

CHRISTCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Christchurch Parish Council held in the Community Centre on Tuesday 20 September 2022 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs K Miller (in the Chair), S Aldridge, J Bliss, A Sparrow, Cllr W Sutton (FDC), D Gibbs (Clerk), B Moss, N Williams (Parishioners)

053/22-23 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs J Hughes, R Gladwin

054/22-23 Declarations of Interest

None

055/22-23 Chair's Announcements

The Chair, on behalf of the Council, thanked Mr Russell for his prompt and selfless actions to protect properties on Euximoor Drove from the crop fire on 24 July.

056/22-23 Public Time

Ms Moss and Ms Williams explained that they have experience of running activities for children and young people and would like to set up similar provision in Christchurch. They asked about the possibility of start-up funding from the Parish Council and were advised to submit a grant application once they have plans in place.

057/22-23 Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 11 July 2022 were correctly recorded and signed as being a true record.

058/22-23 Matters Outstanding

- a) Bus shelter improvement project - No progress.
- b) Pavement outside Field Lodge, Upwell Road - The architect is negotiating the discharge consent with the Middle Level Commissioners. The Clerk will contact Mr Simmonds to update him.
- c) Roadside drains - The outstanding works in Upwell Road were completed and members reported that the resident was pleased with the outcome. The Clerk asked members to report any further blockages.
- d) Benches, play equipment, outdoor gym - The Clerk confirmed that the benches have been delivered to Cllr Gladwin ready for installation.
- e) Markers on Sixteen Foot Bank - The installation has not commenced. The Clerk and Cllr Sutton will seek clarification regarding the installation date.

059/22-23 Police Report

The Clerk reported that he had attended two meetings recently. Issues discussed included an increase in shoplifting and the recreational use of nitrous oxide gas. Neighbourhood Watch is inviting individuals and community groups to sign up to its Community Safety Charter and has recently launched a campaign against street harassment.

060/22-23 County & District Councillors Reports

Cllr Sutton reported that the Boundary Commission had not supported the proposal put

forward by the District Council to split the Elm & Christchurch ward, so there will be no change. The source of the evidence put forward by the District Council to justify amalgamating Christchurch with March is yet to be confirmed. He thanked those who had submitted expressions of opposition to the proposals.

061/22-23 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported on meetings attended and correspondence received, including a webinar on the proposed Anglian Water reservoirs, information on financial help available for residents during the cost of living crisis, grants to reduce energy bills for homeowners and tenants, the public consultation on the draft Fenland Local Plan, a letter of thanks from the Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire, the launch of this year's Pride in Fenland awards and notification of the right to appoint an external auditor outside the national contract. Members resolved to continue to participate in national arrangements for external audit.

062/22-23 Members and Residents Issues

- a) Affordable housing proposal - no update received.
- b) CFC Disposals site - no update received.
- c) Communications - members asked the Clerk to invite Michael Brookes to the next meeting to discuss his observations.
- d) Local Highways Initiative bid for 2023/24 - members were asked to consider potential projects for discussion at the next meeting.
- e) Defibrillator spares - the Clerk outlined current difficulties in obtaining spare parts for the defibrillator at the Community Centre. Members agreed that urgent action may be required and that lives are at risk if the defibrillator is unavailable whilst awaiting spare parts. They resolved to authorise the Clerk to purchase a new defibrillator of a different make and model should it become necessary in order to continue to provide this life-saving equipment.

063/22-23 Recreation Ground Extension

Cllr Aldridge announced that she will be purchasing a memorial bench for a former resident. A temporary location will be required for it until it can be placed in the new field.

064/22-23 Planning

Members considered the following applications:

F/YR22/0900/F - The formation of hard-standing to site of 2 x caravans (1 x residential use and 1 x storage) at the rear of property - Dun Cow, Green Lane, Christchurch

They questioned whether this application requires planning permission, as it relates to accommodation ancillary to the adjoining property. Members resolved to offer no objection.

F/YR22/1037/F - Erect a dwelling (single-storey, 2-bed) - Land South West of The Old Post Office, Upwell Road, Christchurch

Members expressed concern regarding the proximity of the proposed development and, in particular, the boundary fence, to the adjoining property. They felt that the proposed dwelling falls within the curtilage of the listed building as shown on the Historic England listing and would be detrimental to the setting of the listed building. Members resolved not to support the application.

065/22-23 Finance

- a) The management accounts as at 31.8.22 showed income of £10,568.52 and expenditure of £2,452.44, resulting in a surplus of £8,116.08 and total funds held of £48,672.35.

- b) Members noted the following sum received:
Fenland District Council (concurrent functions grant)..... £2,567.00
- c) Members approved the following accounts for payment:
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| Clerk salary and home office allowance | £ 721.58 |
| Russell Fowler (dyke clearance) | £ 1,622.40 |
| Fenland District Council (street lighting)..... | £ 4,194.10 |
| Broxap Ltd (benches)..... | £ 1,556.40 |
| A A Deptford (defibrillator spares) | £ 92.40 |
| Fenland Road Safety Campaign (LHI contribution) | £ 1,666.67 |

066/22-23 Confidential Item

Deferred to October's meeting.

067/22-23 Matters for Next Meeting

Budget planning.

068/22-23 Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next Meeting of the Parish Council will be Monday 10 October.