

CHRISTCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Christchurch Parish Council held in the Community Centre on Monday 13 January 2025 at 7.30pm

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

141/24-25 Apologies for Absence

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

142/24-25 Chairman's Announcements

None.

143/24-25 Public Time

Residents asked whether the new Tiger bus service would serve Upwell Health Centre and other destinations in Norfolk. The Clerk offered to contact the Combined Authority to clarify. Cllr Roy has spoken to the Mayor about the need to include Wisbech on the route.

It was noted that several marker posts are missing from the Sixteen Foot Bank near the Padgetts Road junction and speed limit signs at the junction of Padgetts Road and Fifty Road require attention. The Clerk will report these.

A resident suggested that a Christmas tree be placed outside the Community Centre. This is a matter for the Community Centre charity. Observations regarding the recent Valuation Day at the Community Centre were also referred to the charity.

144/24-25 Confirmation of Minutes

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

145/24-25 Matters Outstanding

- a) Household items outside property in Upwell Road - The Clerk has confirmed that the Land Registry records show the land is owned by Clarion Housing Group.
- b) Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service visit - It was agreed that the Fire Service be invited to attend the Annual Parish Meeting.
- c) Fenland District Council Infrastructure Delivery Plan - No feedback has been received. The Clerk will publish a reminder in the forthcoming Heron.

146/24-25 Police Report

The Clerk reported that no meetings have taken place. There have been a number of arrests for hare coursing across the district. A theft of heating oil was reported in Green Lane.

147/24-25 County & District Councillors Reports

Cllr Roy reminded members that the consultation on the District Council's draft Budget and Business Plan runs until 2 February.

148/24-25 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported on meetings attended and correspondence received, including a webinar on the County Council's new highways capital maintenance prioritisation scheme and a County Council budget briefing. Correspondence included notification of the Railway 200 celebrations, VE Day 80th Anniversary and the Big Lunch, the publication of the new Police and Crime Plan and consultation on police funding.

149/24-25 Members and Residents Issues

A resident asked the Council to arrange for the bus shelter to be cleaned as it may now be more widely used. Members will visit the shelter to confirm the level of cleaning required.

150/24-25 Recreation Ground Extension

A quote has been received for the installation of one and two culverts across the dyke. Further quotes will be obtained. An application for consent is being submitted to the Middle Level Commissioners. A supply of suitable poles for bird and bat boxes is being investigated.

151/24-25 Bus Shelter Project

There is still confusion regarding the availability of plans from Cambridgeshire Highways. Cllr Sparrow offered to discuss the various options with the relevant officer.

152/24-25 Recreation Ground

The Clerk has submitted the necessary paperwork to the Probation Service to bring Community Service teams to work on the Recreation Ground. A date will be confirmed shortly. Payback Teams are unable to dispose of the waste generated from their work, so a local solution will be required. The Clerk suggested that the construction of bug hotels on the extension field may be possible.

153/24-25 Christmas Sleigh Run

The Clerk reported that the Sleigh Run had been highly popular and successful. The sum of £185 was collected, including the previous year's collection. A van full of toys and games was also donated for children in Hinchinbrooke Hospital over Christmas. Fenland Farmers are keen to repeat the event next year, but additional stewards are required to keep members of the public away from the tractor, particularly when turning.

154/24-25 Planning

Members considered the following applications:

- a) F/YR24/0970/FDC - Erect 1x dwelling - Land to the south of 8 Crown Avenue, Christchurch

They resolved to offer no objection.

- b) F/YR24/0975/VOC - Variation of conditions 2 (materials), 3 (landscaping), 9 (weldmesh fencing), 13 (fire hydrant) and 16 (list of approved documents) of planning permission F/YR22/1216/VOC (Erection of 9 x 2-storey dwellings ..) - change of brick type removal of chimneys, and change to drawing revision (6137/08) listed within the conditions - Site of former Christchurch Memorial Hall, 11 Church Road, Christchurch

This application was withdrawn by the applicant.

- c) CCC/24/124/FUL - Installation of a mobile classroom building for a temporary period - Townley Primary School, Crown Road, Christchurch
Members supported this application.
- d) ANW_PE314 - Proposed communications installation for Arqiva's smart meter network for Anglian Water - Christchurch Crown Avenue Pumping Station, Crown Avenue, Christchurch
Members resolved to offer no objection.

155/24-25 Finance

- a) The management accounts as at 31.12.24 showed income of £21,626.26 and expenditure of £18,972.98, resulting in a surplus of £2,653.28 and total funds held of £45,073.11.
- b) Members noted the following sums received since the last meeting:

Barclays Bank (interest).....	£	75.40
Santa Run (collection).....	£	185.00
NatWest Bank (interest).....	£	13.18
- c) Members approved the following account for payment:

Clerk salary and home office allowance	£	483.51
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- d) Members considered potential projects for inclusion in the budget for 2025/26.
They agreed the following items:

Recreation Ground extension	£	9,500.00
Bus Shelter project	£	3,000.00
Street light replacement.....	£	1,800.00
- e) Members resolved to approve the draft budget and to increase the precept to £22,200.

156/24-25 Policies and Procedures

Members considered the following policies and procedures and resolve to readopt them:

- a) Data Protection Policy
- b) Publication Scheme
- c) Code of Conduct

157/24-25 Public Time

None.

158/24-25 Confidential Item

Members resolved to exclude the press and public from the following item by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, in accordance with paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Members considered the seven tenders received for the grounds maintenance contract and resolved to appoint Nurture Landscapes Ltd as their new contractor.

159/24-25 Matters for Next Meeting

None.

160/24-25 Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting of the Parish Council will be Monday 10 February.