

EVERCREECH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Lynn Crisp

Tel: 01749 830265

E-mail: clerk@evercreech-pc.gov.uk

Minutes of the extraordinary meeting 13 04 26 Evercreech Village Hall

**Present: Lesley Parham (Chair), Rob Reed, Roy Williams, Gail Wakeford, Murray Stewart, Christian Sellar, Daryl Issit
0 members of the public.
Lynn Crisp – Clerk**

i) Public Open Session

001 Meeting opened 18.00

To receive apologies for absence and to approve the reasons given (LGA 1972 s85(1))
Derek Sharp – Absent

002 Declarations of interests. Council members to declare any interests, including any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests they may have in agenda items that accord with the requirements of the Parish Council's Code of Conduct and to consider any prior requests from members for Dispensations that accord with Localism Act 2011 s33 (b-e). (NB this does not preclude any later declarations)
None declared

003 To discuss the ex-Greencore site following a site meeting on 08 04 26 with the owners of the site.

The Chair made it clear that this is not a meeting to discuss any planning matters.

Questions from the Developer:

1. With regards to the Prestleigh Road boundary wall, does the Parish Council (PC) have a preference as to whether the wall should be retained at the same height (i.e. maintaining the current sense of enclosure), tapered down/reduced to a much lower level or potentially removed entirely?

Discussions took place.
Lower, remove or keep the wall?
Gives a boundary definition.

A Cllr noted that not all Cllrs had seen any potential plans. Parish Cllrs present on the 8th of April were looking at the wall and fence to judge the aesthetic of the perimeters to take back to full council for decision.

To note regarding the 8th of April site meeting: Cllrs requested to meet with the site owners and Somerset Council Planning Officers re the lack of security at the site and demolition. Somerset Council Planning Officers did not respond. In the meantime, Somerset Cllr Sully asked for the owners contact details and contacted them separately seemingly on a different matter. Parish Cllrs met with the owners on Tuesday 8th April and from that meeting the owners asked 4 questions hence the need for this extraordinary meeting. The owners have revised plans ready to submit and can do so without the Parish Council response to the questions. The owners now seem to be opening communications with the Parish Council.

No comment on any planning application was made on 8th April 2026.

RR reported that whilst he could vote on these questions, he would prefer to abstain.

LP proposed for Cllrs to vote on whether to keep the wall at its existing height or reduce its height.
GW seconded.

Date:
Signed

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3 Cllrs voted for the wall to remain as is.

2 Cllrs voted for the wall to be reduced.

MS abstained.

RR abstained.

Resolved. The Parish Council will reply asking for the wall to remain at the current height thus preserving the current street scene.

2. What is the PC's thinking with regard to the current breezeblock wall that borders the recreation ground and would it be amenable to its replacement with a timber close boarded fence along its entirety?

Cllrs discussed the merits of replacing the wall with a 6ft fence. Going forward, the fence, if agreed by Cllrs, should be maintained by the developer/their maintenance company. The fence must be kept at 6ft in the future. Residents would not be allowed to install gates onto Queens Road Playing Fields later. Cllrs agreed to an opening near Neal's way end of the boundary for new residents to use to reach the school.

LP proposed: To agree to replace the wall with a 6ft fence with an opening near Neal's Way end of the boundary for new residents to use to reach the school. Full responsibility for maintenance of the fence must rest with the Developer/their maintenance company. The fence must remain at 6ft in the future.

Seconded GW

RR abstained.

Resolved: Unanimous

3. Notwithstanding the PC's view on the potential replacement of the wall with a fence, would the PC support in principle a section of it being removed to provide a connection through the wall (or fence) to provide direct pedestrian access from the site into the recreation ground?

One connection/access opening could be provided as per above resolution.

4. Does the PC have any thoughts on this amended scheme proposing lower parking numbers than the adopted standards (noting that, at the Inquiry, the Council suggested they would be happy to consider a scheme proposing lower parking numbers) to prepare a less parking dominant layout?

No comment

Site security:

Discussions took place.

The representatives did not seem willing to engage with Cllr concerns.

The owners suggested that the former Mendip District Council Planner Officers insisted that they submit a planning application, prior to demolition.

The consensus appeared to be that they will not be looking at security of the site.

Discussions took place.

The Planning Working Party noted that it will not make a recommendation to Cllrs regarding any future planning application from the owners. Full council will discuss the matter.

Meeting closed 6.55 pm

Date:
Signed

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Appendix A
Safety concerns report from Somerset Cllr Sully

EVERCREECH PARISH COUNCIL | COMMUNITY SAFETY REPORT

Greencore Factory Site — Child Safety Concern

Date: Tuesday, 7 April 2026

Reported by: PCSO Natalie McIntosh

Reported to: Evercreech Parish Council, Somerset Councillors Cllr Claire Sully & Cllr Rob Reed

Report by: Cllr Claire Sully (claire.sully@somerset.gov.uk)

Summary of Concern

PCSO Natalie McIntosh has identified children accessing the Greencore factory site in Evercreech as her primary concern in the area. This issue was raised at the Evercreech Parish Council meeting on 7 April 2026, in response to a question about matters of concern in the village.

The Concern — In the PCSO's Own Words

"A lot more children are getting into the Greencore factory site, which concerns me. It is word of mouth that is coming to me during and after I did a village "beat" surgery. This was the main topic of concern. I believe they can get through a hole in the fence near the park. People have reported [to me] that they can hear children running through the site.

"That's my main cause of concern in this area. We have been made aware of children out there, but we don't know who to report it to — that's my issue.

"It is dangerous. I have a duty to act. But I also must be careful in my position. I have been told, do not go there because I am not a police officer.

The Parish Council responded: "There are videos on YouTube of people on the site. That is just encouraging more people to go there."

Key Points

- It has been reported by residents to the Parish Council and the local PCSO that children are regularly accessing the Greencore factory site, entering through a known gap in the fence near the local park.
- The site has been described as "an absolute death trap" by those familiar with it, including Parish Councillors.
- It was reported by Parish Councillors that videos of people accessing the site have been posted to YouTube.
- PCSO Natalie McIntosh has been unable to identify the correct point of contact at the site or its owning organisation to report the danger and she is unable to access herself, because she isn't a police officer.
- A report was made to the Health and Safety Executive by the Parish Council.

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Date:
Signed