

CHRISTCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Christchurch Parish Council held in the Community Centre on Monday 9 October 2023 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs J Hughes (Chairman), J Bliss, R Feeney, J Hayes, P Owen, S Potter, A Sparrow, D Gibbs (Clerk), seven parishioners

067/23-24 Apologies for Absence

Cllr D Roy (FDC), Cllr M Summers (FDC)

068/23-24 Chairman's Announcements

None.

069/23-24 Public Time

Several residents of Padgetts Road voiced their objections to the proposed development of land south of Illizarov Lodge, particularly in relation to potential surface water issues, lack of infrastructure and amenities, pedestrian safety and assumptions regarding the type of properties to be built.

Ms Nason reported that Upwell Computer Repairs had made a copy of the former Christchurch History website to allow it to be retained for the future. Members agreed to meet the cost of this, amounting to £90 and Cllr Feeney will consider options for recreating and updating the site. She has consulted the Local Studies Librarian regarding the paper archives which could be sent to the County Archives.

It was reported that residents of Crown Road would be meeting representatives of the care company responsible for an elderly resident to voice their concerns.

Cllr Potter reported that a large heap of soil had been left in the field behind Brimstone Close and that children were playing on it. The Clerk offered to discuss this with the developer.

Cllr Sparrow reported that Mr Quail had kindly cut the grass along Crown Drove.

070/23-24 Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 September were correctly recorded and signed as being a true record.

071/23-24 Matters Outstanding

- a) Bus shelter improvement project - Townley School will now take on this project.
- b) Pavement outside Field Lodge, Upwell Road - No further update
- c) Affordable housing proposal - No further update.
- d) Household items outside property in Upwell Road - Clarion Housing Group has visited and is investigating. There are now two empty properties in this vicinity awaiting repairs.
- e) Wayside Estate pedestrian safety - The Clerk reported that he had discussed the issue with a Road Safety Officer. Data to support the case for intervention would be helpful, but there is nowhere to mount an MVAS device. Road markings may be the only solution. The Local Highways Officer will be invited to visit to discuss this option.
- f) Parishioner engagement - The questionnaire will be included in the November edition of The Heron. Printed copies will be available on request from Cllr Sparrow. Cllr Feeney agreed to create a Facebook page.

072/23-24 Police Report

The Clerk reported that no meetings had taken place.

073/23-24 County & District Councillors Reports

In Cllr Roy's absence, the Clerk reported that Cllr Roy continued to make enquiries regarding the enforcement action on the caravan behind Syringa House.

074/23-24 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported on correspondence received, including a County Council roadside weed management survey, a one-day closure of Wayside Estate and part of Crown Road, and a District Council Independent Remuneration Panel review of member allowances.

075/23-24 Members and Residents Issues

- a) Protecting hedgehogs - Townley School will distribute one hedgehog highway surround per pupil. Cllr Hayes will liaise with the school.
- b) Santa Run - This will take place on the evening of either Saturday 2 or 9 December. Six volunteers are required to carry collection buckets. Proceeds to be split equally between the organiser's charity and a Council nominated project or organisation.
- c) Highway weeds - Members noted that there had been an increase in weed growth which was affecting some drains.
- d) Play equipment inspections - The Clerk reminded members that regular visual inspections of the play equipment are required. Cllr Sparrow offered to compile a checklist to assist with this. Cllr Hayes reported that no broken bottles had been found in the skatepark for a couple of weeks, but she will visit regularly to monitor the situation. The Chairman has written an article for The Heron regarding this.

076/23-24 Recreation Ground Extension

Cllrs Hughes reported that weed removal is a priority. More hedging will be delivered shortly to be planted by the volunteers. He is discussing the installation of a bridge with the County Council's Bridges Officer.

077/23-24 Planning

Members considered the following applications:

- a) F/YR23/0769/PIP - Residential development of up to 5 x dwellings (application for Permission in Principle) - Land South of Illizarov Lodge, Padgetts Road, Christchurch

They expressed the view that modest development benefits the village in supporting the village school, the public house and community centre, with the possibility of reinstating the bus service in the future. They noted the concerns of residents regarding the speed of traffic along Padgetts Road and, in particular, the dangers this poses at the junction with Church Road and Scotts Road, where minor accidents and near misses are a regular occurrence and the residents' petition submitted several years ago asking the Council to take appropriate action. A reduction in the speed limit requires an increase in the number of properties on this part of the road. This proposal would meet the threshold for a new application.

Members expressed concern about pedestrian safety in this location and asked that consideration be given to the inclusion of a pavement when a detailed application is submitted to connect the existing dwellings either side of the development site and the new dwellings to the pavement in Church Road. Such a pavement would provide safe pedestrian access from this location to the entire village.

Members resolved to support the application.

b) F/YR23/0799/F - Erect single-storey and 2-storey side extensions, including additions to roof, to existing dwelling - Holme Farm, Padgetts Road, Christchurch
Members resolved to support the application.

078/23-24 Finance

a) The management accounts as at 30.9.23 showed income of £21,163.35 and expenditure of £11,928.21, resulting in a surplus of £9,235.14 and total funds held of £50,553.40.

b) Members noted the following sums received since the last meeting:

Barclays Bank (interest).....	£	37.62
Fenland District Council (precept).....	£	9,250.00

c) Members approved the following accounts for payment:

Clerk salary and home office allowance	£	441.13
L J Bennett (history website).....	£	90.00

079/23-24 Matters for Next Meeting

None.

080/23-24 Date of Next Meeting

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