

# CHRISTCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

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

**Present:** Cllrs J Hughes (Chairman), J Bliss, B Burfield, S Potter, Cllr S Count (CCC), Cllr D Roy (FDC), D Gibbs (Clerk), four parishioners

### **052/24-25 Apologies for Absence**

Cllrs R Feeney, J Hayes, A Sparrow, Cllr M Summers (FDC)

### **053/24-25 Chairman's Announcements**

None

### **054/24-25 Public Time**

A resident asked about the grass cutting on the Recreation Ground, which has not been cut for a month. Members agreed to discuss this at the end of the season.

The affordable housing survey was raised. The Chairman explained that the Council hopes to run the survey again as the response was poor.

### **055/24-25 Confirmation of Minutes**

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

### **056/24-25 Matters Outstanding**

- a) Pavement outside Field Lodge, Upwell Road - Work to install the new pavement has started.
- b) Affordable housing proposal - See 054/24-25.
- c) Household items outside property in Upwell Road - Cllr Roy reported that he had spoken to Clarion Housing Group who stated that they were working with the tenants to improve the situation.
- d) Wayside Estate pedestrian safety - No progress possible until a new Local Highways Officer is appointed.
- e) Litter bin outside former village shop - The bin should be relocated soon.
- f) Village sign - The Clerk reported that Cllr Sparrow had received an estimate of around £2,000 for the refurbishment of the village sign.
- g) Fly-tipping at Bedlam Bridge - The District Council is still trying to contact the landowner. The Clerk has spoken to the Middle Level Commissioners and they require access to the bank of the Sixteen Foot River at that location.
- h) Disposal of batteries - No update.
- i) Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service visit - The Chairman will discuss possible dates with the Breakfast Club.

### **057/24-25 Police Report**

The Clerk reported that no meetings have taken place.

### **058/24-25 County & District Councillors Reports**

Cllr Count reported that the County Council has launched its Active Travel Hierarchy consultation, although this may not be relevant to small rural parishes such as

Christchurch. The Combined Authority's Best Value notice from the Government is due to end this month. The new bus service is due to start soon, funded from the mayoral precept. A new special school is due to open in March in September 2026, although it is unclear whether this target will be met. Temporary classrooms have been installed at Thomas Clarkson Academy in Wisbech as the first stage of the creation of a new secondary school to cater for increasing pupil numbers.

Cllr Roy reported that he is still applying pressure to remove the caravan behind Syringa House. He stated that the Ward Traffic Strategy document to be discussed under item 065/24-25 is a working document to establish a common view for wider discussion.

#### **059/24-25 Clerk's Report**

The Clerk reported on correspondence received, including the Active Travel Hierarchy consultation mentioned above, an update on the electric vehicle charging scheme, a Community Energy Action Plan survey, the District Council's draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy, invitations to the Chairman's Charity Coffee Morning and the CAPALC Annual Conference and the Police and Crime Plan survey.

#### **060/24-25 Members and Residents Issues**

- a) Santa Run - The Clerk reported that he had spoken to the organiser of last year's Santa Run who is keen to repeat the event this year. The date of 21<sup>st</sup> December is suggested. Members agreed to repeat the event.
- b) Kimberlea House - The Clerk reported that there have been further incidents outside the property. He has issued appropriate advice to the neighbours who have complained to enable them to monitor and report incidents as they happen.
- c) Overhanging hedges - It is hoped that these will be cut in September after the end of the bird breeding season.

#### **061/24-25 Recreation Ground Extension**

Cllr Hughes reported that the option of a culvert is being considered as a cheaper alternative to a bridge. A contractor has been asked to provide a quote. The grass has not been sown. Owl and bat boxes will be installed soon.

#### **062/24-25 Communications Working Group**

The Clerk summarised a report from Cllr Sparrow outlining the achievements of the Group, including the creation of a Facebook page, the installation of a new notice board in the Community Centre, and work on a new logo and roller banners. The Clerk circulated drafts for the new logo and members agreed to adopt it.

#### **063/24-25 Bus Shelter Project**

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

#### **064/24-25 Parish Council Duty Under Section 40 of NERC 2006**

Members discussed the information circulated by the Clerk. Whilst they supported it in principle, it was not clear how it applied to the work of the Council. Cllr Potter agreed to consider the matter in more detail and report to a future meeting.

#### **065/24-25 Highways**

Members considered the draft strategy prepared by Cllr Summers. Cllr Count stated that more money has been allocated for highways, but needs to be used effectively. He noted that active travel and public transport were not included in the strategy.

Members agreed that something needs to be done about the condition of the roads and resolved to support the development of the strategy.

**066/24-25 Planning**

Members noted the following application:

F/YR24/0639/PANR - Proposed temporary site compound including temporary offices under 3 metres in height and less than 900 cubic metres in capacity - Middle Level Commissioners Site, Sixteen Foot Bank, Christchurch

**067/24-25 Finance**

a) The management accounts as at 31.7.24 showed income of £11,972.54 and expenditure of £9,617.59, resulting in a surplus of £2,354.95 and total funds held of £44,774.78.

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

Fenland District Council (concurrent functions grant).....	£ 2,567.00
NatWest Bank (interest).....	£ 21.05

c) Members approved the following accounts for payment:

Clerk salary and home office allowance .....	£ 467.13
Fenland District Council (street light recharge) .....	£ 4,119.71
Middle Level Commissioners (drainage rates) .....	£ 53.13
Upwell Internal Drainage Board (drainage rates) .....	£ 53.53
Fenland Leisure Products (play equipment repairs).....	£ 510.36

**068/24-25 Matters for Next Meeting**

Green Lane trees and verge

**069/24-25 Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting of the Parish Council will be Monday 9 September.