus the servicing of the Zip Wire, which had not been asked for.

Members discussed the regularity of the need to heighten the seat and that it did not seem right. Therefore, the Clerk was asked to contact other parishes who'd had a Zip Wire installed to compare notes on maintenance and servicing. **Clerk to action.**

## **CSM15/25/26 – NOTICEBOARDS**

Cllr Plummer suggested that a noticeboard be explored for installation at the Breheny housing development site, on Flordon Road, where the new walkway had been constructed.

It was suggested that the Clerk liaise with Breheny over permission for the noticeboard and whether they could install it. **Clerk to action.**

## **CSM16/25/26 – REDUNDANT FOOTPATH**

Cllr Haynes raised the issue of the footpath that went by the side of a property at Creting Hills towards the A14 then stopped. She felt that as the footpath was redundant it should be removed.

Cllr Mitchell reported that she had already raised the redundant footpath last year with the Footpaths Officer for the area, who had explained what a lengthy and costly process it would be. As it did not actually go anywhere she had stated that the footpath would be better just being left.

## **CSM17/25/26 – UPDATE ON SUFFOLK DAY**

There was nothing to report.

## **CSM18/25/26 - VILLAGE SIGN**

The Clerk reported that she had received three replies in relation to the survey for the reproduction of the village sign.

All replies had suggested the design of the sign be kept, but perhaps modernised by using colour. Also, a new post and stone base be included in the project.

The Clerk knew of other parishes that were refurbishing their signs and would liaise with those to obtain quotes and advice as to who to use and where to source materials. She would report back to a future meeting.

**It was AGREED:** That the design of the village sign would stay the same with colour being used replacing the black. Also the post be replaced and a base be constructed.

## **CSM19/25/26 – DUNCHES LANE**

It was confirmed that the first stage of works to Dunches Lane had been carried out.

Members stated that whilst it had been much improved and it was felt that it may need leveling in some parts, it was agreed to leave it to settle and see what happened.

## **CSM20/25/26 - LILLEYS WOOD**

There was nothing to report.

### **CSM21/25/26 - VILLAGE HALL FRONT CAR PARK (LINE PAINTING / TYRES)**

Cllr Mitchell had painted a disabled space at the car park at the front of the village hall, which members thanked her for.

It was noted that Cllr Broodryk had attached reflectors onto the tyre which it was hoped would improve motorists by not driving up the kerb when entering the village hall car park.

### **CSM22/25/26 - SCHOOL FLASHING SIGNAGE**

The Clerk reported that the flashing signage had been ordered and was awaiting a delivery date. She confirmed that Breheny's had agreed to install the signs for free as a good will gesture to the village. It was agreed that the signage be stored in the container until installation.

### **CSM23/25/26 – 30MPH – CREETING BOTTOMS**

There was nothing further to report.

### **CSM24/25/26 – REPORTS**

**Blacksmiths Field** – Cllr Palmer had circulated reports prior to the meeting.

**SALC** – Cllr Coton had nothing to report.

**Footpaths** – Cllr Mitchell had nothing to report.

**Village Hall** – Cllr Haynes had nothing to report.

**Sustainability** – There was nothing to report.

### **CSM25/25/26 - MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL**

No matters were raised.

### **CSM26/25/26 - DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**It was AGREED:** That the next meeting would be held on Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2025 (APM & APCM)

The meeting finished at 8.56pm.

Chairman: ..... Dated: .....