

CREATON PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Councillor James Hill

Minutes of a Meeting of Creaton Parish Council Held on Tuesday 3rd November 2015 in the Village Hall, Teeton Lane, Creaton at 7.30 pm

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

John Palmer also acted as Temporary Clerk. There were 7 member of the public in attendance.

11.01 **Declarations of interest.**

Councillor White declared an interest in the planning proposal DA/2015/0425.

11.02 **Signing and approval of minutes**

There were no comments and the minutes were signed by Councillor Hill.

11.03 **Matters arising**

there were no matters arising.

11.04 **Public Forum**

The meeting was given a further update of the proposed development off Teeton Lane and the outcome of the recent consultation exercise with parishioners.

Over 200 households had been surveyed and 30 responses had been received ; 20 for and 10 against the proposal. In more detail 14 responses had called for more affordable housing and a further 2 responses called for more mid-range housing. Other issues identified included on-site parking, excessive pressure on the sewers, increase in traffic, perceived loss of village hall parking, and compensation for loss of land.

Discussions took place on a number of these points, the most important being the different perceptions and definitions of affordable housing.

The developers indicated that they were going away to consider the points made and to determine if any of the comments could be included in the formal proposals.

11.05 **Apologies for absence.**

There were no apologies

11.06 **Finance**

the clerk apologised for the lack of financial information caused in the most part by the lack of bank statements as a result of the combination of loss of clerk and closure of the branch of NatWest in Kingsthorpe. A full detail of income and expenditure and bank reconciliation would be circulated as soon as possible.

11.07 **Planning issues**

[1] Planning decisions

The council noted that permission had been given to change of use of 17 High Street to residential use.

[2] Planning applications

DA/2015/0425 Conversion to existing buildings 40 The Green
The council determined they had no observations to offer.

DA/2015/0967 & 10968 Work on trees in cemetery

This was an application by the council and required as the remedial work was within the conservation area. No further comment.

DA/2015/1009 Amended application on proposed eco house on Welford Road.

Council noted an amended scheme incorporating much of the concerns raised by various parties had been developed with the overall appearance being akin to a barn conversion. It appeared that the revised scheme was much more sympathetic to the surrounding area. The council determined to support the revised application.

- 11.08 **Police and Neighbourhood Watch**
Police had reported no crimes for the most recent period reported – June to August 2105. However it was noted that two crime had occurred during October – one being the theft of various items of agricultural nature from outhouses on a property on Welford road; the other being theft of jewellery from a house on The Green whilst the residents were on holiday.
- 11.09 **Defibrillator update**
Councillor Claire Thomas outlined recent developments; there was now £2200 raised, sufficient to purchase the defibrillator and provide for on-going maintenance charges; training and publicity were planned for early next year; wiring to existing URC electricity was being organised; and an SLA agreement needed to be developed. Clerk to draft.
- 11.10 **Pension scheme**
The council had been informed by the administrators of the local government pension scheme that if Creton PC did not offer a final salary pension to any newly recruited clerk then the council would be liable to a fixed fee of £5000+VAT for administration to close down the scheme together with any additional monies required to balance the existing scheme. The latter figure would have to be actuarially calculated in due course.
- The council were very critical of the situation which they found themselves in. They agreed that initially they would make their concerns be known through NCALC as the situation was not unique to Creton but was similar to that being experienced by other parish councils in the county.
- 11.11 **Christmas Village Event**
It had proved impracticable to organise an event before Christmas so it was agreed that an event would be arranged for early in the new year, probably in conjunction with the launch of the defibrillator.
- It was confirmed that a Christmas tree had been donated and would be erected on The Green on 1st December.
- 11.12 **Cemetery**
Councillor Aveyard advised that she had researched availability of National Heritage Fund grants to support work on improving the graveyard. Discussion had taken place with the Creton History Group and they had given their support to a joint application. Council approved their support to the application.
- 11.13 **Village footpaths**
it was confirmed that responsibility for upkeep and repair of footpaths was with the highways authority but that in practical terms they did not have the monies for maintenance. The council noted the situation and recognised that, without accepting legal responsibility, they would be seen by residents as responsible for their upkeep.
- Comment was made about slippery leaves at this time of year and the responsibility for keeping the paths safe. Some residents had kindly cleaned parts of the village, notably stretches of Violet Lane, the Knick Knacks, and areas around the Green. Council agreed that effort should be made to encourage parishioners to help keep the pathways clear.
- 11.14 **Bus Route**
Council advised that the issue of the school bus stopping at a dangerous point by The Green had been raised with Stagecoach and a response was awaited.
- 11.15 **Dog Fouling**
It was noted that new district council regulations regarding dog fouling were to come into effect from 1st December 2015 and that this would be publicised around the village.
- 11.16 **Community Infrastructure Levy**
A discussion took place on the effect of the implementation of these new regulations and the additional income that the PC would receive. It was noted that income would only happen when new houses were built and that there were restrictions as to how such additional income could be used. Potentially the levy could be of benefit to the parish but much of the fine print of the levy was yet to be determined.
- 11.17 **Burial register**
The clerk reported on the state of the register of burials and suggested an action plan to bring all records up to date. This was agreed.
- 11.18 **Clerk vacancy**
The previous advert had not produced a successful applicant and it was agreed to readvertise to a wider audience, including local shops, libraries and other parish noticeboards. Closing date for applications was agreed as 30th November.
- 11.19 **Urgent matters**

The clerk advised that there had been a request for the removal of a tree which appeared to have been planted by the council about 30 years ago. It was blocking light and views of the resident whose property was situated behind the tree.

Council agreed to its removal.

11.20 **Date of next meeting**
Tuesday 12th January 2106