

CHRISTCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Christchurch Parish Council held in the Community Centre on Monday 11 April 2022 at 7.30pm

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

153/21-22 Apologies for Absence

Cllr R Gladwin

154/21-22 Declarations of Interest

None

155/21-22 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman announced that after six years in the role, he had decided not to seek re-election at the forthcoming Annual Meeting.

156/21-22 Public Time

It was suggested that the plans for the Recreation Ground extension might include a memorial arboretum or orchard in which members of the public could sponsor a tree. It was also noted that there is a garden designer in the village who might be able to provide advice.

157/21-22 Emergency Planning

David Vincent, Fenland District Council's Emergency Planning Manager, addressed the Council on the importance of enhancing local resilience. He noted that during the recent storms, more than 900 homes in Cambridgeshire had lost power, some for two or three days. A local emergency plan could include emergency contact information, use local knowledge to identify vulnerable individuals, consider the use of buildings, vehicles and equipment, recruit volunteers to offer support, visit residents, provide food and drinks, medicines, first aid, personal care etc. The District Council's emergency teams would provide support to the local coordinator. Templates for a local plan and other documentation are available and copies of guidance were provided.

The Community Centre has been identified as a potential evacuation centre and members agreed to investigate the feasibility of running the building without power from the national grid.

The Chairman thanked Mr Vincent for attending the meeting and for providing such a comprehensive overview of the potential for an emergency plan.

158/21-22 Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 14 March 2022 were correctly recorded and signed as being a true record.

159/21-22 Matters Outstanding

- a) Bus shelter improvement project - No update.
- b) Pavement outside Field Lodge, Upwell Road - No further update.
- c) Roadside drains - Some drains still appear to be blocked.
- d) Benches, play equipment, outdoor gym - The Clerk presented several options for picnic benches. Members resolved to purchase two recycled plastic benches from Broxap Ltd at a cost of £634 each.

- e) Annual Parish Meeting and report to residents - The Chairman thanked Cllr and Mrs Hughes for their work in collating and publishing the Annual Report to residents. He commented that it was gratifying to see so many people attending the Annual Parish Meeting and taking an interest in the work of the Council.

160/21-22 Police Report

No meetings have taken place this month.

161/21-22 County & District Councillors Reports

Cllr Sutton reported that the boundary review proposes to split the Elm and Christchurch ward, pairing Christchurch with Doddington, Wimblington and Benwick. This solution appears not to recognise the way residents lead their lives. The Council discussed the issue and resolved to oppose the proposed changes. The Clerk was asked to contact the three councils named above to ascertain whether or not they were supporting the proposals.

Cllr Harper asked about the caravan behind Syringa House. Cllr Sutton advised members that a notice had been issued requiring it to be removed.

162/21-22 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported on meetings attended and correspondence received, including the forthcoming closure of March Riverside, Upwell, the public consultation on the Local Government Boundary Commission review and the Environment Agency's Drop-in event to discuss this year's bank works at Welney.

163/21-22 Members and Residents Issues

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

- a) Vehicular access to property in Crown Road - The Clerk outlined an enquiry from a resident of Crown Road who had been refused permission for a vehicle crossover, possibly due to the proximity to Townley School. Members asked the Clerk to clarify the details.
- b) Buffer zones and yellow lines - The Clerk read emails from County Councillors Jan French and Steve Count inviting parishes to nominate locations where a 40mph buffer zone would be beneficial between a national speed limit and a 30mph village limit and asking councils to check whether any road markings need to be repainted. Members resolved to nominate the northern approach to the village on Upwell Road for a buffer zone and to check the road markings.
- c) Electricity supply to caravan in village - A resident has report that the caravan behind Syringa House is receiving electricity from a property in Fen View. As the caravan is due to be removed shortly, no further action is required at this stage.
- d) Cllr Harper mentioned that contractors working on the new house adjacent to the former village shop are parking too close to the junction and obscuring the view for other motorists. It was suggested that they should be asked to park in a safer location.
- e) Cllr Bliss mentioned that the trees in Green Lane appear to be tangled with some of the telephone cables. The Clerk advised that BT Openreach will not carry out preventative maintenance.

164/21-22 Recreation Ground Extension

- a) Members considered ideas for the site and resolved to establish a steering group of residents, including children and parents to consider options. It was suggested that the project needs a name, but members felt that this too should be determined by the steering group.
- b) Members discussed their recent visit to Colne Parish Council. Several ideas were noted, including the use of poles for bird and owl boxes and the possible inclusion of a sundial as an interesting element.

165/21-22 Policies and Procedures

Members considered the following draft documents and resolved to adopt them:

- a) Equality and Diversity Policy
- b) Homeworking Policy
- c) Expenses Policy

166/21-22 Affordable Housing

Members discussed the presentation from Jenna Brame at the Annual Parish Meeting and resolved to ask Cambridgeshire ACRE to proceed with a housing needs survey for the parish to ascertain the level of demand for a new affordable housing scheme.

167/21-22 Finance

- a) The management accounts as at 31.3.22 showed income of £25,253.32 and expenditure of £28,516.43, resulting in a deficit of £3,263.11 and total funds held of £40,556.27.
- b) Members approved the following accounts for payment:

Clerk salary and home office allowance	£ 360.79
Heron Publishing	£ 89.88
CAPALC Ltd (subscription)	£ 406.03
A A Deptford (defibrillator battery)	£ 222.00
Mrs K Miller (expenses)	£ 19.26
- c) Members considered a request for financial support from Citizens Advice Rural Cambs and resolved to contribute £50.

168/21-22 Matters for Next Meeting

Steering group for new field project. Emergency plan.

Cllr Harper announced that he had decided to resign from the Council to give himself more time for other projects.

169/21-22 Date of Next Meeting

The date of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will be Monday 9 May.