

CHRISTCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Christchurch Parish Council held in the Community Centre on Monday 8 November 2021 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs P Owen (Chairman), S Aldridge, J Bliss, G Harper, J Hughes, K Miller
D Gibbs (Clerk), Cllr W Sutton (FDC), A Nason (Parishioner)

074/21-22 Apologies for Absence

Cllr R Gladwin

075/21-22 Declarations of Interest

None

076/21-22 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman reminded members of the Remembrance Sunday service at the Parish Church and hoped for a good attendance.

077/21-22 Public Time

None.

078/21-22 Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 11 October 2021 were correctly recorded and signed as being a true record.

079/21-22 Matters Outstanding

- a) Bus shelter improvement project - Cllr Miller has purchased anti-graffiti coating for the cobbles at a cost of £47.98.
- b) Pavement outside Field Lodge, Upwell Road - it is hoped that the works will take place early in the New Year.
- c) Roadside drains - No update on re-routing blocked drain. Many gullies full of leaves. Another drain near the junction of Upwell Road and Fen View may be blocked. Jetting equipment is now being used to map the drains.
- d) Annual report to residents - the Clerk will provide the financial information and clarification of the forthcoming tree works.
- e) Benches, play equipment, outdoor gym - Members agreed to visit other local play areas. Date to be confirmed.
- f) Community gritting scheme - it appears that the Street Pride volunteers are not in a position to operate a scheme this year.
- g) W.I Anniversary Tree - the location for the tree has not been selected yet.

080/21-22 Police Report

The Clerk reported issues from the previous meeting with the Police. The ongoing animal rights protest in Huntingdonshire has been a drain on police resources across the county. The special constabulary will be visiting schools for parking enforcement. The hare coursing season has started and the Police are asking the public to report sightings. Next year marks the 40th anniversary of Neighbourhood Watch and the county coordinator hopes to visit parish councils to talk about the schemes.

081/21-22 County & District Councillors Reports

Cllr Sutton reported that the Boundary Commission is reviewing the district wards of Fenland District Council. The first proposal would increase the number of councillors

from 39 to 42 and separate Christchurch from Elm, joining it with Doddington, Wimblington and Benwick to form a larger ward with three councillors. Alternative proposals are invited by 10 January. The new arrangements will come into effect at the May 2023 district elections.

082/21-22 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported on meetings attended and correspondence received, including the following:

- a) Meetings
 - Wisbech Neighbourhood Police - 22 October
 - Queen's Green Canopy - 26 October
- b) Correspondence
 - Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority
 - Local Transport and Connectivity Plan consultation to 28 November
 - Cambridgeshire County Council
 - Online flood training for community groups
 - Covid Enhanced Response Area status
 - Cambridgeshire Local Councils Conference 14 January 2022
 - Fenland District Council
 - Community Safety Partnership online engagement events on YouTube
 - Local council tax reduction scheme consultation to 5 December
 - Fenland Accessibility Study Consultation to 12 November
 - Cambridgeshire ACRE
 - Queen's Green Canopy briefing
 - Home Energy Support Service public event 1 December
 - Local Government Boundary Commission
 - Fenland electoral review
 - Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Against Scams Partnership
 - Latest scams
 - Road Victims Trust
 - Remembrance service 21 November

083/21-22 Members and Residents Issues

Members discussed the issues raised by residents and resolved as follows:

- a) Skate Park repairs - A resident has offered to undertake repairs to the skatepark. A quote will be provided for prior consideration.
- b) Agricultural tenancy - The tenant has not paid either of the last two rent demands. Members resolved to terminate the tenancy in accordance with the appropriate clause of the agreement. Alternative uses for the field would require planning consent. The dyke on the southern boundary of the site will need to be cleared. Funding would be available to transform the site into an extension of the Recreation Ground.

084/21-22 The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

The Clerk reported that he had attended meetings and briefings on the Platinum Jubilee events for June 2022. Plans include the Green Canopy tree planting scheme, a chain of beacons or bonfires across the country, and the Big Jubilee Lunch. Cllr Harper asked whether the Council might match the funding from the Recreation Ground charity for a village celebration. Further details required.

085/21-22 Planning

Members considered the following applications:

- a) F/YR21/1169/F - Erect a first-floor rear extension to existing dwelling (part retrospective) - The Cottage, Euximoor Drove, Christchurch
- b) F/YR21/1197/F - Erect 1 x dwelling (2-storey 4-bed) and a detached garage, involving the removal of existing caravan and demolition of existing outbuilding - Cornfields,

Euximoor Drove, Christchurch

- c) F/YR21/1234/F - Erect a single-storey side extension and porch and ramp to front of existing dwelling - The Cattle Walk, Hall Farm, Upwell Road, Christchurch.
- d) F/YR21/1255/F - Erect 2-storey rear extension to existing dwelling involving link to existing garage and formation of a new access – Kotilo, Euximoor Drove, Christchurch

They resolved to offer no objection.

086/21-22 Policies and Procedures

Members considered the following draft policies and procedures prepared by the Clerk:

- a) Grievance policy.
- b) Disciplinary policy.
- c) Complaints procedure.

They resolved to adopt them and thanked the Clerk for collating them.

087/21-22 Finance

- a) The financial report as at 31.10.21 showed income of £24,332.76 and expenditure of £17,161.57, resulting in a surplus of £7,171.19 and total funds held of £50,990.57.
- b) Members considered a grant application from The Friends of The Heron. They resolved to offer a grant of £1,600 for the current financial year.
- c) Members noted the following sum received:
Fenland District Council (precept 2nd instalment) £ 6,375.00
- d) Members noted the following sum paid by direct debit:
Information Commissioner's Office (registration fee)..... £ 35.00
- e) Members approved the following accounts for payment:
Clerk salary and home office allowance..... £ 355.33
Heron Publishing (grant)..... £ 1,600.00
Mrs K Miller (expenses)..... £ 47.98
- f) Members were invited to suggest items for inclusion in the draft budget for 2022/23. The Clerk will ascertain appropriate costings.

088/21-22 Matters for Next Meeting

Support for vulnerable residents.

089/21-22 Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next Parish Council Meeting will be Monday 13 December.