

# CHRISTCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of a Meeting of Christchurch Parish Council held in the Community Centre on Monday 13 February 2023 at 7.30pm

**Present:** Cllrs J Hughes (Chairman), S Aldridge, J Bliss, P Owen, A Sparrow, Cllr W Sutton (FDC), D Gibbs (Clerk), A Nason, M Sadler (Parishioners)

### **134/22-23 Apologies for Absence**

Cllrs R Gladwin, K Miller and M Tanfield (FDC)

### **135/22-23 Declarations of Interest**

None

### **136/22-23 Chairman's Announcements**

None

### **137/22-23 Public Time**

Mr Sadler asked the Council to consider either removing or pollarding the lime tree in the Recreation Ground behind his property. Members agreed to consider this request. He also sought clarification on the rules relating to trees in neighbouring gardens. Cllr Sutton offered to contact the District Council for clarification.

Ms Nason asked whether the Council would support the planting of daffodils on roadside verges. Members felt this would enhance the appearance of the village. Ms Nason will discuss this with the Gardening Club. She also suggested Christmas lights on street lights, but the Clerk explained that whilst this might be possible on Parish Council owned lights, it would not be possible on other lights or utility poles.

### **138/22-23 Confirmation of Minutes**

It was noted that item 125/22-23 implied that Cllr Sutton had reported in person, but his report had been delivered by the Clerk in his absence. With this amendment, the minutes of the meeting held on 9 January 2023 were correctly recorded as being a true record.

### **139/22-23 Matters Outstanding**

- a) Bus shelter improvement project - No progress.
- b) Pavement outside Field Lodge, Upwell Road - The pavement and the vehicular crossover will be installed as separate projects.
- c) Affordable housing proposal - The Clerk is making contact with landowners.
- d) Padgetts Road repairs - Repairs will be considered when the budget for 2023-24 is confirmed.
- e) Skate park repairs - Members resolved to accept the estimate of approximately £1,000 from FJS Services.
- f) Household items outside property in Upwell Road - Members noted that more items have been added.

### **140/22-23 Police Report**

The Clerk reported that no meetings have taken place. Cllr Sutton reported that there had been a domestic burglary in the village at the end of January. The Police had responded promptly.

#### **141/22-23 County & District Councillors Reports**

Cllr Sutton explained that he had reported a large pothole requiring immediate attention to Highways. It was repaired the following day, showing that the emergency repairs system works well. Cllr Owen had previously raised an issue regarding non-domestic rates for the Community Centre and the Bowls Club. Cllr Sutton reported that this had been checked and appeared to be in order and that the Community Centre would benefit from the enhanced discount under the new Retail, Leisure and Hospitality scheme. Cllr Connor, County Councillor for Whittlesey South, has arranged to accompany Stephen Moir, the new Chief Executive of the County Council, on a tour of rural villages to show him the state of rural Fenland roads.

#### **142/22-23 Clerk's Report**

The Clerk reported on meetings attended and correspondence received, including a Community Led Housing webinar, the Combined Authority draft bus strategy, a forthcoming District Council briefing for election candidates, an invitation to an Armed Forces Covenant forum meeting, opportunities to work at May's elections, the NHS Feel Brighter campaign for elderly and isolated residents, and a Parks Partnership launch event.

#### **143/22-23 Members and Residents Issues**

- a) The Coronation of the King and the Queen Consort - Cllr Owen reported that the Recreation Ground charity has no plans to organise an event at the present time. An article is to be inserted in The Heron asking for suggestions about ways to mark the occasion.
- b) Caravan behind Syringa House - No action is to be taken in respect of the caravan until the planning application has been determined.

#### **144/22-23 Recreation Ground Extension**

A working party has cleared the rubbish lifted from the dyke. Cllr Gladwin has offered to prepare the field and sow grass. The tree and hedge pack will be delivered in mid-March, so this will be planted as a hedgerow along the northern boundary of the field. Quotes have been received for fencing to protect the hedgerow and for the dog run. Members agreed to delay the sowing of the grass until September to allow sufficient time to spray the whole field to remove perennial weeds. The fence around the hedgerow will be installed as soon as possible after the planting of the hedgerow, but the dog run will be deferred until further funding has been secured.

#### **145/22-23 Finance**

- a) The management accounts as at 31.1.23 showed income of £18,585.97 and expenditure of £17,281.78, resulting in a surplus of £1,304.19 and total funds held of £41,860.46.
- b) Members approved the following account for payment:  
Clerk salary and home office allowance ..... £ 441.13
- c) The Clerk advised members that he had restarted the NatWest account opening procedure and asked them to follow the instructions from the bank regarding identity verification.

#### **146/22-23 Communications**

- a) Members agreed to defer discussion of the report compiled by Mr Brookes and resolved to consider the matter further when he is able to attend a meeting.
- b) The Clerk advised members that their new email accounts were ready for use and provided them with their passwords.
- c) Members discussed the format of the Annual Parish Meeting, due to take place on Tuesday 28 March. Members agreed to adopt the same format as last year and

discussed potential speakers. Cllr Sutton offered to approach the Middle Level Commissioners to talk about current dredging work. Members asked the Clerk to contact the Anglian Water reservoirs team, Cambridgeshire Police and Fenland District Council's Emergency Planning Officer.

**147/22-23 Matters for Next Meeting**

None.

**148/22-23 Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next Meeting of the Parish Council will be Monday 13 March 2023.