

# CHRISTCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of a Meeting of Christchurch Parish Council held in the Community Centre on Monday 14 February 2022 at 7.30pm

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

**122/21-22 Apologies for Absence**  
Cllrs S Aldridge, R Gladwin

**123/21-22 Declarations of Interest**  
None

**124/21-22 Chairman's Announcements**  
None

**125/21-22 Public Time**  
A discussion took place about the Platinum Jubilee events planned in the village by the various organisations.

**126/21-22 Confirmation of Minutes**  
Minutes of the meeting held on 10 January 2021 were correctly recorded and signed as being a true record.

**127/21-22 Matters Outstanding**

- a) Bus shelter improvement project - No update.
- b) Pavement outside Field Lodge, Upwell Road - Anticipated start on site in late April.
- c) Roadside drains - The order for the excavation of the drain has been placed. Nearby drains also need investigation.
- d) Annual report to residents - Members agreed to publish the report in the April edition of The Heron.
- e) Benches, play equipment, outdoor gym - Members discussed their visit to other local play areas on 22 January. It was suggested that one or more new benches could be installed for the Jubilee weekend. The Clerk was asked to circulate details. The Clerk was also asked to ascertain the cost of installing a zip wire.
- f) Support for vulnerable residents - Cllr Hughes reported that he had found useful information on emergency planning. Members discussed the challenge of identifying vulnerable residents. Cllr Miller offered to assist Cllr Hughes. Cllr Sutton suggested that David Vincent, the District Council's Emergency Planning Officer could be invited either to a Council meeting or to the Annual Parish Meeting. Members asked Cllr Sutton to contact him to confirm his availability.
- g) The Armed Forces Covenant - Cllr Sutton explained that the District Council had signed the covenant and he had been approached by District Cllr Marks to ask whether his parishes would be willing to sign it. Members agreed to sign the covenant.
- h) Annual Parish Meeting - The meeting will take place on Tuesday 22 March at 7.30pm. The Clerk reported that he had invited Jenna Brame from Cambridgeshire ACRE to talk about affordable housing schemes, Robin Sutton from Cambridgeshire Neighbourhood Watch and Andy Morris from Cambridgeshire Police, with the possibility of David Vincent too. Members of the Council will report on achievements over the last year and village organisations will be invited to say a

few words about their work. An article in The Heron will advertise the event.

- i) Marker posts on Sixteen Foot Bank - The Clerk reported that an order has been placed to replace the missing posts.

#### **128/21-22 Police Report**

The Clerk reported that the refurbishment of Wisbech Police Station is complete. The Community Safety Partnership has been relaunched with funding from the Police & Crime Commissioner including a small grant scheme for local community safety initiatives. Neighbourhood Watch has a programme of events and activities to celebrate its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The Neighbourhood Policing team would like to visit community events.

#### **129/21-22 County & District Councillors Reports**

Cllr Sutton reported that the Forgotten Corner project has now been completed, but the final cost is not known.

#### **130/21-22 Clerk's Report**

The Clerk reported on meetings attended and correspondence received. Members noted that the Sixteen Foot Bank will be closed between 21 and 25 March for resurfacing.

#### **131/21-22 Members and Residents Issues**

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

- a) Platinum Jubilee celebrations - A full programme of events is planned at the Community Centre and the Dun Cow. Members of the Council will be supporting these events.

#### **132/21-22 Recreation Ground Extension**

- a) The Clerk reported that the copse between Upwell Road and the bowls green belongs to the Recreation Ground charity, not the Council.
- b) Members asked the Clerk to arrange a visit to Colne Parish Council on Saturday 12 March to view their community woodland, orchard and open space.

#### **133/21-22 Local Highway Improvement Application 2022/23**

- a) Cllr Hughes reported that he presented the application to the assessment panel on 2 February. The outcome will be known in mid-April.
- b) The meeting with the Leader of the County Council regarding the LHI process will take place on 3 March.

#### **134/21-22 Finance**

- a) The financial report as at 31.1.22 showed income of £25,252.82 and expenditure of £19,998.04, resulting in a surplus of £5,254.78 and total funds held of £49,074.16.
- b) Members approved the following accounts for payment:

Clerk salary and home office allowance .....	£	355.33
Cable Test Ltd (street lighting) .....	£	348.40
Doctor Tree Ltd (tree works) .....	£	5,160.00
Fenland District Council (planning fee) .....	£	231.00
G Harper (expenses) .....	£	23.17

#### **135/21-22 Matters for Next Meeting**

No further matters were requested.

#### **136/21-22 Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next Parish Council Meeting will be Monday 14 March.