

CHRISTCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present: Cllrs A Sparrow (Chairman), J Bliss, B Burfield, R Feeney, D Gibbs (Clerk), two parishioners

086/25-26 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs J Hayes, J Hughes, S Potter, Cllr S Fisher (CCC), Cllr C Galbraith (CCC), Cllr D Roy (FDC), Cllr M Summers (FDC)

087/25-26 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

088/25-26 Public Time

It was reported that the batteries and pads on the public defibrillator at the Dun Cow might need replacing. The Clerk will investigate.

089/25-26 Confirmation of Minutes

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

090/25-26 Matters Outstanding

- a) Clarion garden project, Upwell Road - Following further discussions with Clarion Housing Group, it was proposed that the Probation Service will cut back the vegetation, Clarion will remove it from site and lay a membrane and gravel, and the Council will provide raised beds, soil and initial planting. It was also agreed that a rose be planted in memory of Julie Buckley.
- b) Fenland District Council Infrastructure Delivery Plan - No progress.
- c) Public defibrillators - The Clerk reported that the defibrillator at the Dun Cow has still not been registered on The Circuit. Cllr Feeney will register this. The Clerk has approached Fenland District Council to ascertain the feasibility of placing a defibrillator on a pole near the former Farmers Boy.
- d) Community Centre valuation - The Clerk reported that the total rebuild cost valuation has been assessed as £1.12 million, or £1.34 million including VAT. As the VAT position is unclear, the higher figure has been used for the insurance renewal pending the receipt of clarification from HMRC.
- e) Parking outside Townley School - No progress.
- f) MVAS battery replacement - The Clerk has ordered the new battery.

091/25-26 Police Report

Nothing to report.

092/25-26 County & District Councillors Reports

In the absence of the County and District Councillors, no reports were received.

093/25-26 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported on meetings attended and correspondence received, including a Fens Reservoir briefing on 7 October.

Correspondence included traffic orders for the closure of Crown Road from 25 to 31 October and Fifty Road from 10 November to 19 December, a Local Area Energy Plan workshop, Dr Bike bicycle health checks, Community Gritting Scheme applications, invitations to the Chairman's Coffee Morning and Carol Service, and changes to postal voting registration.

094/25-26 Members and Residents Issues

- a) Campaign to prevent Cambridgeshire waste going to the Wisbech Incinerator - Members considered the request to support the campaign and asked the Clerk to write to the local councillors to encourage them to support the campaign.
- b) Overgrown hedges and bushes - Members noted the presence of overhanging vegetation on pavements around the village. It was also noted that the lamp post outside the Community Centre is obscured by a tree.

095/25-26 Recreation Ground

The Payback team has finished clearing the vegetation around the bowling green.

096/25-26 Nature Park Project

Cllr Sparrow reported that the fence rails around the dog enclosure have all been re-nailed. The next weed spray will be carried out shortly. The specification for the preparation of the ground and reseeding has been prepared and will be tendered to three contractors.

097/25-26 Village Centre Regeneration Project

Cllr Sparrow reported that he is collating information from different suppliers. The meeting of the working group scheduled for 7 October was postponed and will now take place on 26 November at 7.30pm for those interested.

098/25-26 Highways

- a) The Clerk reported that the 2024/25 Local Highway Improvement works on the Sixteen Foot Bank have been completed. .
- b) The Clerk advised Members that the 2025/26 Local Highway improvement application for Wayside Estate has been recommended for funding. The recommendation go to the County Council's Highways and Transport Committee for ratification. Members agreed to include information about the proposal in December's Heron and to work with Townley School to ensure that all parents are included in the consultation.
- c) Members discussed the current condition of the Sixteen Foot Bank and the need for repairs to be carried out to prevent further serious accidents. The Clerk noted that the new highways fault reporting system shows only one report for the Christchurch section of the Sixteen Foot Bank and this report was closed. Members agreed to report concerns using the online system and to encourage residents to do likewise.

099/25-26 Play Equipment Inspection

The Clerk reported that all works resulting from the recent inspection had now been completed.

100/25-26 Finance

- a) The management accounts as at 30.9.25 showed income of £24,402.81 and expenditure of £12,338.04, resulting in a surplus of £12,064.77 and total funds held of £50,090.31.
- b) Members noted the quarterly financial reconciliation as at 30 September.
- c) Members noted the following sums received since the last meeting:

Barclays Bank (interest).....	£	67.63
NatWest Bank (interest).....	£	16.33
- d) Members noted the following sum paid by direct debit:

Rebuild Cost Assessment (insurance valuation)	£	199.75
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- e) Members approved the following accounts for payment:

Clerk salary and home office allowance	£	398.15
Business Services at CAS Ltd (insurance).....	£	2,421.76

101/25-26 Policies

Members reviewed the draft Information Technology Policy provided by the Clerk. They resolved to adopt it.

102/25-26 Santa Run

The Clerk reported that Fenland Farmers had offered to bring the Santa Run to the village on the evening of 20 December. The Clerk has asked whether more tractors might be included.

103/25-26 Consultations

Members noted the following consultations and resolved accordingly:

- a) Anglian Water Fens Reservoir - The formal consultation is about to commence and will run until 10 December. The Chairman and Clerk attended a webinar to discuss the proposals in more detail. There is no direct impact on the parish of Christchurch resulting from the construction of the reservoir.
- b) Statement of Licensing Policy - Members considered this consultation but agreed that no response is required.

104/25-26 Public Time

No further issues.

105/25-26 Matters for Next Meeting

Sixteen Foot Road.

106/25-26 Date of Next Meeting

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