

CHRISTCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Christchurch Parish Council held in the Community Centre on Monday 10 June 2024 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs J Hughes (Chairman), B Burfield, R Feeney, J Hayes, S Potter, A Sparrow, Cllr D Roy (FDC), D Gibbs (Clerk), three parishioners

020/24-25 Apologies for Absence

Cllr J Bliss, Cllr S Count (CCC), Cllr M Summers (FDC)

021/24-25 Chairman's Announcements

None

022/24-25 Public Time

Mrs Scott stated that the Street Pride group would like to plant bulbs in the planters around the village if sufficient volunteers come forward. Members encouraged her to consider submitting a grant application to equip the group and enable them to undertake environmental improvements around the village. She also asked about progress with the village sign. Cllr Sparrow reported that he had contacted the original manufacturers of the sign for advice.

Mr Benjamin asked whether the District Council's waste contractor would collect batteries if they were left on top of wheelie bins. The Clerk offered to clarify this.

023/24-25 Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 May were correctly recorded and signed as being a true record.

024/24-25 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 - See 026/24-25.
- d) Wayside Estate pedestrian safety - The Clerk will contact the Local Highway Officer.
- e) Litter bin outside former village shop - It was suggested that the bin could be relocated onto the verge adjacent to Fen View. The Clerk will discuss this with the District Council.
- f) Village sign - See 022/24-25.
- g) Fly-tipping at Bedlam Bridge - The Clerk has discussed the matter with the District Council. The area is private property, so the landowner will be required to arrange for the disposal of the waste.

025/24-25 Police Report

The Clerk reported that no meetings have taken place. Cllr Feeney reported that during the recent roadworks at Lot's Bridge, items had been stolen from the works compound.

026/24-25 County & District Councillors Reports

Cllr Roy advised members that he is expecting a response from Clarion Housing soon regarding the gardens of bungalows on The Hill. An Enforcement Officer has visited

Syringa House and it is hoped that the caravan and other matters will be resolved by the end of July. The Leader of the Council has advised Cllr Roy that the new bus route is out to tender based on an hourly service. The Flood Resilience Team is planning a public meeting, which may take place in Elm, with details to be confirmed. The Middle Level Commissioners have created a series of videos about their work, available on YouTube.

027/24-25 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported on meetings attended and correspondence received, including a webinar on the Fens Reservoir, the County Council's closure of Padgetts Road from 22 July to 26 August, the District Council's tendering of the street light maintenance contract, the appointment of the board to administer the £20million Government grant for Wisbech, and a warning about the disposal of batteries. The Combined Authority has a question and answer session on the new bus route proposals, Anglian Water has launched the second consultation on the Fens Reservoir and Online Playgrounds are offering another play equipment inspection course.

028/24-25 Members and Residents Issues

- a) Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service - As the Fire Service was unable to send anyone to the Annual Parish Meeting, they have offered to come to another village event. The Friday Morning Breakfast was suggested, as this brings together the greatest number of residents.
- b) Townley School Special Educational Needs Consultation - Members discussed the proposal and agreed that no response was required.
- c) Crown Drove grass cutting - The Clerk reported that the grass has now been cut.
- d) Kimberlea House - Members discussed residents' concerns about recent events. The Clerk explained that he had discussed the matter with the relevant District Council officers who had advised that the residents continue their dialogue with the company responsible for the property.
- e) Trees behind Wayside Estate - Residents have expressed concern regarding the size and condition of some of the trees. The Clerk confirmed that overhanging branches can be cut back to the boundary line.
- f) Cllr Burfield advised Members that the grass cutting contractor was not keeping to the schedule of fortnightly cuts. The Clerk will contact the contractor.

029/24-25 Recreation Ground Extension

Cllr Hughes reported that the fencing has been installed and the contractor will be returning soon to sow the grass. The dyke has been remeasured and contractors have been invited to quote for the installation of the concrete pads for the bridge.

030/24-25 Communications Working Group

Cllr Sparrow provided a brief update. The Group has not met since the last meeting. Cllr Feeney has written a short profile for the Facebook page and Cllr Hughes will follow. A new noticeboard has been purchased to go inside the Community Centre. Two roller banners will be printed explaining the work of the Council. Members approved expenditure of up to £100 for the printing of the banners. This month's meeting has been postponed until July to allow time for the banners to be designed. The Clerk has purchased badges for Members.

031/24-25 Bus Shelter Project

Cllr Sparrow agreed to present options for the scheme, once the Highway plans are received from the Local Highway Officer.

032/24-25 Planning

Members considered the following application:

F/YR24/0426/VOC - Variation of condition 02 (external finish) and 11 (list of approved plans) relating to planning application F/YR23/0273/F (Conversion of barn to a single storey 1-bed dwelling) to enable black cladding to sections of the dwelling instead of bricks to match existing - Barn at Willow Farm, Euximoor Drove, Christchurch

They resolved to offer no objection.

033/24-25 Finance

- a) The management accounts as at 31.5.24 showed income of £9,291.81 and expenditure of £8,593.79, resulting in a surplus of £698.02 and total funds held of £43,117.85.
- b) Members noted the following sum received since the last meeting:
 - Barclays Bank (interest).....£ 24.33
- c) Members ratified the following payments issued since the last meeting:
 - Identity Plus (badges)£ 7.44
 - NPS Fencing & Countryside Management Ltd (fencing)£ 4,560.00
- d) Members approved the following accounts for payment:
 - Clerk salary and home office allowance£ 467.13
 - Viking Office UK Ltd (noticeboard)£ 50.39
 - CPRE (subscription)£ 36.00

034/24-25 Matters for Next Meeting

None

035/24-25 Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting of the Parish Council will be Monday 8 July.