

CHRISTCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Christchurch Parish Council held in the Community Centre on Monday 12 February 2024 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs J Hughes (Chairman), J Bliss, S Potter, D Gibbs (Clerk), six parishioners

128/23-24 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs R Feeney, J Hayes, A Sparrow, Cllr S Count (CCC), Cllr J French (CCC), Cllr D Roy (FDC), Cllr M Summers (FDC)

129/23-24 Chairman's Announcements

None.

130/23-24 Public Time

Residents asked about street lighting in Church Road, the proposed traffic island in Church Road, the progress of the planning application for a stable at the end of Fen View, and the introduction of a village bus service. The Clerk advised them that the missing street light outside the former Memorial Hall site had been reported and a replacement should be installed soon. The Council has agreed to adopt the lights in Church Road either side of The Croft, so they will be inspected and repaired soon. The Chairman reported that he had signed off the design for the traffic island, but there is currently no date for the work to commence. The Clerk reported that the planning application will go before the District Council's Planning Committee for determination, but there is a backlog of applications, so the date of the meeting is not known. Nothing is known about the proposed bus service, as there has been no communication from the Combined Authority. The Parish Council first heard about it in the local press.

131/23-24 Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 January were correctly recorded and signed as being a true record.

132/23-24 Matters Outstanding

- a) Pavement outside Field Lodge, Upwell Road - No further update.
- b) Affordable housing proposal - No further update.
- c) Household items outside property in Upwell Road - No further update.
- d) Wayside Estate pedestrian safety - No further update.
- e) Parishioner engagement - Members noted that the new Facebook page is attracting attention.
- f) Santa Run - The Clerk is still trying to contact the organiser.
- g) Bowls Club donation - To be agreed at the next meeting.
- h) Outdoor gym and play equipment inspections - The outdoor gym equipment has now been relocated to the far end of the Recreation Ground. Cllr Sparrow will complete the inspection checklist.
- i) Annual Parish Meeting planning - Suggested speakers - Chief Fire Officer, Cambs Police, a Planning Officer.

133/23-24 Police Report

The Clerk reported that he had attended a meeting with the Neighbourhood Sergeant. The vacant roles on the Neighbourhood Team have been filled. The two new

constables have police and military experience respectively. There have been some of hare coursing incidents in the area, although fewer than in previous years, possibly due to the weather.

134/23-24 County & District Councillors Reports

In the absence of the County and District Councillors, there were no reports.

135/23-24 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported on the Police meeting outlined above and correspondence received, including the County Council's 20mph funding applications, a Flood Resilience Day at Wisbech Library, a closure of the Sixteen Foot Bank between Cotton's Corner Bridge and the county boundary, King's Lynn and West Norfolk Council's consultation on gypsy and traveller sites, older driver workshops from Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue, Cambridgeshire ACRE's Village Halls Week from 18 March and the Centenary Community Buildings Conference in Burwell on 21 March.

136/23-24 Members and Residents Issues

- a) Accidents on the Sixteen Foot Bank - The Chairman reported that there had been several accidents early one frosty morning. The road appeared to be ungritted despite the weather forecast, although the gritters were working during the night. At least one car was written off. Cllr Count has asked Highways for more information.
- b) Local bus service - As reported in Public Time, it appears that there is a plan to reinstate a bus service connecting Christchurch to Wisbech and Downham Market. The Council is awaiting further information.
- c) Equestrian safety signage - It was suggested that signs could be placed around the parish to remind motorists of the need to slow down and give plenty of room to horses. An example of a suitable sign from the British Horse Society was circulated. The Clerk agreed to discuss this with the Highways Vision Zero team.

137/23-24 Recreation Ground Extension

Mr Freeland reported that more than 2000 trees and hedging plants had been planted. Quotes are being obtained for other elements of the project. Some elements, such as the second bridge, might require additional funding. The Chairman thanked the volunteers for their hard work over the winter months.

138/23-24 Finance

- a) The management accounts as at 31.1.24 showed income of £26,423.80 and expenditure of £17,421.30, resulting in a surplus of £9,002.50 and total funds held of £50,320.76.
- b) The Clerk reported that he is still trying to resolve issues with the Barclays Bank accounts.
- c) Members approved the following accounts for payment:

Clerk salary and home office allowance	£	467.13
Fenland Leisure Products Ltd (outdoor gym installation).....	£	5,589.48
- d) Members approved the transfer of £20,000 from the Barclays Bank account to the NatWest Bank account.

139/23-24 Matters for Next Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting.

140/23-24 Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting of the Parish Council will be Monday 11 March.