

Creeting St Peter Parish Council

MINUTES of the Meeting held at the Church Hall,
Creeting St Peter at 7.30pm Monday, 4th April 2016

PRESENT:

Cllr M Peacock (*Vice Chairman*)
Cllr S Lawson
Cllr D Mason

IN ATTENDENCE:

Mrs J Blackburn (*Clerk*)
District Cllr Keith Welham
Richard Hitt

APOLOGIES:

PCSO David Harvey (Police)
Cllr Gary Green

CSP143/16 PUBLIC FORUM

No Members of the Public were present.

CSP144/16 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from the Police and Cllr Gary Green.

CSP145/16 TO NOTE THE RESIGNATION OF THE CHAIRMAN, COUNCILLOR STEVE ASHCROFT

It was reported that the Chairman had tendered his resignation with immediate effect and it was noted that notice of the casual vacancy had been issued in accordance with the proper procedures.

All Members of the Parish Council joined in passing a vote of thanks to Steve Ashcroft for his dedicated service to the Parish Council during his term of office which had extended over a period of 8 years.

CSP 146/16 TO CONSIDER THE APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr Mason proposed that Cllr Machala Peacock be elected as Chairman. This was seconded by Cllr Lawson. **Decision** - Cllr Peacock was duly elected Chairman.

CSP147/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

CSP148/16 APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION

None had been received.

CSP149/16 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 25th January 2016

The minutes of the meeting held on 25th January 2016 were approved as a true record and were duly signed by the Chair.

CSP150/16 CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR

It was reported that at the previous meeting in January Richard Hitt had expressed an interest in becoming a Member of the Parish Council. **Decision** - It was proposed and resolved to co-opt Richard Hitt with immediate effect. **Clerk to action**. This still left one vacancy which the Clerk will advertise following the correct procedures.

Clerk

CSP151/16 POLICE REPORT (report attached)

PSCO David Harvey stated in his report that he had researched the crimes for Creeting St Peter

between the dates of 07/01/2016 to 22/03/2016. He advised that there was one recorded investigation for Creeting St Peter, which was a live investigation with enquiries ongoing.

CSP152/16 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT – CLLR KEITH WELHAM (report attached)

Clr Welham reported that the Public Inquiry into the refusal of permission for the development of 170 houses on land between Gipping Road and Church Road, Stowupland started at 10.00 am on Tuesday 26 April. It was open for the public to go along to listen to the arguments put forward by both sides especially as they had now altered the design. The first session on 26 April would be to hear what the programme for the inquiry would be. If the development were to go ahead, it would affect a wider area than just Stowupland as it would connect at Creeting Lane which would increase the amount of traffic in the area.

Clr Welham also reported that from 11th April if someone wanted to build a house with a flat roof a levy would need to be paid.

Finally, Cllr Welham explained to Members that the Local Plan was two years out of date and therefore needed to be updated. He added that because of this and also because the Mid-Suffolk District's (MDS) Local Plan was also out of date MDS could not claim the New Homes Bonus, which replaced the Support Grant, so they would miss out.

CSP153/16 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT – CLLR GARY GREEN

Clr Green was absent and had not sent a report.

CSP154/16 CLERK'S REPORT AND MATTERS ARISING

The Clerk reported that she had information to give to Cllrs further on in the meeting when the specific items arose.

CSP155/16 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a) Consultation of 'Link Road' access between Phase 1 and Phase 2 of The Stowmarket Business & Enterprise Park – 1041/16

Members had a discussion relating to this application. One issue was whether the link road was to be lit and if so what sort of lighting would be involved. Cllr Mason explained that the link road would be at the top of the hill which would be higher than the tree line, therefore making the lighting an environmental issue. Clerk to ascertain more information regarding the lighting. Members were also concerned as to what the link road was actually linking to. In all they felt they should object to the planning application in light of needing more information before making a decision. Clerk to Action.

Clerk

b) Erection of a Grain Dryer. Erection of a new Silo at Muntons plc, Needham Road, Stowmarket – 1607/16

Following a brief discussion Members had no objections to this planning application. Clerk to Action.

Clerk

CSP156/16 FINANCE

a) CLERK'S FINANCE REPORT (report attached) - 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 as of 29th March 2016 was £11,862.18.

b) AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS – Decision – Payments had been made totalling £1,044.30 were ratified as follows:-

159.58
51.56
159.58

Jennie Blackburn
Jennie Blackburn
Jennie Blackburn

Clerk's Salary (February)
Clerk's Expenses (February)
Clerk's Salary (March)

	111.58	Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Expenses (March)	
	105.00	Creeting St Peter PCC	Hall Hire	
	168.00	Command Pest Control	Mole Hills (Play Area)	
	175.00	Creeting St Peter Parochial	Contribution towards application for Church Council for extra burial land	
	114.00	Earthworks	Boardwalk Repairs	
Payments totalling £220.28 were authorised as follows:-				
	99.00	Old Newton with Dagworth & Gipping Parish Council	Councillor Training	
	121.28	Stowmarket Town Council	Grass Cutting	
c) APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR				
Decision - It was agreed to appoint Suffolk Association of Local Councils (SALC) to provide an independent and competent internal audit service to the Parish Council. Clerk to action. It was also noted that BDO would again be the External Auditor.				Clerk
CSP157/16 REVIEW OF INTERNAL CONTROL AND RISK MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS				
Decision - Internal Control and Risk Management Arrangements were reviewed and approved.				
CSP158/16 ADOPTION OF AMENDED STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS				
Decision - Amended Standing Orders and Financial Regulations were adopted.				
CSP159/16 THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL				
a) Grant – to further consider the request for funding from the Parochial Church Council for the church building.				
Following advice from SALC the Clerk advised Members that it would be 'unlawful' as to provide financial support to churches in general was restricted as stated in the 1894 Local Government Act – section 8(1)(i) and (k) which gave <i>Councils the power to execute any works but excluded property relating to the affairs of the church.</i>				
b) Working with the Parochial Church Council				
Cllr Peacock explained to Members that she had had a conversation with a Member from the Parochial Church Council in relation to the two bodies sending a representative to attend each other's meetings. The Church played a large part of the village holding many events and she felt it would benefit the village to work alongside the Church Council. Members were in agreement of this.				
The Clerk reported upon the legal position which was that the Parish Council and the Parochial Church Council were two separate entities and that whilst there could be some degree of collaboration over matters that affected the village, there had to be a clear legal basis for any joint initiatives that involved the use of Parish Council funds. All agreed.				
CSP160/16 THE QUEEN'S 90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS				
Following a brief discussion Members agreed they would hold a stall at this event. A Village Treasure Map was agreed where people could pick a building/square and the one who had chosen the building/square that held the treasure underneath it would be the winner. Cllr Dan Mason to draw the map.				
CSP161/16 TELEPHONE BOX/NOTICEBOARD				
Following past discussions it was noted that the telephone box could not be used as a bookstore because it had an opening around the bottom which would entice vermin. Following a brief discussion Members agreed that the telephone box should be taken away and the concrete base be used for a new noticeboard. Clerk to communicate with BT.				

<p>CSP 162/16 PLAY AREA UPDATE</p> <p>Cllr Mason reported that there were ongoing projects at the Play Area which included:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wild planting area – to encourage wildlife – Cllr Mason to action • Cooking Apple Tree to be planted in the memory of Keith Sheldrake – villagers will then be able to go and pick the apples to use. • Surface under the seesaw – Cllr Mason to contact FLP Leisure <p>The Clerk reported that Command Pest Control had been to the play area to lay traps for the mole hills that were currently present. Money for this had been received from the Mid-Suffolk District Council's Locality Grant Budget. The remaining money would be used for the ground to be flattened. Clerk to obtain 3 quotes.</p>	Cllr Mason Cllr Mason Cllr Mason Clerk
<p>CSP163/16 FEN ALDER CARR LOCAL NATURE RESERVE UPDATE</p> <p>The Clerk reported that the boardwalk continually needed repairing and a lot of money was being spent in order to keep this maintained. Members agreed to all meet at the Nature Reserve in order to agree a way forward with the boardwalk and the reserve as a whole. Clerk to arrange a date.</p> <p>Members questioned how often the Working Parties that David Hughes, Woodlands Officer, at the District Council, held and the equipment used. Also, what funding could be sought for future maintenance of this area. Clerk to contact David Hughes.</p>	Clerk/All Clerk
<p>CSP164/16 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC</p> <p>There were no Members of the public present and no matters to discuss.</p>	
<p>CSP 165/16 MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL</p>	
<p>i) Cllr Mason:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over the bridge, Buzzard Rise, the ruts had been filled but the road remained in a sunken state. • Speed limit reduction still ongoing • Two cars continually parked outside telephone box. • Hippo bags at another property on Peterhouses remained as the District Council had still not removed them. • Footpath 63 – broken sign which results in people walking through the farm. Clerk to report. • Street Lighting in the village – very old – could anything be done to modernise them? 	Clerk
<p>ii) Cllr Lawson:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exiting The Lane – Clerk explained that concave mirrors were not an option as Highways had stated they were too much of a distraction. The owners of the two houses on the corners needed to be contacted directly. • Potholes on the bridge seem to keep re-appearing. Clerk to report. 	Clerk
<p>iii) Cllr Peacock:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Footpath 17 – stile broken – needs to be repaired. Brambles also need attention. • Footpath 23 – River Gipping between 15 & 14 – the bridge only has 1 plank and one of the side panels up so needs repairing. Clerk to report. 	Clerk
<p>Clr Peacock informed Members that she would be doing a monthly walk of all Footpaths in the area.</p> <p>CSP166/16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The date of the next meeting was set for Monday, 16th May 2016 at 7.30pm. The Annual Parish Meeting will commence at 7.30pm which will then be followed by The Annual Parish Council Meeting at 8pm.</p>	

Meeting closed at 9.55pm.

Chairman Date