

# CHRISTCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of a Meeting of Christchurch Parish Council held in the Community Centre on Monday 14 October 2024 at 7.30pm

**Present:** Cllrs J Hughes (Chairman), J Bliss, B Burfield, R Feeney, J Hayes, A Sparrow, D Gibbs (Clerk), four parishioners

### **086/24-25 Apologies for Absence**

Cllr S Potter, Cllr S Count (CCC), Cllr D Roy (FDC), Cllr M Summers (FDC)

### **087/24-25 Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman announced the passing of former Christchurch resident and renowned chef Richard Hughes.

### **088/24-25 Public Time**

A resident asked whether it would be possible to have Public Time at the end of each meeting to allow residents to comment on issues discussed during the meeting. Members agreed to include a second Public Time on the agenda for the next meeting. Cllr Hayes noted that Kimberlea is not included on the agenda for the meeting. The Clerk explained that the Council has no powers to intervene in this matter but will continue to provide advice when appropriate. Residents thanked Cllr Hayes for her ongoing support.

### **089/24-25 Confirmation of Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 September were correctly recorded and signed as being a true record.

### **090/24-25 Matters Outstanding**

- a) Affordable housing proposal - The report on the initial survey has shown sufficient demand for the proposal to be taken forward.
- b) Household items outside property in Upwell Road - Awaiting action from Clarion Housing Group.
- c) Wayside Estate pedestrian safety - The Clerk reported that a meeting has been arranged with the new Local Highway Officer on 21 October.
- d) Litter bin outside former village shop - The bin should be relocated soon.
- e) Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service visit - Cllr Hughes will contact the Breakfast team to arrange a suitable date.
- f) Parish Council duty under Section 40 of NERC 2006 - In Cllr Potter's absence this was deferred to the next meeting.

### **091/24-25 Police Report**

The Clerk reported that no meetings have taken place. PCSO Norton-Smith attended the meeting regarding issues at Kimberlea.

### **092/24-25 County & District Councillors Reports**

Cllr Roy submitted a report to the meeting. The original notices relating to the caravan at Syringa House were withdrawn and new notices are being issued. The Leader of the Council wrote to the Chancellor urging a review of the winter fuel allowance. Minor amendments have been made to the rules contained in the planning constitution.

The Code of Procurement has been revised and will be implemented on 24 February 2025 in line with proposed legislation. This should provide more opportunities for local businesses to tender for contracts.

**093/24-25 Clerk's Report**

The Clerk reported on correspondence received, including the completion of the March High Street project, District Council consultations on the infrastructure delivery plan, the draft gambling policy, and local validation requirements for planning applications, an update on the retendering of the street light maintenance contract, tougher penalties for fly-tipping and littering, the Combined Authority's bus franchising consultation, the National Association of Local Councils' new website, a Plunkett UK webinar on transforming vacant spaces and the relaunch of the Green Energy Switch free appliance scheme.

**094/24-25 Members and Residents Issues**

Cllr Feeney reported that he had been approached by the licensee of the Dun Cow public house seeking support for their holiday lettings proposals. The Clerk advised the meeting that no expression of support could be offered until the planning application is submitted.

Cllr Hayes asked who is responsible for the trees in the Recreation Ground. The Clerk explained that the Recreation Ground charity is responsible, but the Council has previously undertaken work. Members agreed to inspect the trees to consider options for future maintenance.

**095/24-25 Recreation Ground Extension**

The contractor has suggested preparing the ground and sowing the grass during the winter months. Members questioned whether this should be delayed until the spring. They agreed that a cut should take place now but that spraying, preparing the ground and drilling should wait. Quotes are being obtained for the installation of an access culvert, telegraph poles and bird boxes.

**096/24-25 Bus Shelter Project**

The Clerk will discuss the provision of the highways map with the Local Highways Officer when they meet.

**097/24-25 Planning**

Members considered the following application:

F/YR24/0800/TRTPO - Works to 6no Yew, 1no Horse Chestnut, 1no Holly, 3no Lime and 1no Sycamore Tree covered by TPO 01/1986 - The Old Rectory, 25 Church Road, Christchurch

They resolved to offer no objection.

**098/24-25 Highways**

The Chairman reported that the Local Highway Improvement application for no overtaking lines and signs at the junction of Upwell Road and Sixteen Foot Bank had been successful, achieving the highest score of this year's applications. Works will commence once the detailed drawings have been prepared.

**099/24-25 Finance**

a) The management accounts as at 30.9.24 showed income of £12,077.52 and expenditure of £15,291.38, resulting in a shortfall of £3,213.86 and total funds held of £39,205.97.

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

Barclays Bank (interest).....	£	75.12
NatWest Bank (interest).....	£	13.67

c) Members approved the following accounts for payment:

Clerk salary and home office allowance .....	£	467.13
PKF Littlejohn LLP (audit fee) .....	£	252.00
Business Service at CAS Ltd (insurance).....	£	1,559.30

**100/24-25 Matters for Next Meeting**

Recreation Ground trees. Grass cutting contract.

**101/24-25 Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting of the Parish Council will be Monday 11 November.