

CHRISTCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Christchurch Parish Council held in the Community Centre on Monday 9 September 2024 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs A Sparrow (in the Chair), J Bliss, B Burfield, J Hayes, S Potter, Cllr D Roy (FDC), D Gibbs (Clerk), four parishioners

070/24-25 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs R Feeney, J Hughes, Cllr S Count (CCC), Cllr M Summers (FDC)

071/24-25 Chairman's Announcements

None

072/24-25 Public Time

A resident reported further issues relating to a property in Crown Road. A member of the Wisbech Neighbourhood Policing Team is attending the forthcoming Coffee & Cake event to talk to residents. The Clerk will discuss this matter with the Police. The Clerk explained the various options for reporting issues and concerns to the relevant agencies.

Cllr Hayes asked for clarification on the rules relating to bonfires. The Clerk advised that the District Council publishes appropriate guidance on its website.

A question was raised about NHS policy for referrals to hospitals in a different county from local GP surgeries. The Clerk offered to look into this and report to the next meeting.

073/24-25 Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 August were correctly recorded and signed as being a true record.

074/24-25 Matters Outstanding

- a) Pavement outside Field Lodge, Upwell Road - The new pavement has been installed.
- b) Affordable housing proposal - The Clerk is still trying to ascertain whether Accent Housing will cover the cost of a second survey.
- c) Household items outside property in Upwell Road - Cllr Roy reported that he continues to press Clarion Housing Group to take appropriate action.
- d) Wayside Estate pedestrian safety - The new Local Highways Officer has been appointed and the Clerk will contact her to arrange a meeting. Cllr Hayes reported that the zig-zag lines outside the school have been extended.
- e) Litter bin outside former village shop - The bin should be relocated soon.
- f) Village sign - This will now be part of the bus shelter project.
- g) Fly-tipping at Bedlam Bridge - The Clerk reported that as the fly-tipping is on private land, public funds cannot be used to remove it.
- h) Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service visit - A date will be confirmed shortly.
- i) Parish Council duty under Section 40 of NERC 2006 - deferred to the next meeting.

075/24-25 Police Report

The Clerk reported that no meetings have taken place.

076/24-25 County & District Councillors Reports

Cllr Roy reported that Simon Burgin, County Road Safety Manager, had attended a meeting of the District Council's Overview & Scrutiny Panel. The highways reporting system is being modified to capture minor accident clusters and non-injury collisions. Members suggested that accidents involving e-scooters and mobility scooters be recorded. Speed limit reductions are being considered for sections of the A47 between Peterborough and King's Lynn, with more speed enforcement planned. The potential to share Speed Watch data between counties is also being explored.

Brian Hefferman, Manager of the County Flood Resilience Team is attending a public meeting in the Elm Parish Council office to hear concerns about local flooding issues.

077/24-25 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported on correspondence received, including closures of the Sixteen Foot Bank from 16 to 27 September, and March Riverside on 16 September, the Combined Authority's Bus Franchising consultation until 20 November, invitations to the Installation Service for the new vicar of the benefice on 11 September, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Association of Local Council's Annual Conference on 20 September, and the Cambridgeshire ACRE Annual General Meeting on 9 October.

078/24-25 Members and Residents Issues

Street lights - reduced hours of operation. The Clerk reported that a resident had enquired about the possibility of turning off street lights overnight or dimming them. Members asked the Clerk to enquire about the feasibility of doing this.

079/24-25 Recreation Ground Extension

Members of the working party reported that the anticipated hay cut did not happen as there was too much weed, so the grass has not been sown. The bird and bat boxes are being sourced. Cllr Sparrow commented that further preparation will be required before the grass can be sown.

080/24-25 Communications Working Group

Cllr Sparrow reported that the work of the group was coming to an end. The draft designs for the roller banners were circulated and approved. No further meetings are anticipated at this time.

081/24-25 Bus Shelter Project

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

082/24-25 Planning

Members considered the following application:

F/YR24/0692/F - Formation of reinforced side gable wall and removal of chimney to existing dwelling - The Laurels, Poulter's Drove, Christchurch

They resolved to offer no objection.

083/24-25 Finance

a) The management accounts as at 31.8.24 showed income of £11,988.73 and expenditure of £14,823.55, resulting in a shortfall of £2,834.82 and total funds held of £39,585.01.

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

NatWest Bank (interest).....£ 16.19

c) Members approved the following account for payment:

Clerk salary and home office allowance£ 467.13

d) The Clerk reported that he had identified a potential internal auditor. Although resident in Southend-on-Sea, she was willing to travel to Fenland for face-to-face audits as she has several councils in the area. Members resolved to appoint Helen Symmons as internal auditor for the 2024/25 financial year.

084/24-25 Matters for Next Meeting

None

085/24-25 Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting of the Parish Council will be Monday 14 October.