

**MINUTES OF THE CHRISTCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY 8th OCTOBER 2012 – MEMORIAL HALL CHRISTCHURCH AT 7:30pm**

Present: Councillors – Jacky Wincote (Chair), Nigel Russell, Jill Bliss, Simon Freeland, William Beswick, Hannah Poole, Will Sutton (FDC) and Fred Yeulett (CCC).
Stephen Cowell (Clerk) and 5 members of the public were also in attendance. In addition Jane Andrews-Gauvain attended the meeting for item 3.

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Cotterell MBE (FDC) and PCSO Russ.

2. Signing of Minutes

The minutes of the 10th September meeting were signed, by the Chair, as true record of the meeting.

3. Presentation by Jane Andrews-Gauvain on a Biodiversity project being run by the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Environmental Records Centre

Jane introduced herself and explained her role in trying to record environmental information in Cambridgeshire. She explained what the project is trying to achieve and requested help from the public in recording the wildlife in and around Christchurch leaving a number of posters and leaflets detailing the project she is working on. The Council agreed to include details of her project in the next edition of The Heron. Jane answered questions from both councillors and residents and left the meeting at the end of the presentation.

4. Disclosure and Declarations of Pecuniary Interests

The Clerk summarised the new rules for the declaration of interests.

No interests were declared.

5. Update on action points from previous meeting

It was reported that:

- Highways are aiming to start repairs on the bridge at Cotton's Corner on the 15th October. The fact that the bridge does not comply to current standards was reported to the Council and that in the longer term a change in design may be required. Repairs are due to start on repairing Bedlam Bridge on 19th November and the bridge will have additional safety features installed.
- A letter has been sent to the resident whose brambles are growing over the footpath near to the School and they have been cut back to some degree.
- Highways have added replacing the knocked down crossroad sign near to the Padgett's Road / Church Road junction to their list of works. Cllr. Sutton reported that a tree branch had fallen over one of the other road signs near this junction but that has now been removed.

6. Public Adjournment

Members of the public commented on the following:

- Could Roddons be asked to help with overgrown hedges at properties belonging to them?
- Better signs are required to make people aware that the Recreation Ground is a no dogs area.
Clerk to obtain costing.
- There is a lot of rubbish at the Skateboard Park. An additional rubbish bin was requested. Council members explained the issues with get FDC to empty it and reminded all that as part of the deal for putting the Skateboard Park there the children agreed to put rubbish in the bin near to the Crown Drove entrance to the Recreation Ground which is emptied by FDC. **It was agreed to put a notice in The Heron asking users to keep the area tidy.**
- The extent of damage to the Youth Shelter following the recent fire was requested. It was reported that paintwork had been damaged but the structure was still undamaged.
- An update on the move to reduce the speed limit through Church Road/Upwell Road was requested. The Clerk reported that the new signs have been purchased and that he is liaising with the contractors and the Highways Department and expects the 30mph speed limit to be in force during the week commencing 5th November. A resident expressed concern over the lack

**MINUTES OF THE CHRISTCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY 8th OCTOBER 2012 – MEMORIAL HALL CHRISTCHURCH AT 7:30pm**

of a footpath from his property into the village and the speed limit still being 60mph on the road outside his property both of which mean his son cannot walk to school and said that he will speak to members of the Council in due course about this.

- A resident requested that this agenda item be moved to later in the agenda to allow members of the public to speak to the Council following their discussions on subjects appearing later on the agenda. Members agreed to consider the request.

7. Police Update

PCSO Russ sent his apologies for not being able to attend the meeting. In the report he sent to the Council he reported that during a recent Speed Check in a 15 minutes period 14 vehicles were observed and none were breaking the speed limit.

He also reported that he has spoken again with a resident with an untidy front garden and the resident has agreed to move the rubbish from the front of the property.

8. Correspondence Received

The Clerk brought to the attention of Councillors:

- A request by a Victim Support organisation based in Huntingdon for a donation.
- A scheme to help the over 60's who have mobility issues. A notice has been placed on the village notice board regarding the scheme and a member of the public at the meeting offered to take details of it to the Good Companions club. He was thanked for the offer and given the information.
- A letter received from a resident regarding progress on the new village hall. The Clerk explained he will be putting an update in the November issue of the Heron so all residents are aware of the situation but has given the resident an answer to all his questions. It was also reported that members will be holding a brief meeting after the conclusion of this meeting to be briefed by the Vice-Chair and Clerk on progress made and decisions required to proceed.

9. County Council Street Lighting Project

The Clerk highlighted the aims of the project and explained that the replacement programme only affected those lights in Fenview and near to the Upwell Road / Sixteen Foot Bank Road junction. In the project approximately 10% of lights in the County would not be replaced but those remaining would be of a higher standard. A total of 14 lights in the village are impacted. The Clerk requested that Councillors view the areas impacted so they can form a view for discussion at the next meeting. The Clerk reported that residents affected will receive information from the County Council regarding the scheme.

10. Finance

The Clerk reported total bank balances of £56,698.12, with cheques written amounting to £4,076.68 to come from this, and brought to Councillor's attention the earmarked funds (funds that must be spent on specific purposes) that total a little over £33k.

The Clerk highlighted those items below (10.6 and 10.7) where VAT will be able to be claimed back and read out the list of play park items repaired by Sharman Fabrications. The Council agreed that it was good value for money.

The following items, listed on the agenda, were agreed for payment

- 10.1 Clerk's Salary £183.58
- 10.2 HMR&C £137.80 (3 months PAYE on Clerk's Salary)
- 10.3 Postage £6.00
- 10.4 The Heron £65.00
- 10.5 Cambridgeshire County Council £279.15 (advertising speed limit change)
- 10.6 Fenland Leisure Products £480.00 (Jubilee Picnic benches for Townley School)
- 10.7 Sharman Fabrications £1,230.00 (Repairs to Play Parks)

**MINUTES OF THE CHRISTCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY 8th OCTOBER 2012 – MEMORIAL HALL CHRISTCHURCH AT 7:30pm**

11. Planning Applications

No applications to consider.

12. Parish Plan – Update

Nothing to report. Cllr. Freeland asked for clarification of what was in the Plan. It was confirmed that the document he had was the plan but that there was also an Action Plan that the Council adopted once the original Christchurch Action Team had disbanded. **The Clerk was asked to provide all members with an up to date copy of the Action Plan.**

13. Raising of Village Concerns

The following items were reported/discussed:

1. Quad bikes being ridden in an inconsiderate manner is still an issue.
2. Rubbish being dropped on the floor after football matches.
3. The Clerk reported that Upwell FC have paid the Recreation Ground Charity for their usage of the Pavilion for 7 matches.
4. The Stop sign at the Upwell Road/Sixteen Foot Bank Road is partially obscured by the branch of a tree.

The Chair closed the meeting at 8:37pm