

**MINUTES OF CHRISTCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY 14TH OCTOBER 2013
MEMORIAL HALL CHRISTCHURCH AT 7.30PM**

Present: Councillors - Nigel Russell (Chair), Jill Bliss, Hannah Poole, Roger Gladwin, William Beswick, Simon Freeland, Fred Yeulett and Will Sutton (FDC).
Stephen Cowell (Retiring Clerk), Susan Allinson (Clerk) and 1 member of the public were also in attendance.

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Wes Poole and Mac.

Chair Nigel Russell welcomed Susan Allinson as the new Clerk, advising Stephen Cowell, retiring Clerk would continue during hand over period. Cllr. Russell thanked Stephen on behalf of the whole village; his effort has gone beyond the call of duty, applause by way of thanks.

Cllr. Will Sutton, also wished to thank Stephen personally and felt they had worked well together, seconded by Cllr. Fred Yeulett, saying Stephen had been efficient and carried out a lot of voluntary work for the council.

2. Signing of Minutes

Minutes of the 9th September meeting were signed, by the Chair, as a true record of the meeting.

3. Disclosure and Declarations of Interests

Clerk asked to check financial regulations for the Play Park project. Simon stated that we do need 3 quotations and are now in receipt of 3 for consideration, Wickstead, Andrew Sparrow and Fenland Leisure Products; we do now have the number we need to make a decision.

4. Update on Action Points from Previous Meeting

Simon reported that:

- Works to the pavement near the village hall notice board has now been completed.
- Clerk has not received any information regarding the street light in the Norfolk part of Green Lane.
- Clerk wrote to two residents one whose "Egg for Sale" sign was obscuring the Scotts Road sign. Another who's overgrown rose bush was also obscuring. Cllr Sutton thinks it has now been tied back.
- Clerk looked at the scheme of works for reflective posts at Padgett`s Road and Upwell Road junctions, work now completed as agreed by the Council.
- Highways Department, white lines in centre of road in front of Padgetts, been done badly. A two foot bend, chicane effect has been painted over in black which is visible at night; Cllr. Russell pointed out it was a waste of rate payers' money.

5. Public Adjournment

The following subjects were raised and discussed:

- A resident reported problems in the croft with the sewerage system; it is blocked up as there is no one maintaining the plant. Cllr. Beswick lives nearby and stated that the holding tank had to be emptied twice; he thinks the vacuum pump is backing up as the tank was emptied 2 weeks ago. Cllr. Beswick informed it is in the hands of FCC to empty it. Same resident thinks the houses are losing value as a result. Cllr. Sutton says if it is an environmental issue the District Council must investigate. He questioned do the landlords have a legal responsibility to their tenants? Landlords are reluctant to come on board, the owner occupiers want it resolving. Cllr Beswick thinks that there is a lethargic attitude and we really need to get the District Council to take the job forward.
- Same resident asked if we knew of anyone that drove a Maserati? Cllr. Poole said she had also heard the loud vehicle in question at night. Cllr. Russell questioned if anyone could get the registration number so we could establish the owner.
- Cllr. Sutton questioned if anyone knows if the pavement issues have been rectified outside the school. Cllr. Freeland said that today men were working on the pavement outside the school in addition to which they were asked to put a proper footpath where the bus shelter is sited. Cllr. Russell questioned if it were Highways? Rod is the area officer. Cllr. Russell questioned if that means they will do something with the potholes? Councillor hopes to get a meeting with Fred and Matthew to see if something can be taken forward.

6. Police Update

Stephen Cowell, PCSO Ross, no incidents reported. Cllr. Freeland questioned if there had been any feedback regarding the pavilion break in? Stephen Cowell thinks that it would have been logged in PCSO Ross's report. No other police matters.

7. Correspondence Received

Stephen Cowell, a letter from the lady with the egg kiosk, already discussed under item 4. Letter from Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner regarding activity in your area, did we want to sign up for neighbourhood alert?

Cllr. Russell passed Fraser Dawbarns LLP letter regarding the sale of Plot 1, Upwell Road, stating the sale has not progressed. Cllr Russell, they are asking for a copy of the minutes of the meeting which I was appointed Chairman of the Parish Council to confirm I am authorised to sign on behalf of the Parish Council. Cllr. Russell stated the sale must proceed at the agreed price as a matter of urgency or there will be no alternative but to put it back on the market.

8. Finance

- 8.1 Clerk reported bank balances of £52,216.58, outstanding payments of £2,000.26.
- 8.2 Cllr Russell questioned if there was any news from the external auditors, Stephen Cowell replied they had been signed off without comment. Stephen also informed that there may be a new law coming in whereby you do not have to have an external audit.
- 8.3 The following items, listed on the agenda were agreed for payment:
 - 8.3.1 Clerk`s Salary £183.78
 - 8.3.2 The Heron £70.00
 - 8.3.3 PKF Little John (External Auditors) £120.00
 - 8.3.4 HMRC £137.40

9. Planning Applications

The council reviewed planning application:

F/YR13/0713/F resubmitted erection of a 4 bed (originally 5) 2 storey dwelling with detached double garage/store and glasshouse. Plot 2 and 3 land north of bowling green and pavilion, Upwell Road. Stephen Cowell said the new design was available for viewing after the meeting.

10. Parish Plan - Update

Stephen Cowell advised that the Parish Council took over the Parish Plan prior to 2007.

11. Raising of Village Concerns

The following items were reported/discussed:

1. Cambridgeshire Acre, Cllr. Yeulett wondered if there may be funding, maybe we need an up to date plan. We would be well advised to call it a Neighbourhood Plan as the section 106 and the community levy may automatically grant us a share. We did tie in the 106 from the croft but that was an onerous task. Cllr. Poole confirmed it was hard work. Cllr. Freeland does this mean we have a template to work from? As it may not be so difficult a second time. Grants may be available for the parish plan of up to £5,000 as the assessments are costly. Cllr. Yeulett said we may be able to get the money but we need the plan first.
2. Cllr. Beswick expressed concern at speeding on Church Road, it is becoming dangerous. Cllr. Russell said to get the registration numbers would be helpful.
3. Cllr. Bliss reported parked vehicles away from the pavements were making it difficult for HGV`s and cars to get round. Cllr. Freeland thought it was Harvest Festival. Cllr. Gladwin said it happened as residents were moving. Cllr. Russell pointed out that two residents were moving on the same day.
4. Cllr. Bliss reports the **paper bank is overflowing, clerk to action.**
5. Cllr. Bliss expressed concern the reflector at the top of the croft was hard to see.
6. **Cllr. Beswick reported the bushes in Fenfield have not been treated so narrowing of the path. He will keep chasing** as there are several who use mobility scooters. The member of the public said it was also narrow by the school.

7. Cllr. Beswick reports a lamp post not working at the corner of the croft, he questioned if FDC could repair. Stephen Cowell did not think it had ever been connected, Cllr. Russell, it may be just the bulb, could we get someone to check the bulb. Heidi Morgan is in charge of street lighting, Cllr. Beswick said they should check the fuse and sensor as well as the bulb. If it were inspected and found to be ok, would the Parish Council adopt the light. **Cllr. Russell proposes that Cllr. Sutton should investigate.** Stephen Cowell stated we have a budget of £1550 for street lighting should we need to adopt as it will cost the Parish Council money.
8. Member of the public asked if the street lights that were due for replacement had been done, Stephen Cowell stated that all the lights had now been replaced. Cllr. Poole confirmed that it is much better lighting now.
9. Cllr Poole expressed concern to the number of cars parking outside the Dun Cow, it is right by the junction and people are parking both sides of the road. The Dun Cow has its own car park but people are not using it.
10. Cllr. Russell reported that the accident in Russ Morris`s hedge and highway took away a stop sign. **Cllr Yeulett will look into it.**
11. Cllr. Bliss raised the transition from the Memorial Hall to the Pavilion we have an extension until midday on New Year`s Day for insurance purposes and cleaning etc. Peter Norman wanted to know who would be responsible for insurance for equipment as it is removed to the Pavilion. Stephen Cowell pointed out that the contents do not belong to the Parish Council. He said he had written to Peter Norman and had no reply. Stephen Cowell asked who is going to remove the items? Cllr. Poole replied that contents belong to individual clubs that use the hall, she expects the demolition to start as soon as possible and contents will have to be put into storage. Cllr. Gladwin responded that it was up to us to decide if we are going to store the equipment. Cllr. Russell said consultation was needed with the hall committee to see what they would like to do with it. Cllr. Bliss pointed out that we would have to pay for storage and it would be better to find out what each club wants to do with their own equipment. Cllr. Gladwin and Cllr. Pool pointed out that when each clubs belongings have been removed there would be very little left in the hall. Cllr. Freeland said the key holders need to have a meeting. The latest on the merger is Mr. Bowser has asked for details of both Charities and it is being passed via Solicitors. It makes sense to merge as the charity commission will let it go through smoothly. Cllr. Bliss said they have given consent to our Solicitors to go ahead. Stephen Cowell wanted to know if they could come back to him. **Cllr Bliss will respond to Peter Norman** and clarify details of the meeting.

The Chair thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 8.45pm