

# CREATON PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Councillor James Hill

## Minutes of a Meeting of Creaton Parish Council Held on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2015 in the Village Hall, Teeton Lane, Creaton at 7.30 pm

**Present:** Cllrs Michelle Aveyard, John Palmer, Jane Shanks, Reg. Thomas, Claire Thomas, Geoff White, and Sylvia Winter.

John Palmer also acted as Temporary Clerk. There were 10 member of the public in attendance.

In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice Chairman, Cllr Winter, took the chair.

### 09.01 **Declarations of interest.**

Councillor Winter declared an interest in the first item, 'change to planning permission of 27 High Street'. Cllr White took the chair for this item.

### 09.02 **Update on planning applications – Change of use 17 High Street, Creaton**

Councillors and members of the public alike paid tribute to Sylvia and David Winter for all their efforts in running the village shop and Post Office over many years. Whilst everyone was concerned at the impact on the village of the proposed closure and change of use, those present also recognised the practicalities of the situation.

Cllr Winter explained to the meeting the efforts that had been made over a considerable period of time to sell the business but that the only interest was in leasing the premises. This was not feasible as such an arrangement would leave David and Sylvia unable to live in the remains of the premises but without the capital to buy a house elsewhere.

It was pointed out that it didn't require planning consent to close the shop or Post Office, only to change usage from retail to domestic. David and Sylvia were quite entitled to close the business and leave the relevant area empty.

Discussions then took place regarding the continuation of the Post Office. Cllr Winter stated that the Post Office had confirmed its wish that the facility should continue in Creaton. The discussion then turned to possible alternative siting of the Post Office facility. A proposal was made that talks be initiated with the owners of the Bricklayers pub to see if a part of their premises could be given over to a Post Office/shop, it being considered to be a suitable location.

### 09.03 **Public forum**

.01 The meeting was given an update by developers of the proposed **development behind Courthouse Close**. A formal planning application would be made within the next month or so, prior to which the developers would be consulting with all those likely to be effected. This was noted.

.02 Representations were made regarding the **safety of children along Brixworth Road** when using the playing field on the opposite side of the road. It was reported that the number of children in the area was at its highest ever level and there were concerns about children's safety and the speed and volume of traffic on the road. A suggestion was made to install a zebra crossing as a means of improving safety, slowing down the speed of traffic, and making a formal link between the two sides of the road.

This was considered a good idea. There then followed a wide ranging discussion regarding various methods of slowing down traffic and making the area safer for children, including speed humps, speed activated warning signs, chicanes/road narrowing and extension of the 30 mile speed limit to further down Brixworth Road.

Each idea had its pros and cons and councillors noted that many of the proposals had been researched and rejected previously due to costs and other objections. The developers of the proposed development at Courthouse Close indicated their willingness to contribute to the costs of any agreed developments in this area.

The council agreed to research possible means of improving the road safety of that area of Brixworth Road.

### 09.04 **Apologies for absence.**

Apologies received and accepted from James Hill

### 09.05 **Minutes of Council meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> July 2105**

These were signed by Cllr Winter as a true record.

### 09.06 **Matters arising**

#### **Item 33.15(i) Village Hall charges**

Cllr Palmer advised that discussions had taken place with the committee and that the council's resolution had been accepted.

**09.07 External audit by BDO**

The clerk reported that the audit had been received and there were no adverse comments. Agreed that the report be accepted and the relevant bill paid.

**09.08 Highways issues**

**A) Annual walkabout**

An oral update was given. Letters have been sent to residents whose trees potentially affect the automatic timing on lights. The clearance of drains had also been reported to the Street Doctor which had confirmed that the work should be carried out within 3 months.

**B) Street lighting**

Cllr R Thomas talked to a report previously circulated setting out proposed action on replacing lamps on The Jetty/Horseshoe Close, one of which would trial LED lighting. The meeting authorised proceeding with acceptance of the tender at a cost of £3450 + VAT.

**C) Bus Stops**

Noted that the Welford Road bus stop was no longer used and that the sign and timetable would be dismantled. Concerns were expressed about the safety of the unofficial pick-up point opposite the Lytchgate on Violet Lane. Council agreed to investigate.

Further concern at the drop-off point for the school bus slightly further down the road by The Green. This is on a blind bend and students leave the bus and cross the road at both the front and back of the bus, with significant potential for accidents with traffic. Agreed that discussions should take place with Guilsborough school, and the highways authority asked to consider erecting a warning sign on the edge of the green.

**D) Footpath to Brampton Valley Way**

It was confirmed that this was outside Creaton Parish boundary but that a referral be made to the Street Doctor regarding the condition of the walkway from the hard standing by Brixworth station down to the Brampton Valley Way.

**E) Footpath highway gang**

Cllr Aveyard indicated that she was in touch with the manager of the gang and would press for further work on a number of issues, but thought that we had probably got as much out of the resource as was possible.

**09.09 Planning decisions**

Planning permission for demolition of car port, construction of garage, and cover over pool at 17 Welford Road had been approved.

**09.10 Police and Neighbourhood Watch**

There was nothing to report

**09.11 Defibrillator**

Cllr C Thomas was congratulated on her efforts on this matter. The appeal had raised all the monies required together with a surplus to help with running costs. Hollowell Steam rally had given a grant of £600.

Discussion were on-going with URC to site the defibrillator on the wall of the URC church underneath the 'Poppies' window. Cllr White to have discussions with Daventry DC regarding possible planning permission given its proposed location in the conservation area. The defibrillator was likely to be operational by the end of November.

**09.12 Christmas Village Event.**

Cllr Aveyard commented upon residents' suggestion that some form of village event be organised in December. After discussion it was agreed that Cllr Aveyard should explore the possibility of organising an event – possibly a drop-in facility at 'The Poppies' in December - recognising the need to avoid a clash with other seasonal activities, also examining the possibility of funds for the event.

**09.13 Correspondence for consideration**

**A) Soil sampling**

Agreement to a request from University of Reading on behalf of DEFRA to soil sample a patch of council owned land in conjunction with a national survey on background levels of asbestos.

**B) Code of Conduct**

Agreement to adopt revised code of conduct which differed from previous version by the alteration of two words to avoid ambiguity.

**C) Renewal of Creaton.org.uk web address.**

Agreed to renew for three years. additionally enquiries to be made to see if it is possible to have individual email addresses as sub-set of the site for each councillor

09.14 **Clerk vacancy and handover**

Oral report on issues surrounding the handover of Clerk's duties. It was noted that Cllr Palmer had taken on the role of Acting Clerk on a non-paid basis until a replacement clerk had been appointed.

It was noted that there had been only one applicant for the job and that an interview had yet to take place. The meeting decided that it would be prudent to re-advertise the vacancy to a wider audience in order to gain a pool of applicants to choose from.

09.15 **Urgent Matters**

The chair advised that Cllr Palmer wished to update on **Gigaclear broadband developments**.

At the request of the implementation manager a site meeting had been held the previous day to consider placement of a cabinet. This was proposed to be sited on Teeton Lane at the far end [Southern end] of the grassland opposite the village hall. This location was preferred as it was close to the main fibre-optic cable that already ran along the south side of Welford Road and would be next to an electricity pole that could be used for power.

After some discussion the cabinet will be sited parallel to the wall of 17 Welford Road at the back of the grass, so as to ensure minimal restrictions on parking and access.

Gigaclear intend to start laying the cables throughout the village starting late September and finishing before Christmas. They will have four gangs working at different parts of the village. They have confirmed that the cabling will be laid through verges wherever possible rather than digging into paths, with the exception of The Green, where they will be laid under perimeter pathways.

Historically they have completed all infrastructure before connection to the main cabling. However they have had problems when the contractor delivering the main cable to the village has not done their work and they have taken the flack for non-connection although not directly their fault. In Creaton the fibre optic cabling is already in place so they propose to allow customers to go live as soon as the cabling reaches their particular property.

Councillors had two issues which they wished to be relayed: firstly experience elsewhere suggested that the cabinet may emit a hum from the fan keeping the cabinet cool, so Gigaclear should consult those properties adjacent to the cabinet, and, secondly, the disruption that will be caused by the laying of cables should be explained to residents by way of a leaflet drop. Clerk to action.

09.16 **Date of next meeting**

Tuesday 3rd November 2015