



## **CREETING ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at the Village Hall, Creeting St Mary on **Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at 7.30pm.**

### **Present:**

Councillors: S Haynes (Chair)  
P Scully  
R Coton  
N Smart  
J Palmer  
H Craggs

In Attendance: J Blackburn - Clerk  
County Cllr Hicks

### **CSM107/21/22 – PUBLIC FORUM**

There was one member of the public present.

### **CSM108/21/22 – TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE**

Apologies had been received from Cllr Plummer and District Cllr Norris.

### **CSM109/21/22 – TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None had been received.

### **CSM110/21/22 – TO RECEIVE APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION**

None had been received.

### **CSM111/21/22 - TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2021**

**It was AGREED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2021 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

### **CSM112/21/22 – 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 parish website.

He briefly went through his report stating the following:

- **Extra COVID-19 support heading to Suffolk** - Public health bosses in Suffolk had welcomed the Government's commitment to provide extra resources to help fight COVID-19 in the county. It came as pressure on the county's hospitals was reaching critical levels due to more people needing treatment - and some of the highest rates of infection in the country. A request for additional support was submitted by Public Health Suffolk - on behalf of public sector partners - and was intended to secure in additional support, funding and resources to help the NHS avoid unsustainable pressure.
- **Cabinet to study £50 million plan to boost Suffolk bus services** - It was announced that wider coverage, cheaper fares, improved ticketing, and better evening and weekend services were among proposals forming part of a £50 million plan. Following on from approval by the Suffolk

County Council Cabinet, the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) was submitted to the Government. Following on from the submission of the BSIP, the council, bus operators and other stakeholders would be working together to establish a countywide Enhanced Partnership, which would enable the BSIP proposals to be delivered, building on experience gained from the existing Ipswich Quality Bus Partnership. The funding bid was being made to the government's £3 billion fund under its Bus Back Better national bus strategy for England. Suffolk County Council would be asking for a minimum of £50m over three years - £15m each for the first two years and £20m for the third. Other proposed features included reviewing service frequency on Suffolk's key corridors, including evenings and weekend services, simplified services - including regular timetabled buses and 'demand-responsive' services, expanding the experimental Katch electric demand-responsive bus, which was currently being piloted between Framlingham and Campsea Ashe for Wickham Market station to other rural areas, identify and implement bus priority opportunities and changes to parking on key corridors, with particular focus on the 'last mile' where buses were delayed by congestion approaching key destinations, lower fares for those aged up to 25, contactless touch-on and touch-off ticketing and daily fare caps, multi-operator ticketing to expanding rail and bus ticket options (PlusBus) and develop existing park and ride sites as mobility hubs and identify new ones to serve rural areas or new development sites and explore merging Ipswich's two bus stations into one main hub.

- **Lorry Route Plan review in Suffolk** - The technical and community led review of lorry routes that considered changes to the highway network since the plan was updated in 2011. This included new strategic roads, new Lorry Watch areas and Air Quality Management Areas in Suffolk.

The review would involve two parts and would update and validate the County Council's existing lorry route network plan. The technical review was currently taking place.

The community led review would run from **22 October 2021** to **17 December 2021**. Suffolk County Council was seeking the views of Parish and Town Councils about their local issues and intelligence. Information would be gathered by a survey sent to all of Suffolk's Parish and Town Councils and their County Councillor would then be asked to endorse the key issues for their area. Each local council would be limited to three issues within their community to ensure fair and equal representation across the county. The review would be completed in Spring **2022** where the County Council plan to publish a new interactive Lorry Route map.

Cllr Craggs asked Cllr Hicks about changes to bus routes to which Cllr Hicks explained that since the pandemic there had been a decrease in the use of buses.

Cllr Scully commented that there would need to be a great deal of encouragement for members of the public to use buses again.

#### **CSM113/21/22 – TO RECEIVE THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – CLLRS NORRIS & CLLR PHILLIPS**

Cllr Norris was not present at the meeting. His report had been circulated prior to the meeting and would be published on the parish's website.

#### **CSM114/21/22 - TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL MATTERS**

##### **a) CLERKS REPORT**

The Clerk reported that bookings for Parish Council meetings had seemed to have been lost which had resulted in the change of date due to the lounge not being available on the Parish Council's meeting date of 29<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

Due to a large amount of bookings from a particular fitness group the lounge's availability was limited with Tuesday evenings being an option albeit Yoga was in the main hall, which could be an issue with regards to the class needing quiet.

Following a brief discussion:

**It was AGREED:** That the Clerk look at other days, particularly Thursdays for future meetings of the Parish Council.

The Clerk reported that the gate money from the Firework Night had been received from the Social Club which totaled £1,740.00. A debate took place as to whether the extra money, over the amount paid for fireworks, should be given back to the Social Club. It was felt that the extra money should be kept by the Parish Council and would be used in the future should a shortfall occur.

She also reported that she had received the quote for the laying of a concrete pad on which the replacement bench would be installed on the Village Green. The quote had been received from TJB Construction, who had carried out the works at the front of the Village Hall, and was for £920. CiL money would be used for the works.

The Clerk asked for members' approval of signing up to the Payroll Services offered by Suffolk Association of Local Councils (SALC) at a cost of £7.50 per month (net). The Clerk currently did her own payroll and she felt that she would prefer it to be carried out by SALC. She confirmed she had asked her other parishes for the same, which had been approved.

**It was AGREED:** That the Parish Council keep all funds received at the gate on Fireworks to cover any shortfall.

That the quote for the concrete pad for the replacement bench on the Green be accepted. **Clerk to action.**

That the Clerk liaise with SALC to take over the payroll service for the Clerk's pay. **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 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2021 was £25,194.48.

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

The Clerk reported the following payments be authorised:-

Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Pay (Nov)	£299.78
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Office Allowance / Expenses (Nov)	£36.81
MSDC	Annual Play Inspections	£121.30
CFB IT Solutions	Mailbox Hosting (Nov)	£6.00
CFB IT Solutions	Mailbox Hosting (Dec)	£6.00
TJB Construction	Concrete pad and steps - front of village hall	£2,870.00
MH Goals	Replacement Goal Posts - Blacksmiths Field	£1,591.20
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Pay (Dec)	£299.78
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Office Allowance / Expenses (Dec)	£34.33

**It was AGREED:** That payments totaling £5,265.20 be approved.

It was also noted that a payment for £69.42 to Cllr Scully for a replacement Strimmer Line Cartridge be ratified.

**d) DRAFT BUDGET 2022/23**

**It was AGREED:** That the draft Budget for 2022/23 be approved.

## **CSM115/21/22 - PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**Ref: DC/21/06446** - Householder Application - Erection of single storey rear extension (amended scheme and re-submission of DC/21/02041) - The Almonds, Flordon Road, Creeting St Mary

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

## **CSM116/21/22 - PLANNING DECISIONS**

**It was NOTED:** The following planning applications had been received:-

**Ref: DC/21/04657** - Householder Application - Erection of rear single storey flat roof extension with glass screen balcony above (replacing existing Juliette balcony) - 66 All Saints Road, Creeting St Mary – **Granted**

**Ref: DC/21/04780** - Proposal & Location of Development: Full Planning Application - Erection of 3 No. dwellings - Land to The North of, All Saints Road, Creeting St Mary – **Granted**

**Ref: DC/21/04696** - Householder Planning Application - Erection of a two storey rear extension and single storey front porch (re-submission of DC/21/02923) - 37 All Saints Road, Creeting St Mary - **Granted**

## **CSM117/21/22 – MAINTENANCE PLAN FOR SPEED SIGNS**

The Clerk reported that the Service Plan was due for renewal for the speed sign on Jacks Green Road. The speed sign on All Saints Road needed to be added if members agreed as it's warranty had now expired.

**It was AGREED:** That both speed signs have a Gold Maintenance Plan in place at a cost of £424.30 (net) and that the payment be ratified.

## **CSM118/21/22 – RIVER GIPPING TRUST**

Prior to the meeting the Clerk circulated updated information received from The River Gipping Trust on the new footpath bridge at Baylham. The Trust had forwarded information for organisations that wished to make a contribution to outstanding works.

**It was AGREED:** That an initial donation of £500 had already been made and that a further contribution would not be made.

## **CSM119/21/22 – HGV ROUTES CONSULTATION**

It was noted that Creeting St Mary was not/would not be affected by lorry routes and therefore no comments needed to be made.

## **CSM120/21/22 – UPDATE ON GRASS CUTTING**

The Clerk reported that Vertas had yet to provide a quote for the cutting of the Village Green. Mid Suffolk District Council had recently cut the area and had taken away the cuttings due to the long length of the grass. They were happy to resume the cutting of the green but had confirmed that the cuttings would not be taken away in the future.

Cllr Craggs wanted it to be noted that following the results of the recent 'Mow it' or 'Leave it for the Bees' survey and the decision of the Parish Council to revert to cutting the Village Green and grassed triangle at Jacks Green Road, he was very disappointed in the decision made to not leaving these two areas to grow wild. He felt very strongly that in a year of COP26 residents and members of the Parish Council alike had made this decision.

Cllr Haynes stated that there were other areas in the village, such as Blacksmiths Field, that were left to grow wild.

### **CSM121/21/22 - ADOPTION OF VILLAGE GREEN AND JACKS GREEN TRIANGLE**

The Clerk had circulated an email from County Cllr Hicks which confirmed that adoption of the Village Green, All Saints Road, and Jacks Green Triangle would not be possible.

### **CSM122/21/22 – LILLEY’S WOOD**

The Clerk confirmed that the legalities of the transfer of this site to the ownership of the Parish Council had been completed.

Cllr Craggs confirmed that he would like to be the lead on this but was very busy at present. He would come back to members in the future when more time to him was available.

Cllr Coton felt that signs should be erected stating that the site was Parish Council owned and that they would accept no liability for any accidents or incidents, enter at own risk, no dog fouling etc. **Clerk to action.**

### **CSM123/21/22 – PLAY AREA INSPECTIONS REPORTS**

Cllr Palmer reported that the recent Play Area Inspection had listed some maintenance requirements to parts of the play equipment. She explained that whilst a representative from Sovereign was onsite discussing the broken bridge post she had raised the reports' findings.

She had received quotes from Sovereign to rectify the issues raised in the inspection report which were queried by Councillors. Cllr Palmer agreed to go back and query the quotes given and would report back to the next meeting.

### **CSM124/21/22 – GOAL POSTS**

The Clerk reported that the goal posts were due to be delivered on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021.

### **CSM125/21/22 – GATE TO BLACKSMITHS FIELD**

It was noted that William Barnes had suggested that due to the poor condition of the gate to Blacksmiths Field a metal bar, similar to the one at the entrance to the Village Hall's car park, be installed.

**It was AGREED:** That a metal bar gate would be beneficial and a quote be sought.

### **CSM126/21/22 – DITCH AT SIDE OF VILLAGE HALL**

Cllr Palmer reported that she was opposed to having a gate opening at the All Saints Road end of the newly laid pathway alongside the Village Hall. She explained that if heavy vehicles to cut the hedgerow were used it would churn up the mud and make a mess across the pathway.

Volunteers had cut the hedge by hand and it was felt that if better equipment was purchased, such as longer hedge trimmers, cutting the hedgerow by hand would be more appropriate to ensure the area was kept neat and damage free.

Wildflowers would be grown either side of the pathway.

**It was AGREED:** That a gateway would not be installed at the All Saints Road end of the new pathway for cutting equipment access.

## **CSM127/21/22 - REPORTS**

**Blacksmiths Field** – Cllr Palmer had nothing further to report.

**SALC** – Cllr Coton reported that the last forum was held via Zoom with poor attendance. At that forum the following items were discussed:

- The Lorry Route consultation was due to end on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021
- A webinar on CiL and what it could be used for was planned
- Parish Infrastructure Plans (PIP)
- 20 mph speed limits were not enforceable
- Bus Services
- Queens Green Canopy

**Footpaths** – Cllr Scully reported the following:

- FP28 (The Highwayman), was overgrown and he would be writing to ask for it to be trimmed back.
- No update on the proposed FP on Flordon Road had been received.
- The River Path reported on at the last meeting was virtually complete and whilst passable work still needed to be completed.
- FP58 – river FP to Stowmarket – there was going to be a diversion to Ravens Farm which had been planned for many years with there being no sign of it being completed.

Cllr Scully also reported that he had been contacted by a resident on Fen Lane who had stated that his water supply came down Dunches Lane and had got to be repaired. The ownership of Dunches Lane had been queried.

Cllr Craggs confirmed that Dunches Lane was a C-road and therefore owned by Highways.

**Village Hall** – Cllr Haynes reported that the Village Hall Management Committee had a meeting due to be held next week.

**Sustainability** – Cllr Craggs reported that in order to help screen the A14 trees would be planted down the hill from the Church on All Saints Road to the left.

## **CSM128/21/22 - MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL**

- Pothole outside Brehenys. **Clerk to report.**
- Bosch Tools needed to be maintained. **Member of public present was willing to consider.**

## **CSM129/21/22 - DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**It was AGREED:** That the next meeting date was to be confirmed.

The meeting finished at 9.35pm

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