



CREETING ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Parish Council meeting** held at the Village Hall, Creting St Mary on **Thursday, 10th September 2026 at 7.30pm.**

Present:

Councillors: J Palmer (Chair)
H Craggs
M Broodryk
J Mitchell
A Droogmans

In Attendance: J Blackburn – Clerk
Matthew Hicks – County Cllr

CSM46/26/27 – TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllr Buckle and Cllr Plummer.

District Cllrs Terry Lawrence and Ross Piper also sent their apologies.

CSM47/26/27 – TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None had been received.

CSM48/26/27 – TO RECEIVE APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION

None had been received.

CSM49/26/27 - TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 25th JUNE 2026

It was AGREED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 25th June 2026 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

CSM50/26/27 – PUBLIC FORUM

No members of the public were present.

CSM51/26/27 – TO RECEIVE THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Lawrence and Cllr Piper were not present but their reports had been received prior to the meeting and would be published on the village website.

CSM52/26/27 – TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) CLERKS REPORT

The Clerk reported that the insurance quote for the Firework Night had been received. It would cost £798 which insured up to 1,200 attendees.

It was AGREED: That the insurance quote be accepted. **Clerk to action.**

It was noted that the Social Club pay for the sparklers each year, so owe the Parish Council £91.67.
Clerk to action.

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 4th September 2026 was **£45,422.87**.

c) **TO AUTHORISE PAYMENTS AND NOTE RECEIPTS**

The Clerk reported the following payments be authorised:-

Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Pay (Aug)	£462.54
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Office Allowance/Exp (Aug)	£41.31
Great Bricett PC	Contribution to ink cartridge (Clerk's printer)	£17.49
Earth Anchors	Noticeboards (St Mary's Gardens / Jacks Green)	£1,363.20

The following payments were to be ratified:

Vertas Group Ltd	Grass Cutting - 1st Jul - 30th Sept	£506.24
Dynamic Fireworks	Fireworks for 2026 Firework Night	£1,617.46
Gary Warr	Grate in front car park	£3,800.00
Jan Palmer	Reimbursement of keys	£20.00
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Pay (Jul)	£462.54
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Office Allowance/Exp (Jul)	£34.33
MSDC	Play Equipment Annual Inspection	£78.64
MSDC	Trim Trail Annual Inspection	£78.64
SCC	Village Hall' directional sign	£145.10
ICO	Data Protection Renewal	£47.00
MSDC	Bin Emptying 2026/27	£803.40
T & R Harrison	Potholes in car park	£150.00

It was AGREED: That payments totaling £9,627.89 be approved.

The following receipts were also noted:-

HMRC	VAT Reclaim - Speed Reduction prof fees	£1,171.45
SCC	Locality Funding for Noticeboard	£500.00

d) **BANK RECONCILIATION**

It was AGREED: That the Bank Reconciliation was approved.

e) **EXTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT**

The Clerk reported that the External Auditor notified her of an incorrect tickbox on Section 2 of the AGAR where the 'no' box had been ticked when the 'yes box' should have been ticked. She had amended this error, both her and the Chair had signed the correction and published the re-stated Section 2 on the website.

It was AGREED: That the External Auditor's report was noted and approved.

f) **INCREASE IN CLERK'S HOURLY RATE**

It was AGREED: That the increase of 61 pence per hour informed from the Suffolk Association of Local Councils (SALC) be approved and applied. **Clerk to action.**

g) **INSURANCE RENEWAL**

The Clerk reported that the insurance renewal was due. The renewal was part of a 3-year term contract and the cost was £965.17.

It was AGREED: That the insurance renewal be accepted and paid. **Clerk to action.**

CSM53/26/27 - PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Ref: DC/26/03633 - Application for Consent to Carry Out Works to Tree(S) Protected by a Tree Preservation Order - Application for works to trees subject to a Tree Preservation Order - MS210/T10 & MS210/T11 - Fell both Maples due to them now being dead Suggested replanting specimens; Oak, Yew or Hornbeam - Creeping House, All Saints Road, Creeping St Mary

It was AGREED: That the Parish Council had no objections to the application. **Clerk to action.**

CSM54/26/27 - PLANNING DECISIONS

The following decisions were noted:

Ref: DC/26/00780 - Planning Application - Erection of 1no single storey dwelling (following retrospective demolition of existing buildings) to replace scheme previously approved under DC/23/02399, and change of use of an existing store to ancillary residential use - Land and Buildings Adjacent to Creeping Hills Farm, Creeping St Mary – **Granted**

Ref: DC/26/02755 - Application under Section 73 of The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 - Variation of Condition 13 (Restriction on Operation Times) of Planning Permission DC/23/05894 dated: 01/05/2024 - Change of use of land to enable use as a Forest and Field outdoor play area and nature reserve with compost toilet, outdoors washing station, a container for storage and sale of take away refreshments. All aspects of the plans ensure no permanent structures are used - Playful Paths, Creeping Hills, Creeping St Mary – **Granted Subject to Conditions**

Ref: DC/25/03583 - Planning Application - Change of use of agricultural land to domestic garden land Land Rear of Meredith House, Field View, 1, 2 & 3 Clarkes Close, All Saints Road, Creeping St Mary – **Granted subject to conditions**

CSM55/26/27 – PLANNING APPLICATION DECISIONS TO BE RATIFIED

Ref: DC/26/02865 - Planning Application. Construction of a single storey building for use as a commercial office - Bosmere Hall, Kettle Lane, Creeping St Mary - **No Objections**

CSM56/26/27 – REPLACEMENT NOTICEBOARDS

The Clerk reported that following the noticeboard on St Mary's Gardens breaking and becoming dangerous it was removed by Breheny's on behalf of the Parish Council.

Two new noticeboards had been purchased, both for St Mary's Gardens and also Jacks Green, which was also in a poor state. Beheny's had also installed the new noticeboards for free.

Locality funding for the noticeboards had been received from Cllr Hicks - £500 and Cllr Lawrence/Cllr Piper - £636.

CSM57/26/27 – REPLACEMENT SPEED INDICATOR DEVICES (SIDS)

Members discussed the costs of replacing the Speed Indicator Devices on All Saints Road and Jacks Green.

The Clerk reported that two new poles would need to be installed by the County Council at a cost of £630 each. The quote received for replacement SIDS was £4,878.98 (exc VAT).

Locality funding of £1,362 had been received from Cllr Lawrence / Cllr Piper to contribute to the replacements.

She also stated that installation of the SIDs would need to be factored in and would seek a quote from Sygma Ltd who had installed the replacement School Flashing Sign.

Members stated that once that quote had been received they would consider the project as a whole via email, before the next meeting.

It was AGREED: That the Clerk seek a quote for the installation of replacement SIDs from Sygma.

CSM58/26/27 – INSPECTION REPORT FROM SOVEREIGN

Cllr Palmer reported that the first inspection report had been received from Sovereign for the Play Equipment. She confirmed that the report was very similar to the annual inspection through the District Council with all equipment being shown as 'low risk' with their recommendations being to fix any suggested repairs within 3 months.

Sovereign had provided a quote for the repairs, which totalled £10,438.59!

Members agreed that the cost was not within funds available and felt that some of the suggested repairs were not required at this time. Some of the minor repairs could be carried out by volunteers, with a post to be repaired and also the handle on the slide.

CSM59/26/27 – PLAY AREAS IN THE PARISH

Cllr Broodryk enquired about play areas in the village such as the one being built at Jacks Green and asked who would be responsible for them.

It was noted that the Parish Council would not be responsible and usually residents on the development would pay a service charge towards the upkeep of such play areas. A management group would be responsible for them.

CSM60/26/27 – PURCHASE OF WEED KILLER FOR A14 BRIDGE

Cllr Broodryk stated that she needed more weed killer in order to keep the A14 flyover bridge in the village free from weeds.

Members agreed that it was looking much better and thanked Cllr Broodryk for taking on the task.

It was AGREED: That the Parish Council pay for more weed killer to be purchased. **Cllr Broodryk to action.**

CSM61/26/27 – HEDGEROWS AT WATERING FARM

Concerns were ongoing to the hedgerow at Watering Farm before the hump back bridge and how the hedgerow was creeping over the already narrow road.

The Clerk updated members and stated that she had spoken to the landowner who had agreed for the Parish Council to arrange for the hedgerow to be cut back.

She had approached another landowner who was willing to carry out the task but suggested that because of the danger on that piece of road and the bend, a road closure should be made for the works to be carried out safely.

The Clerk stated that a road closure would be too costly for the Parish Council and members agreed that the District Councillors and County Councillor should be approached for help. **Clerk to action.**

CSM62/26/27 – REPAIRS TO GRATE – FRONT CAR PARK

It was noted that the repairs to the grate at the Village Hall's front car park had been completed.

CSM63/26/27 - UPDATE ON THE FLASHING SIGN(S)

The Clerk reported that the flashing school signs were back working and she had timed them for the whole of the school year.

CSM64/26/27 - LILLEY'S WOOD

There was nothing to report.

CSM65/26/27 - DUNCHES LANE

Cllr Palmer reported that a response had been received from the Planning Enforcement team at the District Council in relation to the drainage at Dunches Lane. It had confirmed that they felt the development had been constructed, including the drainage, the correct way and the problems with Dunches Lane's drainage was not connected to the development.

Members were disappointed about the response and believed that something needed to be done for Dunches Lane to become a useable route for pedestrians and cyclists and felt that Cllr Hicks should be approached again as Dunches Lane was classed as a highway.

CSM66/26/27 - TO RECEIVE THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Hicks' August report had been circulated prior to the meeting and would be published on the village website.

Cllr Hicks briefly went through his report and highlighted the following points:

- Council sets out concerns over EcoPower Suffolk solar farm plans
- Suffolk awarded £564,000 for major bus franchising study
- Suffolk County Council plans £18.9 million investment to expand SEND support

Cllr Palmer asked Cllr Hicks about Dunches Lane and the response received from the District Council. She also explained the issues with Dunches Lane and Josh White's previous email which stated that it was classed as a Highway.

Cllr Hicks suggested that during wet weather a site meeting be held with Parish Councillors, himself and Sophie Farrington, Community Liaison Officer as to a way forward.

Cllr Craggs explained the issue with the overgrown hedgerow at Watering Farm on Jacks Green Road towards the bend and hump back bridge.

He stated that it was dangerous and as the hedgerow was encroaching onto the road it caused the road to become very narrow for vehicles to pass safely.

Cllr Hicks asked for photographs of the issue and he would involve Sophie Farrington as to a way forward.

Cllr Plamer reported that the visibility splay at the new development on All Saints Road was very poor with the hedgerow becoming overgrown making the entrance to the site dangerous as well as for pedestrians using the footpath.

Cllr Hicks again asked for photographic evidence which he would share with Sophie Farrington for action to be taken. **Clerk to action.**

CSM67/26/27 - UPDATE ON THE 40MPH AT CREETING BOTTOMS

There was nothing to report.

CSM68/26/27 - REPORTS

Blacksmiths Field – Cllr Palmer had circulated her inspection reports for Blacksmiths Field and the Play Equipment prior to the meeting. There was nothing further to report.

SALC – There was nothing to report.

Footpaths – It was noted that various directional signs on footpaths were missing. **Clerk to report.**

Village Hall – There was nothing to report.

CSM69/26/27 - MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL

- Daffodils ordered

CSM70/26/27 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was AGREED: That the next meeting would be held on Thursday, 22nd October 2026.

The meeting finished at 8.51pm

Chairman: Dated: