

CHRISTCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Christchurch Parish Council held in the Community Centre on Monday 10 February 2025 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs J Hughes (Chairman), B Burfield, J Hayes, S Potter, A Sparrow, D Gibbs (Clerk), Cllr D Roy (FDC), one parishioner

161/24-25 Apologies for Absence

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

162/24-25 Chairman's Announcements

None.

163/24-25 Public Time

None.

164/24-25 Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 January were correctly recorded and signed as being a true record.

165/24-25 Matters Outstanding

- a) Household items outside property in Upwell Road - There has been a partial clearance of the site. Cllr Roy has arranged a meeting with the Clerk and Clarion Housing Group's Regional Operations Officer next week to discuss the situation.
- b) Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service visit - The Clerk will invite the Fire Service to attend the Annual Parish Meeting.
- c) Fenland District Council Infrastructure Delivery Plan - The Clerk reported that he has received feedback from a resident of Tipps End reporting regular short power cuts in late afternoons. Several members confirmed that they too had experienced this. The Clerk offered to raise this matter with UK Power Networks. The resident also mentioned the poor mobile telephone signal in the area.
- d) Tiger bus service - The Clerk advised members that he had asked the Combined Authority whether the service would take residents to Upwell and had been told that this was outside the operating area for the service. There is no connection to the Go to Town bus services to Wisbech and Downham Market either. An email has been sent to the Combined Authority expressing the Council's concerns.

166/24-25 Police Report

The Clerk reported that no meetings have taken place. Members spoke about the recent major hare coursing incident affecting several local villages, including Christchurch. They agreed to invite the Police Rural Crime Action Team to the Annual Parish Meeting to talk about their work.

167/24-25 County & District Councillors Reports

Cllr Roy thanked the Clerk for his strongly-worded email to the Combined Authority regarding the shortcomings of the bus service. He promised to continue to campaign for the right service for residents.

He reminded members about the ongoing consultation on the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report and encouraged them to respond.

In connection with the power supply issues reported earlier, he explained that residents of Elm had similar experiences. Following discussions with a director of UKPN, a helicopter survey had identified faults to be rectified, particularly with trees affecting overhead power lines. A similar approach might be worthwhile for Christchurch.

Cllr Roy is working to compile a list of smaller voluntary organisations that might benefit from advice and support. Cllr Burfield was asked to provide details of groups using the Community Centre.

There is a new person overseeing Community Speedwatch and other police community initiatives. Amanda Large has transferred to Peterborough and Julie Clark is the new contact.

168/24-25 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported on meetings attended and correspondence received, including a meeting with the new grounds maintenance contractor. Correspondence included the relaunch of the highways 20mph scheme, another successful fly-tipping prosecution, the relocation of the Wisbech Funfair to the Church Terrace car park, confirmation of the commitment to bus franchising and the Mayor's withdrawal from May's election, the dates of the Keep Britain Tidy Great British Spring Clean and a programme update for the replacement of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

169/24-25 Members and Residents Issues

Cllr Hayes reported that there had been another incident involving Kimberlea in Crown Road. Neighbours continue to monitor the property.

Residents have expressed concern regarding the lack of visibility at the junction of Upwell Road and Church Road due to parked vehicles close to the corner narrowing the available road width. The Clerk asked members to provide details of the vehicles and to confirm whether they belong to residents or visitors.

Cllr Hughes reported that plans have been received for the Local Highways Improvements accident reduction scheme at the junction of Upwell Road and the Sixteen Foot Bank. Members reviewed and approved the plans.

The County Council street lights in Fen View have been replaced and the light at the rear entrance to the Recreation Ground has been moved to a less vulnerable position.

170/24-25 Recreation Ground Extension

The Middle Level Commissioners have agreed to allow a lower specification for the culvert as it is primarily for pedestrian use. Further quotations are expected for the installation.

171/24-25 Bus Shelter Project

Cllr Sparrow has not received any response from Cambridgeshire Highways regarding mapping options.

172/24-25 Recreation Ground

A date will be confirmed shortly for the Probation Service to bring Community Service teams to work on the Recreation Ground. Members discussed options for the disposal of the waste gathered by the team. Cllr Hughes offered a high-sided trailer. The Clerk suggested that the willow branches and similar material might be formed into a large bug and small mammal hotel similar to those on the Elm Canal footpath. He offered to bring further details to the next meeting.

173/24-25 Finance

- a) The management accounts as at 31.1.25 showed income of £21,638.83 and expenditure of £19,480.18, resulting in a surplus of £2,158.65 and total funds held of £44,578.48.
- b) Members noted the following sums received since the last meeting:
 - NatWest Bank (interest).....£ 12.57
- c) Members noted the following debit card payment:
 - Land Registry (searches).....£ 21.00
- d) Members approved the following account for payment:
 - Clerk salary and home office allowance£ 483.51

174/24-25 Public Time

None.

175/24-25 Matters for Next Meeting

Donations under Section 137.

176/24-25 Date of Next Meeting

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