

# CHRISTCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of a meeting of Christchurch Parish Council held in the Community Centre on Monday 9 March 2026 at 7.30pm

**Present:** Cllrs A Sparrow (Chairman), J Bliss, B Burfield, Cllr J Hayes, S Potter, Cllr D Roy (FDC)  
D Gibbs (Clerk), two parishioners

### **191/25-26 Apologies for Absence**

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

### **192/25-26 Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **193/25-26 Public Time**

Two street lights not working were reported again. The Clerk will contact the District Council again.

### **194/25-26 Confirmation of Minutes**

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

### **195/25-26 Matters Outstanding**

- a) Fenland District Council Infrastructure Delivery Plan - The Clerk has handed some background information on the Norfolk signal mapping project to Cllr Roy.
- b) Public defibrillators - Cllr Sparrow is awaiting confirmation regarding the defibrillator at Bridge Farm. The cabinet at the former Farmer's Boy needs to be removed to avoid confusion as it no longer contains a defibrillator. Cllr Sparrow will arrange removal. Cllr Sparrow has spoken to Mr Sutton who has confirmed that he will be able to provide a permanent location for a defibrillator as part of the new development in Padgetts Road.
- c) Parking outside Townley School - Awaiting the forthcoming consultation on the Wayside Estate Local Highway Improvement scheme.
- d) Overhanging vegetation - The majority of residents contacted have taken action to address concerns. A second letter will be delivered to the remaining properties.

### **196/25-26 Police Report**

Nothing to report. PC Foster-Bentham has attended events at the Community Centre.

### **197/25-26 County & District Councillors Reports**

Cllr Roy reminded Members about the Scoping Consultation and the Call for Sites for the new Local Plan. The Community Safety Partnership has launched a public survey. The Great British Spring Clean will take place from 13 to 29 March. A new committee has been established for the Whitemill Community Fund and a constitution agreed. The first meeting will take place in June.

### **198/25-26 Clerk's Report**

The Clerk reported on correspondence received, including traffic orders for the

closures of Euximoor Drove from 6-9 April, Crown Road from 8-14 April, Wayside Estate from 13-16 April, The Hill from 15-17 April, and Poulter's Drove from 16-20 April, Adult cycle training sessions provided by the District Council, Cambridgeshire ACRE's Energy and Water for Community Buildings webinar, Annual Conference and Village Halls Week, an enquiry from E.ON regarding the sewage treatment plant in The Croft and an enquiry about demand for a mobile grocery van.

Members were unable to assist with the enquiry from E.ON and offered their support for the grocery van.

#### **199/25-26 Members and Residents Issues**

- a) Townley School air source heat pumps - The County Council is aware of the noise problem and is monitoring the noise levels. Members agreed to continue to apply pressure to implement an acceptable solution.
- b) Potholes on Upwell Road opposite Fen View and at the junction with Halfpenny Toll Road - The Clerk confirmed that the defects had been reported and were awaiting repair.
- c) Former Memorial Hall site - It appears that the site is to be sold at auction. The Clerk will clarify details.

#### **200/25-26 Recreation Ground**

The grass cutting season has started, with the first cut completed. An RSPCA clothing bank will be delivered to the car park shortly. Upwell Town Youth Football Club will be relocating several junior teams to Christchurch.

#### **201/25-26 Nature Park Project**

Cllr Sparrow reported that there has been no progress on site as the contractor awaits more suitable weather.

#### **202/25-26 Village Centre Regeneration Project**

Cllr Sparrow circulated some 3D visuals based on the discussions of the working group to be used for the public consultation. It was agreed that these would be shared with residents at the Annual Parish Meeting. The Clerk will discuss these with highway officers to seek informal feedback.

#### **203/25-26 Clarion Garden Project**

There has been no progress on the project. The Clerk will contact Clarion Housing Group to discuss the next steps.

#### **204/25-26 Green Lane Project**

Members discussed options for the delivery of the project. The Clerk advised them that there has been no contact with the Probation Service since December. Members agreed to progress the cutting back of the trees and other vegetation on the dyke side and asked the Clerk to issue tender documentation.

#### **205/25-26 Village Skip**

The Clerk reported that his conversations with skip companies had raised several issues that impacted upon the feasibility of the Skip Day. No local companies can offer delivery and collection at weekends, so the skip would need to be *in situ* for at least three days. The list of banned items is extensive and the Council would be responsible for the safe disposal of any banned material before the skip could be collected.

Members agreed that the planned day should not go ahead and that other options could be explored, including bringing one of the District Council's Rapid Response vans to the village for a day.

#### **206/25-26 Highways**

Local Highway Improvements 2025/26 - Wayside Estate - The Clerk circulated drawings showing several options for positioning the one-way signage. Members discussed the need for larger vehicles to access Townley School and agreed that one-way traffic from the junction of Crown Road and Crown Avenue to the junction of Wayside Estate and Upwell Road was the preferred option.

#### **207/25-26 Finance**

- a) The management accounts as at 28.2.26 showed income of £39,093.83 and expenditure of £21,900.98, resulting in a surplus of £17,192.85 and total funds held of £55,218.39.
- b) Members noted the following sums received since the last meeting:
- |                              |   |          |
|------------------------------|---|----------|
| NatWest Bank (interest)..... | £ | 17.40    |
| HMRC (VAT refund).....       | £ | 3,275.04 |
- c) Members approved the following accounts for payment:
- |  |   |          |
|--|---|----------|
| Clerk salary and home office allowance ..... | £ | 398.15   |
| Clerk expenses .....                         | £ | 197.52   |
| Nurture Landscapes Ltd (grass cutting) ..... | £ | 2,626.81 |
| Cambridgeshire ACRE (subscription).....      | £ | 74.50    |
| CPRE (subscription) .....                    | £ | 36.00    |
- d) Members met to consider the format and content of a 3-year plan. The majority of the plan will involve the projects currently in progress. A draft document will be presented to the next meeting for discussion.

#### **208/25-26 Annual Parish Meeting**

The Clerk confirmed that Lizzie Bruce from the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust will speak about the Welney Wetland Centre. Cllr Sparrow confirmed that Alison Waters had agreed to provide cakes and biscuits.

#### **209/25-26 Policies and Procedures**

Members reviewed the following policies and resolved to re-adopt them:

- a) Equality and Diversity Policy
- b) Homeworking Policy
- c) Expenses Policy

Members considered the following policy and resolved to adopt it:

- d) Website Accessibility Policy

#### **210/25-26 Public Time**

Church Road bollard - Cllr Sparrow confirmed that he has the damaged bollard. The Clerk will speak to highways regarding the repair.

#### **211/25-26 Matters for Next Meeting**

None.

#### **212/25-26 Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting of the Parish Council will be Monday 13 April.