

CHRISTCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Christchurch Parish Council held in the Community Centre on Monday 8 April 2024 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs A Sparrow (in the Chair), J Bliss, B Burfield, S Potter, D Gibbs (Clerk), two parishioners

158/23-24 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs R Feeney, J Hayes, J Hughes, Cllr D Roy (FDC), Cllr M Summers (FDC)

159/23-24 Chairman's Announcements

None.

160/23-24 Public Time

Mr Benjamin asked who is responsible for the maintenance of the Village Sign. It has been suggested that it might need repainting soon. Members noted that there is a WI plaque on the sign. Cllr Sparrow will seek clarification from the WI regarding their involvement.

161/23-24 Confirmation of Minutes

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

162/23-24 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 - Members noted that the rear of the site on Crown Road has been improved, but the Upwell Road frontage is becoming increasingly overgrown.
- d) Wayside Estate pedestrian safety - The Clerk invited Members to a meeting with the Local Highways Officer in Wayside Estate at 9.30am on 15 April to discuss options.
- e) Santa Run - The Clerk will try to contact the organiser, but if unsuccessful, no further action will be taken.
- f) Bowls Club donation - Cllr Sparrow contacted the Club to discuss options and is awaiting a response.

163/23-24 Police Report

The Clerk reported that no meetings have taken place.

164/23-24 County & District Councillors Reports

In Cllr Roy's absence, the Clerk reported that a new bus service is proposed to connect Christchurch with Manea Station, as well as other destinations, hopefully including Wisbech and Downham Market. The Combined Authority is responsible for bus services, so no further details are available at present.

165/23-24 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported on correspondence received, including the County Council's Local Nature Recovery Strategy survey, a closure of Fifty Road until 10 May, a closure of A1101 Bates Drove to 31 May, Fenland District Council's free Tea Dances, including one in Christchurch on 24 May, and the Public Health Team's Healthy Places survey.

166/23-24 Members and Residents Issues

- a) Sixteen Foot Bank resurfacing - Mr Benjamin asked about the cost of the work being undertaken. The Clerk responded that the works form part of a wider scheme trialling a new method of patching, so no individual costs are available.
- b) Bin outside the former village shop - The Clerk reported that he had visited the area to look for alternative locations, but there is no easy solution.

167/23-24 Recreation Ground Extension

The Clerk reminded members of the project team that they must discuss all aspects of the project with the Council as the decision maker and the fundholder. A costed master plan is needed to enable funds to be monitored.

168/23-24 Communications Working Group

Cllr Sparrow provided a brief update on the work of the Group. Better communication is required, including wider use of Facebook. More good news stories about the Council's achievements. Short profiles of individual councillors. More clarity about what we do and don't do. Quick win environmental improvements, bulb planting, bus shelter, working with Street Pride and the Gardening Club where appropriate. An informal Parish Council notice board is to be installed in the Community Centre, with a feedback option. Another meeting will take place shortly.

169/23-24 Annual Parish Meeting

The Police have confirmed their attendance. The agenda was agreed. Members volunteered to undertake various roles to welcome the public and present information.

170/23-24 Planning

Members considered the following application:

F/YR24/0252/F - Erect a single-storey extension to rear and replace conservatory to side of existing dwelling - Annes Cottage, Padgetts Road, Christchurch

They resolved to support the application.

171/23-24 Finance

- a) The management accounts as at 31.3.24 showed income of £28,328.23 and expenditure of £27,226.66, resulting in a surplus of £1,101.57 and total funds held of £42,419.83.
- b) Members noted the following sum received:
 - Barclays Bank (interest).....£ 11.51
- c) Members ratified the following payments issued since the last meeting:
 - T A Blackamore Ltd (grass cutting)£ 2,184.00
 - NPS Fencing & Countryside Management Ltd (fencing)£ 2,400.00
- d) Members approved the following accounts for payment:
 - Clerk salary and home office allowance£ 467.13
 - CAPALC Ltd (subscription)£ 441.74

172/23-24 Matters for Next Meeting

None

173/23-24 Date of Next Meeting

The date of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will be Monday 13 May.