

**MINUTES OF THE CHRISTCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY 11th MARCH 2013 – MEMORIAL HALL CHRISTCHURCH AT 7:30pm**

Present: Councillors – Nigel Russell (Chair), Jill Bliss, William Beswick, Wes Poole, Hannah Poole, Simon Freeland, Will Sutton (FDC) and Fred Yeulett (CCC).
Stephen Cowell (Clerk) and 6 members of the public were also in attendance.

1. Welcome and Apologies

In the absence of the Chair, Cllr. Wincote, Cllr Russell took the Chair and welcomed all to the meeting.

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Wincote, Cllr. Cotterell MBE (FDC) and PCSO Dave Russ.

2. Signing of Minutes

The minutes of the 11th February meeting were signed, by the Chair, as true record of the meeting.

3. Disclosure and Declarations of Pecuniary Interests

Councillors Hannah Poole and Wes Poole declared interests in the rent payments to Mrs Seaton and Mrs Negus being related to them.

4. Update on action points from previous meeting

It was reported that:

- The pot holes along Euximoor Drove have once again been reported and the two street lights in Euximoor Drove have been reported as faulty. Cllr Russell updated the meeting to say that one of the street lights has been fixed but the other has been taken away. **The Council asked the Clerk to look into the matter.**
- Cllr. Sutton reported that he has made temporary repairs to the manhole cover in the recreation ground car park and that a builder has been asked to make permanent repairs.

5. Public Adjournment

The following matters were raised by members of the public:

- Continued dog fouling in the village even to the extent that it is being left within yards of the dog bins provided. Cllr. Sutton reminded all that if names of offending owners are given to the police they will take action. Councillors Sutton and Beswick reported on their meeting with FDC that resulted in FDC sending people in to clear up dog mess and general rubbish the following day but they cannot afford to do this just because some people are too lazy to use bins provide or take rubbish home.
- An update on the sale of building plots was requested. Cllr. Russell reported that offers have been made on two plots and the purchaser is in the process of trying to obtain permission to build one house on the two plots.
- An update was requested as to whether the recreation ground pavilion is to be extended or a new building built. The Clerk reported that a meeting of the New Village Hall committee is to be held immediately after the Council meeting to make that decision.
- It was asked if the Recreation Ground Charities Objects have been changed to allow funds to transfer to it from the Memorial Hall Charity. The Clerk reported that the matter is in the hands of a solicitor who on receipt of basic information his initial recommendation is to amalgamate the two Charities. Once he has reviewed all the information he will make a final recommendation.
- A resident reported that he feels the Upwell Road/Church Road junction is too dark. Following a discussion **the Clerk was asked to look into costs of a new style lamp**, which casts more light, being fitted to the column nearest the junction when the other street light work is undertaken. Cllr. Russell informed those present that the Street Light project being run by County would have reduced the number of County Council lights in the village but the Parish Council has agreed to fund the maintenance etc of all the lights affected so no reduction will be made.
- A resident reported a rotten tree at Syringa House, one branch of which has already fallen into the street, he has spoken to the owner who did not seem keen to act on the matter and asked

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the Council if they could do anything. It was agreed **that the Clerk should contact County Highways** as the tree may fall in the highway and Cllr. Sutton will speak to the District Council's Tree Officer to obtain advice.

- It was reported that the 30mph speed limit is working well. It was asked if more repeater signs might help as there are more in Guyhirn for example. Cllr. Sutton reported that the Council that is responsible for Guyhirn raise a much higher Precept to pay for such things and a resident commented that repeater signs may not be required as most people driving through Christchurch are locals and know the speed limit.
- A resident reported a tree obscuring the Halfpenny Toll Road sign and asked if it can be cut back. **Clerk to discuss with Highways.**
- Cllr. Yeulett reported that the second phase of the Bedlam Bridge work would soon commence. Cllr. Russell felt that the overall cost of work on that one project was too high and felt that some of it could have been spent on minor improvements to other junctions such as Upwell Road/Sixteen Foot Bank at Christchurch as requested by the Parish Council several times. Cllr. Yeulett said that the project was part of the work relating to all the Deep Drain accidents and was targeted as a result of accident statistics but that he would feed Cllr. Russell's view back to the Project.

6. Police Update

PCSO Russ's report was circulated to members before the meeting.

The report included details to two reported thefts in the village one being the theft of a power unit from a solar panel array. The Speedwatch once again showed no one speeding at the time.

The report included details of the New Horizon Outreach Vehicle (previously CrimeBUSTER Bus) will 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 on the 28th March.

Cllr. Yeulett informed the meeting of the Police Commissioner wishes to consult with PCSO's and the Community over how best to use PCSOs. Cllr. Russell reported that PCSO Russ is to be joined by another PCSO to help police the area and that PCSO Russ has put survey forms in the village shop to obtain residents' views of what they want from the police. It was confirmed that these forms can be posted if anonymity is required.

During this item Cllr. Wes Poole left the meeting due to illness.

7. Correspondence Received

The Clerk reported that notice has been received to say that the next RoSPA inspection on the Play Parks and Skateboard Park will take place during April.

Cllr. Russell passed an e-mail he had received regarding Community Transport Scheme funding opportunities to Cllr. Beswick who is involved in the Christchurch Scheme.

8. Finance

The Clerk reported that FDC have confirmed the Concurrent Function grant as £2,750.00 for the coming year, the same as this year. Cllr. Sutton reported that due to District Council budget constraints that these grants would be reduced by 10% per year in coming years and that the Parish Council would need to consider this in the 2014/15 budget setting process.

The Council confirmed the appointment of Mr Ivan Cooper as the Council's Internal Auditor. The Clerk reported that Mr Cooper is currently the Finance Officer for Chatteris Town Council and has many years finance experience and is well versed in local council requirements.



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The proposal to purchase an additional Dog Bin, to be placed at the Padgett's Road/Church Road junction, at a cost of £150.00 was approved unanimously. **The Clerk was asked to liaise with FDC on this matter.**

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

- 8.1 Clerk's Salary £183.58
- 8.2 The Heron £65.00
- 8.3 Christchurch PCC £120.00
- 8.4 Recreation Ground Insurance £883.52

Additionally the following payments not included on the agenda were authorised:

- Mrs Seaton £206.25 (Rent)
- Mrs Negus £206.25 (Rent)
- Fenland District Council £502. 50 (Planning Fee for plots adjacent to the Recreation Ground)

Total bank balances of £53,403.71 are held, with cheques written amounting to £2,582.69 to come from this. Of this the Council has as earmarked funds (funds that must be spent on specific purposes) a little over £33k.

9. Planning Applications

None to consider.

10. Parish Plan – Update

The Clerk reported a solicitor is being consulted with regarding the change of charitable objects for the Recreation Ground Charity to enable it to manage a community building as mentioned in item 5. Council members agreed to the proposal to amalgamate the Recreation Ground Charity, for which they are Trustees as Body Corporate, and the Memorial Hall Charity.

11. Raising of Village Concerns

The following items were reported/discussed:

1. A tree is encroaching of the footpath near to Albert House. A member of the public reported that it is Middle Level land and he is prepared to prune the tree. He was thanked for his kind offer.
2. Recent heavy rain caused the road to flood near Simon's Corner/Toll Farm. Cllr. Russell said he would look to see what needs to be done next time there is heavy rain fall.
3. Brushwood is building up in the dyke at the recreation ground. It was agreed that this can only be removed when the ground dries out a bit more.
4. Scott's Road surface is breaking up and many pot holes are being formed. Cllr. Russell reported that he will look at the problem.
5. Cllr. Bliss read out a letter on behalf of the Memorial Hall Charity Trustees to the effect that until the Recreation Ground Charity Trustees change the objects of the latter charity and confirmation has been received in writing from the Charity Commissioners no money would be transferred from the Memorial Hall Charity to the Recreation Ground Charity. Councillors confirmed they are aware of the requirement to do this and the Clerk stated that this cannot happen anyway until the Objects are changed. Cllr. Russell expressed disappointment that if the Memorial Hall Charity Trustees have issues with the matter they ought to attend a Council meeting to discuss them rather than ask Cllr. Bliss to read out a note from them.
6. Cllr. Russell expressed personal concern about the recent newspaper article that suggested that someone other than the Parish Council was responsible for the reduction in the speed limit through the village. The work was undertaken, and paid for, by the Council after many years of liaison with the Highways Department.
7. Councillors Sutton and Yeulett reminded those present to consider making comments on the Core Strategy issued by FDC for consultation as there are recommendations within the strategy that restrict growth in m vil Christchurch to infill only.

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signed



Chairman

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8. Cllr. Sutton requested on Cllr. Cotterell's behalf that the Memorial Hall Management Committee or the Council support the return of the Golden Age Surgery by either not charging it for the use of the hall or by paying for it on behalf of the Surgery. Members agreed to pay for the costs if the Memorial Hall Committee felt the need to charge.
9. During this agenda item a member of the audience received a phone call to report another break in at the Sports Pavilion where Easter Eggs have been stolen.

Chair closed the meeting at 8:28pm



Christchurch Parish Council Bank Balance update for March 2013 meeting

Community a/c	4840.09	outstanding payments £2,582.69
Business Premium	10181.18	
Business Bonus	27101.18	
New Village Hall	689.21	
BoS Corp Bonus	<u>10592.05</u>	
	53403.71	