

**MINUTES OF THE CHRISTCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY 11<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2013 – MEMORIAL HALL CHRISTCHURCH AT  
7:30pm**

Present: Councillors – Jacky Wincote (Chair), Nigel Russell, Jill Bliss, William Beswick, Wes Poole, Mac Cotterell MBE (FDC) and Will Sutton (FDC) who arrived during item 11 as he had been attending another meeting.

Stephen Cowell (Clerk), PCSO Russ and 1 member of the public were also in attendance.

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Simon Freeland, Cllr Hannah Poole and Cllr Fred Yeulett (CCC).

**2. Signing of Minutes**

The minutes of the 14<sup>th</sup> January meeting were signed, by the Chair, as true record of the meeting.

**3. Disclosure and Declarations of Pecuniary Interests**

No interests were declared.

**4. Update on action points from previous meeting**

It was reported that:

- Cllr. Russell had meet with a Highways Department rep regarding the damaged verge at Cotton's Corner and the damage has now been repaired.
- The Clerk has provided Cllr. Russell with a copy of the conditions of consent for filing and piping the ditch near the building plots to be sold by the Council.
- That PCSO Russ has been made aware of the comments made at the last meeting regarding dog fouling.
- The Clerk has had a meeting to discuss the Jointly Funding Minor Highways bid, made two years ago, for an improvement to the narrow footpath near the Bus Shelter. They discussed alternatives such as widening the path and installing a priority system similar to that in place in Friday Bridge and also dropping the kerb closer to the bend so those having to take to the road do so for less distance. He has yet to receive any formal response following the meeting (see update provided by Cllr. Sutton in item 11).

**5. Public Adjournment**

No items were raised for discussion.

**6. Police Update**

PCSO Russ reported that there have been no crimes reported this month in Christchurch. He also reported that a Speedwatch was undertaken on 10<sup>th</sup> Jan with no vehicles exceeding the limit. The New Police and Crime Commissioner has stated that he would like communities to be responsible for Speedwatch and that the Police are currently setting up a new method of working. The aim is to have a Co-ordinator who will assist with Speedwatch in each area / village however the aim is eventually for each community to set up their own Speedwatch team with the co-ordinator assisting as required. Team members will be trained in the use of the equipment which can be borrowed from the Police Station and used as frequently as required by the teams. The advantages of this type of system is that the equipment can be used at key times and if required over a number of days, rather than once a month often during off-peak times.

There continues to be a number of oil thefts across the rural area, it is suggested that oil tanks are checked regularly and secured with padlocks. There are also alarms available that alert the owner if the oil level drops rapidly.

PCSO Russ also reported that the New Horizon Outreach Vehicle (previously CrimeBUSTer Bus) is due to be in operation shortly, we hope to have use of the vehicle for the Wisbech South Rural Forum that will take place on 28<sup>th</sup> March. The bus will hopefully be located in Maltmas Drove Friday Bridge between 11.30 and 18.00 hours with the meeting taking place between 18.00 and 19.00 hours.



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The rural area will now be covered by 2 PCSOs, Andy Bush a seasoned PCSO has already started his duties. This will ensure we have sufficient resource to attend Council Meetings, visit schools and Neighbourhood Watch Members amongst many other duties.

PCSO Russ left the meeting at the conclusion of this item.

**7. Correspondence Received**

The Clerk reported that very little correspondence has been received this month and that all that has been received has been e-mailed to councillors.

Cllr. Cotterell provided a verbal update from the District Council reporting that the coming years will be difficult from a financial point of view as District and County Councils are requested by Central Government to make further cuts. He reported that the Council Tax figures will soon be available on the District Council's web-site and he expected an increase of around 2%.

**8. Finance**

The Clerk reported total bank balances of £55,215.66, with cheques written amounting to £2,201.96 to come from this, and brought to Councillor's attention the earmarked funds (funds that must be spent on specific purposes) that total a little over £33k.

The following items, listed on the agenda, were agreed for payment

- 8.1 Clerk's Salary £183.78
- 8.2 The Heron £65.00
- 8.3 Society of Local Council Clerks £75.00 (Annual Subscription Fee)

**9. Planning Applications**

None to consider.

**10. Parish Plan – Update**

The Clerk reported that the solicitors for the purchaser of two of the plots of land to be sold to fund the new village hall have been requesting information on the covenants and agreements affecting the land. The Clerk and Cllr. Russell have provided details of the County Council's release of the covenant related to the use of the land and Cllr. Russell has agreed to waive his Right of Access over the land. Cllr. Russell has also completed a sale questionnaire that included details of the upkeep arrangements for the surrounding land owned by the Council.

**11. Raising of Village Concerns**

Cllr. Sutton joined the meeting at this point.

The following items were reported/discussed:

1. Continued concern over the number of pot holes in the road surface along Euximoor Drove was raised as was the poor quality of repairs made to the bridge over the Sixteen Foot Drain at the top of the Drove. Cllr. Russell reported that he has mentioned the latter to Highways.
2. The two street lights along Euximoor Drove are in need of replacement bulbs.
3. The water leak at the Sports Pavilion was discussed currently the water is switched off after use to prevent more leakage. Following a discussion the Clerk was asked to contact the Bowls Club to see if their monitoring suggested how much of a problem it is.
4. Cllr. Sutton reported that there is a broken manhole cover in the car park. He has covered it over with some board and offered to review the problem and discuss potential repairs with a local builder.
5. The cost of councillors receiving Electoral Role updates by registered post was discussed. The Clerk pointed out that this is a requirement of receiving updates as the District Council has to make sure the correct person receives the update.
6. Cllr. Sutton reported that the District Council Environment Officer is to meet with the resident who raised a number of environmental concerns recently. A date for the meeting has not been

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agreed yet but Cllr. Sutton hopes to attend and Parish Councillors will be also welcome to attend.

7. Cllr. Sutton reported that works have been approved to drop the kerb near the Bus Shelter as mentioned by the Clerk in item 4.

Chair closed the meeting at 8:25pm



Christchurch Parish Council Bank Balance update for Feb 2013 meeting

Community a/c	6697.47	outstanding payments £2,201.96
Business Premium	10181.18	
Business Bonus	27051.18	
New Village Hall	689.21	
BoS Corp Bonus	<u>10596.62</u>	
	55215.66	