

CHRISTCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Christchurch Parish Council held in the Community Centre on Monday 13 June 2022 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs J Hughes (Chairman), S Aldridge, J Bliss, R Gladwin, K Miller, P Owen,
Cllr W Sutton (FDC), D Gibbs (Clerk)

020/22-23 Apologies for Absence

None

021/22-23 Declarations of Interest

None

022/22-23 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman reported that the Jubilee celebration around the village had been well supported and very successful. He thanked those who had helped to organise the programme of events. Cllr Owen recorded his thanks to Mr Harper for his commitment to the Council during his tenure as a Councillor.

023/22-23 Public Time

No matters were raised.

024/22-23 Vacancy for a Parish Councillor

As no potential candidates were present, members resolved to defer a decision until the next meeting.

025/22-23 Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 9 May 2022 were correctly recorded and signed as being a true record.

026/22-23 Matters Outstanding

- a) Bus shelter improvement project - No update.
- b) Pavement outside Field Lodge, Upwell Road - To be discussed as a confidential matter.
- c) Roadside drains - A road closure is scheduled for the first week of August to rectify the drainage issue at the junction of Upwell Road and Crown Road.
- d) Benches, play equipment, outdoor gym - The Clerk confirmed that the benches will be delivered to Cllr Gladwin's address, due to their weight and size.

027/22-23 Police Report

The Clerk reported that all vacancies in the Wisbech Neighbourhood Team have been filled, increasing the size of the team to its highest level ever. The Clerk will invite the Neighbourhood Support Officers to attend the Afternoon Tea on 2 July.

028/22-23 County & District Councillors Reports

Cllr Sutton reported that he had spoken to the local highways officer regarding the missing marker posts along the Sixteen Foot Bank which were due to be replaced. He noted that another immersion fatality has been recorded on this stretch of road. They are awaiting the delivery of a special tool to install the posts without disturbing the bank. The Forgotten Corner LHI project has been delivered within budget and discussions are taking place regarding the process for collecting the various partner

contributions. On behalf of the Fenland Road Safety Campaign, he thanked the Council for its support and financial contribution to this important project. Cllr Sutton congratulated everybody involved in the recent Jubilee celebrations. He reported that the draft Local Plan had been approved by the District Council and would be presented for public scrutiny shortly. The Plan reintroduces settlement boundaries and contains few new potential development plots. Several District Councillors, including Cllr Sutton, have made representations regarding the boundaries and the need for greater flexibility. The public consultation on the Fenland District ward boundaries review has ended. Cllr Sutton and others submitted objections in respect of the parish of Christchurch. The Boundary Commission will publish its findings in due course.

029/22-23 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported on meetings attended and correspondence received, including a meeting with the Local Highways Officer and Cllr Sutton, consultations on the County Council's Transport Strategy, the future of the March Household Recycling Centre, and the Combined Authority's Local Transport and Connectivity Plan, a Police and Crime Commissioner Round Table meeting, and forthcoming closures of Upwell Road and the A1101 at Welney.

030/22-23 Members and Residents Issues

Cllr Gladwin mentioned that the vegetation on roadside verges was reducing visibility at some junctions. The Clerk offered to check and report this. TAM Engineering Services will visit to examine the skatepark and advise on options to remedy the damage to the ramps. Cllr Owen mentioned that there is a quantity of paint in the storage container that could be used to repaint the skate ramps. Cllr Miller has written an article for The Heron about the Emergency Plan.

031/22-23 Recreation Ground Extension

Cllr Hughes reported that he had spoken to a number of people at the Jubilee celebrations about volunteering in support of the proposed works. More were needed and he will advertise in The Heron and on Facebook. Cllr Gladwin reported that he had spoken to Fowlers regarding the clearing of the dyke between the Recreation Ground and the extension. Members resolved to authorise these works at a cost of £400 per day for up to 5 days.

032/22-23 Street Naming

At the May meeting, members supported a proposal to name the development of the former Memorial Hall site "Nine Tailors." The site owner has now put forward three different name options; Holy Cross Gardens, Sayers Gardens and Spire Gardens. Members considered these options and resolved in favour of Sayers Gardens.

033/22-23 Finance

- a) The management accounts as at 31.5.22 showed income of £8,000.00 and expenditure of £1,648.75, resulting in a surplus of £6,351.25 and total funds held of £46,907.52.
- b) Members approved the following account for payment:
Clerk salary and home office allowance £ 360.79
- c) Members considered the implications of the forthcoming closure of the Wisbech branch of Barclays Bank. They resolved to open an account at the Wisbech branch of National Westminster Bank plc and to close the Barclays Bank accounts.
- d) Members reviewed the list of authorised signatories for the Council's bank accounts and resolved that the signatories for the new National Westminster Bank account should be Cllrs Bliss, Hughes, Owen and the Clerk.

034/22-23 Confidential Item

Members resolved to exclude the press and public from the following item by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, in accordance with paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972

Legal matter

035/22-23 Matters for Next Meeting

None

036/22-23 Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next Meeting of the Parish Council will be Monday 11 July.