

**MINUTES OF THE CHRISTCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY 8th APRIL 2013 – MEMORIAL HALL CHRISTCHURCH AT 7:30pm**

Present: Councillors – Nigel Russell (Chair), Jill Bliss, William Beswick, Wes Poole, Hannah Poole, Simon Freeland and Will Sutton (FDC) [from item 5].

Stephen Cowell (Clerk) and 2 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. Yeulett, Cllr. Cotterell MBE (FDC) and PCSO Dave Russ. Cllr. Sutton also sent apologies to say that he would be late arriving.

2. Signing of Minutes

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

3. Disclosure and Declarations of Pecuniary Interests

None.

4. Update on action points from previous meeting

It was reported that:

- The Clerk has written to the project replacing Street Lights and has received some of the proposals. It is stated in these proposals that the light in place at the Upwell Road/Church Road/Green Lane junction will have a new style bulb and it is hoped that this will improve the lighting in that area. The Clerk informed Council Members that he has some concerns over the proposals for Fen View and has asked for clarification.
- Cllr. Sutton and the District Council Tree Officer have reviewed the state of the rotten tree at Syringa House and have discussed the matter with the owner of the property. During item 11 Cllr. Sutton reported that the tree has been condemned and will be removed in due course.
- Cllr. Beswick and Cllr. Sutton have agreed the site of the new Dog Bin at the Church Road/Padgett's Road junction with District Council Officers and it will be in place once the District Council has some more bins in stock.
- The state of the Scott's Road road surface has been reported to the Highways Department as there are concerns that vibrations caused by large vehicles hitting pot holes might fracture the mains water pipes under the road surface.
- The issues with the Street Lights in Euximoor Drove have been reported to the County Council. Cllr. Russell reported that the light they fixed a few weeks ago is now not working again.

5. Public Adjournment

The following matters were raised by members of the public:

- Following the report of HGVs causing damage to properties in the village another resident living at the shop end of Church Road reported that the main problem is empty vehicles bouncing when they catch the kerbs at the road's junction with Upwell Road. Members discussed the issue and asked the **Clerk to update the Highways Officer who dealt with the complaint a few months ago and copy in Mr Stephen Barclay MP, PCSO Russ and all Council Members.**
- It was reported that moving the speed limit signs closer to the Halfpenny Toll Road junction with Upwell Road is now causing some drivers coming out of the junction to believe that cars slowing to obey the speed limit are slowing to turn left and they are pulling out of the junction in front of oncoming cars.

6. Police Update

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

The report included an issue with Hare Coursing at Padgett's Road and a report of a suspicious male near to the School.



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It was noted that the thefts that the Council have been told about from the Footballer's side of the Sports Pavilion are not included in PCSO Russ's reported and the Council can only assume that the Football Club did not report the break-ins.

7. Correspondence Received

The Clerk reported that all e-mail correspondence of any note has been forwarded to members and reported that

- Some of the Street Light Project proposal maps have been received by the Council and he has asked for clarification on an issue.
- Morton & Hall Consulting have quoted for their costs in drawing up detailed specifications for the Sports Pavilion renovation. Council Members agreed to employ Morton and Hall to act for them and draw up detailed specifications.

8. Finance

The Clerk reported that Bank Interest income is higher than budgeted as is the Recycling Credit income however Allotment income is down due to non-payment by one tenant. The Clerk was given the new address of the tenant and asked to resend the invoice as the original may have been mislaid in his move.

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 Postage £6.00
- 8.4 HMR&C £137.60 (3 months PAYE on Clerk's Salary)
- 8.5 Cambridgeshire County Council £900.00 (The Council's share of the costs of the Church Road/Croft junction improvements)

Additionally the following payment not included on the agenda was authorised:

- Hall Hire £42.00

Total bank balances of £53,093.63 are held, with cheques written amounting to £2,205.46 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

Nothing to update.

11. Raising of Village Concerns

The following items were reported/discussed:

1. Protruding roots are causing a pavement to be uneven near to Albert House.
2. A question was asked if the Bowls Club bar was a private bar or a public bar. It was confirmed that it is a private bar for members only.
3. Euximoor Drove continues to be badly affected with pot holes. Cllr. Russell reported that he has met with Highways Officials and has been told that it is on their work list but needs a complete resurfacing rather than just pot hole filling and they cannot commit to a timescale.
4. The Clothes Bank is still missing.
5. Lettering is missing from the Christchurch sign near to the Manea road junction with the road from Tipp's End.
6. Dogs are still being walked on the Playing Field. Cllr. Wes Poole and the Clerk agreed to meet on the 18th April to put the new 'No Dogs' signs up.
7. Some drains are higher than the actual gutter causing standing water. Cllr. Russell agreed to review this next time it rains.

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8. The Telegraph Pole near to Halfpenny Toll Road has been badly damaged.
9. Following comments in The Heron recently District Councillor Sutton asked the Parish Councillors their views on the state of the Bus Shelter and its location. Cllr. Russell responded saying that the location had been fully discussed and reviewed prior to its placement and the review took into account safety of passenger alighting from buses. It was agreed that the design of the shelter was not ideal but types that blend in better i.e. wooden ones were open to vandalism.

Chair closed the meeting at 8.32pm

