

CHRISTCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Christchurch Parish Council held in the Community Centre on Monday 12 June 2023 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs J Hughes (Chairman), J Bliss, P Owen, A Sparrow, Cllr D Roy (FDC), D Gibbs (Clerk), Two parishioners

020/23-24 Apologies for Absence

Cllr M Summers (FDC)

021/23-24 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman expressed his sadness at the unexpected passing of local resident Michael Brooks who had been creating a website recording the history of the Parish. The Chairman reported that he had presented the Council's bid for Local Highways Improvement funding to the County Council's assessment panel and received favourable feedback.

022/23-24 Public Time

Ms Nason thanked the Council for the grant awarded to The Heron and asked whether a regular payment could be established in future. The Chairman advised her that an application could be submitted annually. She also mentioned that the village sign might need repainting in the near future.

023/23-24 Membership of the Council

Mr Potter indicated that he would like to join the Council and was duly co-opted. He signed his declaration of acceptance that was witnessed by the Clerk.

024/23-24 Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 May were correctly recorded and signed as being a true record.

025/23-24 Matters Outstanding

- a) Bus shelter improvement project - No progress. Cllr Sparrow suggested that the painted cobbles be donated to Townley School to feature on the site of their new classroom.
- b) Pavement outside Field Lodge, Upwell Road - No further update.
- c) Affordable housing proposal - The Clerk reported that the sum of £8,419.06 is held by the District Council as a Section 106 contribution for affordable housing in Christchurch.
- d) Skate park repairs - The repairs have still not been carried out.
- e) Household items outside property in Upwell Road - Members reported that the site continues to deteriorate.
- f) Recreation Ground trees - The tree behind 7 Wayside Estate has been pollarded.
- g) Trees overhanging Padgetts Road - The landowner has removed the overhanging branches.
- h) Wayside Estate pedestrian safety - The Clerk reported that he had been unable to arrange a meeting with a Road Safety Officer and was asked to submit a Privately Funded Highway Improvement application. He will discuss this with our County Councillors to ascertain whether they are able to assist in this process.

- i) Annual report to residents - Members agreed to publish a brief Annual Report to be delivered with The Heron. Cllr Hughes offered to produce the document and to arrange for 400 copies to be printed by The Heron's printer.
- j) Recycling credits - The Clerk was asked about the recycling credits for the bins outside the Community Centre. He confirmed that the Council no longer receives the credits. Cllr Roy offered to clarify how the payments are distributed.

026/23-24 Police Report

The Clerk reported that no meetings had taken place. A meeting is scheduled for later this month.

027/23-24 County & District Councillors Reports

Cllr Roy explained that the presence of a caravan behind Syringa House was being investigated by the District Council's Enforcement Officers. He will monitor the situation and report to the next meeting.

He reported that recent flooding in Elm had been caused by overdevelopment and inadequate drainage and major upgrades are required.

He noted that there had been speed checks in the villages and was pushing for more. He expressed his support for mandatory 20mph speed limits outside schools.

028/23-24 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported on correspondence received.

029/23-24 Members and Residents Issues

- a) Outdoor gym equipment - Members discussed options for the installation of outdoor gym equipment and resolved to commit up to £5,000 for this purpose. Cllr Sparrow will consider options and make recommendations for the next meeting.
- b) Picnic tables - Cllr Sparrow has the tables, which will each be installed in a concrete base at locations to be agreed by the Recreation Ground charity.
- c) Parishioner engagement - The Clerk circulated copies of the 1999 and 2006 parish surveys. Members asked that these be scanned and made available on the Council's website. A new consultation could use an online survey, with paper copies available where required.

030/23-24 Recreation Ground Extension

Cllr Hughes reported that a steering group has been established, led by Mr Freeland. The group is in discussions with the middle Level Commissioners regarding access culverts. An initial conversation with the Whitemill Environment Fund received a positive response.

031/23-24 Planning

Members considered the following application:

F/YR23/0447/F - Erect a single-storey extension to side of existing dwelling (retrospective) - Meadow Farm, Euximoor Drove, Christchurch

Members resolved to offer no objection

032/23-24 Finance

- a) The management accounts as at 31.5.23 showed income of £9,250.00 and expenditure of £1,658.86, resulting in a surplus of £7,591.14 and total funds held of £48,909.40.

- b) Members approved the following accounts for payment:

Clerk salary and home office allowance	£ 441.13
The Heron (grant)	£ 1,500.00

033/23-24 Golden Age Fair - 30 June

Members agreed to use the opportunity to present ideas for the Recreation Ground Extension, outdoor gym and the annual report of the Council. Cllr Hughes, the Clerk and other councillors will attend.

034/23-24 Matters for Next Meeting

Communication from the Campaign to Protect Rural England.

035/23-24 Date of Next Meeting

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