



**Minutes of a meeting of Christchurch Parish Council
held in the Community Centre on Monday 14 September 2026 at 7.30pm**

Present Cllrs J Hughes (in the Chair), R Feeney, J Hayes, S Potter, Cllr D Roy (FDC), D Gibbs (Clerk), one parishioner

069/26-27 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs J Bliss, B Burfield, A Sparrow, Cllr S Fisher (CCC), Cllr C Galbraith (CCC), Cllr M Summers (FDC)

070/26-27 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman read a statement from Cllr Sparrow regarding damage to the traffic bollard at the junction of Church Road and Padgetts Lane. The damage was caused by a goods vehicle turning in the junction, but it is not clear where the vehicle came from or was going to. The damage has been reported to Cambridgeshire Highways in the usual way.

071/26-27 Public Time

No matters raised.

072/26-27 Confirmation of Minutes

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

073/26-27 Matters Outstanding

- a) Parking outside Townley School - No update.
- b) Streetlight PC3 Crown Road - The light is still not working.
- c) Support Fenland survey - Members discussed the final draft for the survey. The survey will be distributed online and on paper where required. It was agreed that completed forms could be returned to the Community Centre. Cllr Feeney will confirm whether the Dun Cow is also available as a drop-off point. The survey will be advertised on the Council's website, Facebook and notice boards.
- d) Crown Drove signage - The signs have been ordered.
- e) Tiger T7 to Manea Station - The future of the route is unclear.
- f) Fly-tipped asbestos in Green Lane - The Clerk has asked the District Council to investigate.

074/26-27 Police Report

The Clerk reported that there had been a spate of overnight thefts of cars with keyless ignition from owners' driveways. Two stolen cars have also been dumped and burned out in recent weeks.

075/26-27 County and District Councillors' Reports

Cllr Roy confirmed that the Government has delayed the decision on Local Government Reorganisation for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Normal district and parish elections will take place in May 2027. All District Councillors have been asked to attend a seminar on the new planning reforms announced by the Government. Anglian Water attended the Overview and Scrutiny Panel's recent meeting. Anglian Water are not a statutory consultee on planning applications, so the committee has made a recommendation to the Secretary of State that all water companies should become statutory consultees.

District Council members will be attending a bi-monthly meeting with the Fens Reservoir project team to monitor progress. The target date for the completion of the project is now around 2035. Recent reports highlight services being withdrawn from Doddington and North Cambridgeshire Hospitals and now the Queen Elizabeth Hospital as well. Residents are invited to attend a Healthwatch public meeting on 8 October at the Queen Mary Centre in Wisbech from 10.00 to 12.30 where they can pose questions to NHS representatives.

076/26-27 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported on meetings attended and correspondence received, including meetings with Clarion Housing Group regarding the Upwell Road Garden project and with Cambridgeshire ACRE and Accent Housing regarding the affordable housing scheme. Correspondence included traffic orders for closures of Euximoor Drove from 22-29 September and the Ha'penny Toll Road from 23-30 September, both for highway repairs, another unspecified closure of Euximoor Drove for water main renewal, a County Council workshop on developing community flood plans, an invitation to the District Council Chairman's Charity Coffee Morning, the new food waste collection has started, CAPALC planning training on 5 or 28 October and Cambridgeshire ACRE's AGM on 7 October.

077/26-27 Members and Residents Issues

- a) Cllr Feeney expressed concern about the emerging plans for local healthcare provision. Members agreed to monitor announcements and to consider responding formally at the appropriate time.
- b) Cllr Hayes raised the issue of the lime trees on the south side of the Recreation Ground backing onto Wayside Estate, one of which is in close proximity to her home. Members agreed that the tree could be removed if a suitable replacement tree was planted.
- c) Cllr Hayes reported ongoing issues with tenants of a property in Crown Road, with the Police being called on at least one occasion.
- d) The Community Centre Management Committee has reported undulations appearing in the hall floor. Further investigation is required.
- e) Cllr Hughes reported that the Community Centre solar panels had not been registered under the feed-in tariff scheme. Registration is now in progress with Octopus Energy.
- f) A resident has asked about access to the information previously held on the Christchurch History website. Members discussed options for the creation of a new site.
- g) A resident has reported two waste tips in Euximoor Drove. The Clerk will investigate and endeavour to identify the site owners.

078/26-27 Recreation Ground

Cllr Hayes noted the improvements with the renovated equipment in the under 5s enclosure.

079/26-27 Nature Park Project

The Clerk reported that Cllr Sparrow had spoken to the contractor. The grass has germinated and become established. The contractor has offered to carry out the first cut. There is a significant quantity of inherited weed seed and further use of herbicides may be required.

080/26-27 Village Centre Project

Discussions with Highways are ongoing. The area is looking untidy with extensive weed growth.

081/26-27 Clarion Garden Project

Following the recent meeting to confirm the details of the project, Clarion Housing Group will prepare a simple lease agreement. Work may now commence on the site with no further consent required.

New fences and gates have been installed on either side of the bin sheds, but Clarion will investigate whether a public right of way exists between Nos 8 and 9.

082/26-27 Green Lane Project

Bollards to protect the verge have been made and will be installed once suitable locations have been agreed with residents. The Clerk is investigating land ownership with a view to installing a bench.

083/26-27 Planning

Members considered the following applications:

- a) F/YR26/0618/TRTPO - Works to 2 x Conifer trees covered by TPO 08/2001 - Rallingham Hall, Mumbys Drove, Three Holes

They resolved to offer no objection.

- b) F/YR26/0642/F - The siting 1 x mobile home for use as annex ancillary to existing dwelling - Hackney Cottage, Padgetts Road, Christchurch

They resolved to offer no objection.

- c) F/YR26/0655/F - Erect a porch to front and first-floor extension to side of existing dwelling - Kestrel, Crown Road, Christchurch

They resolved to offer no objection.

The Clerk advised Members that the application for the Dun Cow public house is still being assessed, with concerns expressed by the Tree Officer.

084/26-27 Highways

- a) Cllr Feeney reported that he will be attending the coroner's inquest into the death of his friend in a motor cycle accident.
- b) Wayside Estate Local Highway Improvement project 2025/26 - no update.

085/26-27 Finance

- a) The management accounts as at 31.8.26 showed income of £18,975.65 and expenditure of £17,753.65, resulting in a surplus of £1,222.00 and total funds held of £53,192.74.
- b) Members noted the 2026/27 Local Government pay settlement resulting in an increase of 3.26% in the Clerk's salary.
- c) Members approved the renewal of the Council's insurance policy due on 1 October.
- d) Members noted the following sum received since the last meeting:

NatWest Bank (interest).....	£ 37.22
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- e) Members noted the following sum paid by direct debit:

HMRC (tax and national insurance)	£ 334.64
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- f) Members ratified the following cheque issued since the last meeting:

C Hamilton (tree work).....	£ 725.00
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- g) Members approved the following payments:

Clerk salary and home office allowance (including backpay)	£ 867.22
Fenland District Council (street lighting).....	£ 3,668.22
CAS Insurance Services Ltd (insurance renewal).....	£ 2,611.60
Recreation Ground (room hire).....	£ 10.00

086/26-27 Consultations

- a) Fenland District Council - Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Order. Members considered the proposals and agreed that no response was required.
- b) Cambridgeshire County Council - Rights of Way Improvement Plan. Members were invited to submit their comments to the Clerk.

087/26-27 Three-Year Plan

The Projects Working Group has not met. A meeting will be arranged shortly.

088/26-27 Matters for Next Meeting

Hospitals and clinics.

089/26-27 Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting of the Parish Council will be Monday 12 October.

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