

CREATON PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Councillor James Hill

Clerk: Felicity Ryan creatonpc@gmail.com 01604 740429

Minutes of a Village Meeting held by Creaton Parish Council

Held on **Tuesday 20th September 2016**

in the Village Hall, Creaton at **7.00 pm**

Present: Cllrs James Hill, Michelle Aveyard, Geoff White, Jane Shanks

Apologies: Cllr Reg Thomas, Cllr Sylvia Winter

23 members of the public were present.

1. **Welcome** – Cllr James Hill (Chairman) began by setting out the purpose of the meeting which was to establish the interest for setting up a community shop/post office following the presentation held at the Annual Parish Meeting held on 17th May 2016. The presentation from that meeting can still be accessed at creaton.org. David and Sylvia Winter want to dispose of the shop/post office but no buyer has been found.

2. **Short presentation from Elaine O’Leary, Chief Executive, Northamptonshire ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England)** – A number of options and discussion points were presented as follows: -

- Consideration should be given as to the site. Would this be at the existing place or another site? Need to consider passing trade, parking and viability of the project. Input could be given by local food suppliers to tailor the shop in line with the needs of the community, e.g. local produce
- There is an option to nominate the shop and post office as a Community Asset under the Community Right to Bid Scheme. This would delay any sale by six months while the community put together a bid.
- The Parish Council are not permitted to operate a shop. A Community Interest Company or a Community Co-operative (not for profit) would be good examples of how to operate.
- Funding and further guidance can be sought at the Community Rights website, My Community Rights, The Plunkett website.
- Funding can be sought from Crowdfunding, Public Works Loan Board (accessed by the Parish Council), Social Investment Bonds and Community Shares, Awards for All, Reaching Communities, Leader funding, as well as funds at locality level.
- A steering group should be set up considering the skills of the individuals. Useful to have people experienced in fund-raising, marketing, planning, websites etc. so the broadest range of skills are covered. She recommends 12-15 members including some parish councillors.
- If another site is to be found, checks will need to be made to ensure no restrictions exist on the land.
- Templates for all documents can be provided from ACRE and she will e mail us links to the sources mentioned in her presentation.

3. **Recap of previous discussion held during Annual Parish Meeting:**

3.1 Extract from Cllr Winter’s report - 17th May 2016

‘Update on Post Office -

David and I have still been unsuccessful in selling the business but that is still our preferred option. I did manage to organise a visit from a PO Field Change Advisor who confirmed that Post Office Ltd has every intention of trying to maintain a Post Office presence in Creaton. I will continue to work with PO Ltd to try and achieve this. All I ask is you try and use the Post Office as much as possible as any future decisions on the part of PO Ltd will be based on transactions. As a Parish Council we did go and look at the pub outbuildings but decided they would probably be too expensive to convert to PO standards. At this point in time David and I have no finish date in mind. I do have to give three month’s notice of my retirement to PO Ltd and everyone will be notified when that happens. Sylvia Winter’.

3.2 Link at <http://www.creaton.org.uk/index.asp?pageid=479816> to presentation from Peter James, Trustee with the Plunkett Co-operative Community Network and treasurer of Titchmarsh Village Shop which was delivered at the Annual Parish Meeting, 17th May 2016.

4. Property – where could the shop and PO be located?

- 4.1 High Street (current location)
- 4.2 Bricklayers Arms – using part of the main pub building
- 4.3 Bricklayers Arms – detached garage
- 4.4 Mr and Mrs Duck, Litchfield Lane – garage outbuilding
- 4.5 Teeton Lane – within the proposed residential development, at pre-application stage with DDC. Possibility of two interested parties running shop/po on that site.
- 4.6 Creaton Playing Field
- 4.7 Temporary Building – Could ‘test the water’ and establish a demand while a permanent building was sought.
- 4.8 Creaton Church – A village in Devon had set up a shop within their church

The possibility of having the post office involved was discussed. Grants are available from the Post Office to set up another site but this would have to be in a suitable building for security reasons.

Feasibility studies would need to be undertaken for each location.

5. Next steps...

Election of a Steering Group – A number of people expressed interest in forming a steering committee. Some individuals had expressed an interest in being involved but could not attend the meeting.

Parish Council involvement and support:

- Investigate funding routes via links from Elaine
- E mail group to be created to circulate details
- Questionnaire to be compiled to village with guidance from ACRE
- Cllr Shanks to check June 2012/13 minutes regarding community asset option
- Contact to be made direct to post office with permission of Cllr Winter

6. Date of next meeting – To be held in one month

7. Meeting closed at 8.32 pm