

CHRISTCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

036/24-25 Apologies for Absence

Cllr B Burfield, Cllr S Count (CCC), Cllr M Summers (FDC)

037/24-25 Chairman's Announcements

None

038/24-25 Public Time

The issue of hedges and other vegetation overhanging pavements was discussed. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to specific residents to ask them to rectify the situation. It was noted that the date of the forthcoming resurfacing works in Padgetts Road appears to have been put back from 22 July to 26 August.

039/24-25 Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 June were correctly recorded and signed as being a true record.

040/24-25 Matters Outstanding

- a) Pavement outside Field Lodge, Upwell Road - The Clerk informed members that a new contractor has been appointed and work should commence soon.
- b) Affordable housing proposal - The Clerk informed members that the response to the survey had been inadequate to justify proceeding with the proposal. Members expressed concern regarding the timing of the survey coinciding with the Christmas holiday. The Clerk confirmed that a re-consultation would be possible, but the housing association may not be willing to bear the cost. Other options include the Council or Section 106 funding held for affordable housing provision from a previous development. Members resolved to proceed with a re-consultation and asked the Clerk to clarify the availability of funding for this purpose.
- c) Household items outside property in Upwell Road - No further update. Cllr Roy anticipated that Clarion Housing Group would be attending a meeting of the District Council's Overview and Scrutiny Panel later this year.
- d) Wayside Estate pedestrian safety - The Clerk informed members that the Local Highways Officer has transferred to a different role within Cambridgeshire Highways and no replacement had been appointed.
- e) Litter bin outside former village shop - The Clerk confirmed that he had asked for the bin to be relocated to the verge near Fen Road.
- f) Village sign - Cllr Sparrow has contacted the original supplier and is awaiting an estimate of costs for restoration.
- g) Fly-tipping at Bedlam Bridge - The District Council is trying to contact the landowner.
- h) Disposal of batteries - The Clerk informed members that the District Council does not collect batteries and electrical items left on top of wheelie bins, although neighbouring councils do. Such items may be deposited at household waste

centres, some supermarkets and electrical retailers. Cllr Roy offered to raise the matter with the District Council.

- i) Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service visit - The Chairman offered to discuss possible dates in September with the Breakfast Club.

041/24-25 Police Report

The Clerk reported that no meetings have taken place.

042/24-25 County & District Councillors Reports

Cllr Roy questioned whether the scheduled highway weed spraying had taken place, as the weeds do not appear to be dying. No response has been received regarding the overgrown garden in Upwell Road, so he will continue to pursue this. Crown Paints has a free paint scheme for community projects which could be of use to the Council or the Community Centre.

043/24-25 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported on meetings attended and correspondence received, including the Cambridgeshire ACRE Centenary Celebration, notification of the forthcoming closure of Padgetts Road, and the public consultation on the new Fens Reservoir.

044/24-25 Members and Residents Issues

- a) Dun Cow Public House Airbnb proposal - Members discussed the proposal to create a holiday facility on land adjacent to the pub. They were broadly supportive of the concept, but will consider the matter in more detail when the planning application is submitted.
- b) Fly tipping on Green Lane - The Clerk confirmed that the District Council is aware of the issue, but special arrangements must be made to remove asbestos.

045/24-25 Recreation Ground Extension

Cllr Hughes reported that a quote has been obtained for footings for the bridge. Members asked whether the bridge remains the most affordable option. A quote for a culvert will be obtained for comparison. Consent will be required from the Middle Level Commissioners. The field will be reseeded soon.

046/24-25 Communications Working Group

Cllr Sparrow provided a brief update. The Group has not met since the last meeting. A meeting will take place shortly to consider draft logos and the designs for the banners. Cllr Hughes has started the preparation of the annual report to residents, but needs more content.

047/24-25 Bus Shelter Project

The Clerk reported that he has requested a copy of the highway plans from the Highways Asset Team.

048/24-25 Planning

Members considered the following application:

F/YR24/0508/VOC - Variation of condition 7 (Natural England Licence) of planning permission F/YR22/1211/F (Conversion of existing barns to create 3 x dwellings (2 x single-storey 1-bed and 1 single-storey x 2-bed) and a 1-bed annexe (ancillary to existing dwelling), including raising the height of barn 1 and erection of a single-storey extension to barn 2, involving partial demolition of existing barn) - Laddus Farm, March Riverside, Upwell

They resolved to offer no objection.

049/24-25 Finance

- a) The management accounts as at 30.6.24 showed income of £9,384.49 and expenditure of £9,149.06, resulting in a surplus of £235.43 and total funds held of £42,655.26.
- b) Members noted the following sum received since the last meeting:

NatWest Bank (interest).....	£	17.84
Barclays Bank (interest).....	£	74.84
- c) Members approved the following account for payment:

Clerk salary and home office allowance.....	£	467.13
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- d) Members reviewed the new financial regulations and resolved to adopt them.

050/24-25 Matters for Next Meeting

None

051/24-25 Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting of the Parish Council will be Monday 12 August.