



CREETING ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at the Village Hall, Creeting St Mary on
Thursday, 15th January 2026 at 7.30pm.

Present:

Councillors: J Palmer (Chair)
H Craggs
R Coton
L Plummer
A Droogmans

In Attendance: J Blackburn - Clerk

CSM160/25/26 – TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE & APPROVALS

Apologies had been received from Cllr Broodryk which was approved.

CSM161/25/26 – TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None had been received.

CSM162/25/26 – TO RECEIVE APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION

None had been received.

CSM163/25/26 - TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 27th NOVEMBER 2025

It was AGREED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 27th November 2025 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

CSM164/25/26 - 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 village website.

He briefly went through his report on the following points:

- Statement on provisional local government finance settlement 2026 to 2027
- Hidden batteries could spark Christmas chaos: How you can stay safe
- Firefighter applications surge as Suffolk boosts female representation

Members reported to Cllr Hicks the issues in relation to Dunches Lane and the involvement of the Enforcement Team.

Cllr Hicks suggested the Councillors met with Josh White, Community Liaison Engineer to discuss the issues further. **All Agreed.**

Cllr Plummer raised the recent TV reports in relation to Suffolk's potholes. Cllr Hicks explained that the TV reports were incorrect in their data and explained that the County Council had asked them to amend their reports, following an article the County Council had published, which explained the correct position of potholes and their maintenance. He reported that the process was for potholes to be temporarily filled and then permanently filled at a later stage. He explained that the winter weather was the worst time of year for potholes but they had a Dragon Patcher, a very good piece of equipment for potholes on rural roads.

CSM165/25/26 – PUBLIC FORUM

Three members of the public were present.

One member of the public raised issues that the primary school was having in relation to funds for much needed additional space within the school. He explained that as a parent at the school, he was trying to help source funding and wished to attend the Parish Council meeting in order to discuss the Parish Council's CiL funds.

He stated that the school had received £203,000 of Section 106 money from developments in the area and the money had been earmarked for the provision of a new hall. The current hall would be re-utilised for additional learning spaces.

A quote received for the new hall was for £250,000, so there was a shortfall of £47,000.

Members explained that they had recently agreed to fund the re-surfacing of the playground. CiL money remained but there were other projects in the village some of it had been earmarked for.

Cllr Plummer stated that the PSA were very good at fundraising for the school to which it was explained that that money was usually put back into the children, such as for school trips and treats.

Members stated that they would look into what money they had available but also suggested other money pots such as The National Lottery, which could be explored.

It was AGREED: That the Clerk check the position with CiL money and report back to the next meeting. **Clerk to action.**

CSM166/25/26 – TO RECEIVE THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Piper's report was circulated prior to the meeting and would be published on the village website.

He had nothing further to report other than a new fund becoming available called the 'Nature Recovery' fund.

CSM167/25/26 – TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) CLERKS REPORT

The Clerk had nothing to report other than what was on the Agenda.

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 7th January 2026 was £75,145.78.

c) TO AUTHORISE PAYMENTS AND NOTE RECEIPTS

The Clerk reported the following payments be authorised:-

Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Pay (Jan)	£458.14
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Office Allowance/Exp (Jan)	£34.33
HMRC	PAYE to end 5th Jan	£33.69

The following payments needed to be ratified.

Jan Palmer	High Visibility Paint / Padlock reimbursement	£35.98
Sovereign Design Play Systems Ltd	Inspections Contract	£478.80

It was AGREED: That payments totaling £1,040.94 be approved.

d) **BANK RECONCILIATION**

It was AGREED: That the Bank Reconciliation be approved.

e) **FINAL BUDGET FOR 2026/27**

It was AGREED: That the Final Budget be approved.

f) **PRECEPT FOR 2026/27**

It was AGREED: That the Precept for 2026/27 of £13,587 be approved. **Clerk to action.**

CSM168/25/26 – DONATIONS

It was AGREED: That a £50 donation be made to the Citizens Advice Bureau and a £50 donation be made to the Needham Market First Responders. **Clerk to action.**

CSM169/25/26 – NEWSLETTER FUNDING

The Clerk reported that only £282.53 remained in the Newsletter bank account so funds needed to be added to help pay for the next issue.

As it would fall to the Parish Council if funds became low, members agreed to contribute £300.

Steve Matthews, Editor, was present at the meeting. Cllr Palmer did recall the Parish Council's comments last year that the colour pages in the Newsletters should be kept to a minimum as they alone would raise the printing costs significantly.

Following a general discussion, it was agreed that the current issue should go ahead and then moving forward it was felt that four editions a year instead of the usual six should be considered.

It was AGREED: That the Parish Council contribute £300 to the Newsletter account. **Clerk to action.**

CSM180/25/26 – IT POLICY

It was AGREED: That the IT Policy be adopted and approved.

CSM181/25/26 - PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None had been received.

CSM182/25/26 - PLANNING DECISIONS

The following decision was noted:

Ref: DC/25/00554 - Full Planning Application - Erection of 2No detached dwellings and garage/studio (following removal of existing structures) - Land at Flordon Road, Creeting St Mary - **Refused**

CSM183/25/26 – GRIT BIN – A14 FLYOVER

The Clerk reported that she had received a request from a resident at Creeting Hills for an additional grit bin. During the recent icy weather, the lane to Creeting Hills became treacherous and required grit. There were currently grit bins at either end of the lane whereas one in the middle would be beneficial.

Cllr Plummer had also received a request for a grit bin to be located at the A14 flyer on All Saints Road as a resident had come off his bike during the recent icy weather.

A general discussion took place in relation to the spreading of the grit from bins in the village and it was felt that residents should be notified that anyone could spread the grit, when required.

It was AGREED: That grit bins be applied for at the two locations. **Clerk to action.**
That the Clerk write a small article for the Newsletter notifying residents that anyone could spread the grip. **Clerk to action.**

CSM184/25/26 - SPEED INDICATOR DEVICES (SIDs) UPDATE

The Clerk reported that the quote from Elan City for two SIDs and solar panels was £4,889.99 (exc VAT). She explained that the County Council would need to provide and install two larger, stronger poles on which the SIDs would stand at a cost of £630 each which meant the total would be £6,149.99.

A brief discussion took place and members agreed that locality funding from the County and District Councils needed to be applied for.

It was AGREED: That the Clerk apply for locality funding. **Clerk to action.**

CSM185/25/26 – PREVENTION OF TRAVELLERS – BLACKSMITHS FIELD UPDATE

The Clerk reported that Timothy Canham from Terrasite (Breheny) had met with herself and Cllr Palmer at Blacksmiths Field to discuss possible options of deterring Travellers from setting up home on the field.

It was felt that the best option would be retractable bollards at the entrance to the field and Mr Canham confirmed he would be able to supply and fit what was required. He would send a quote for the works to the Clerk in the near future for approval.

CSM186/25/26 – ZIPWIRE – UPDATE

Cllr Palmer confirmed that the Zipwire re-installation works had been carried out at no cost to the Parish Council. To ensure the concrete sets completely the seat would be reinstalled in February in readiness for the school's half term break.

CSM187/25/26 – VILLAGE SIGN UPDATE

There was nothing to report. Works were ongoing.

CSM188/25/26 – LILLEY'S WOOD – UPDATE

There was nothing to report.

CSM189/25/26 – DUNCHES LANE

This item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

CSM190/25/26 – SPEED LIMIT – CREETING BOTTOMS - UPDATE

There was nothing to report.

CSM191/25/26 - REPORTS

Blacksmiths Field – Cllr Palmer's report had been circulated prior to the meeting. She had nothing further to report.

SALC – There was nothing to report.

Footpaths – There was nothing to report.

Village Hall – There was nothing to report.

CSM193/25/26 - MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL

- Large containers had been moved onto a plot that had been refused planning permission – Enforcement to be notified.
- Fencing around patio area of Village Hall – Management Committee’s responsibility
- Noticeboard on Jacks Green Triangle – cork backing required.
- Resident present who was interested in applying to join the Parish Council.

CSM194/25/26 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was AGREED: That the next meeting would be held on Thursday, 26th February 2026.

The meeting finished at 9.10pm.

Chairman: Dated: