

**MINUTES OF THE CHRISTCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY 9<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2013 – MEMORIAL HALL CHRISTCHURCH 7:30pm**

Present: Councillors – Nigel Russell (Chair), Jill Bliss, Hannah Poole, William Beswick, Wesley Poole, Simon Freeland, Roger Gladwin, Fred Yeulett (CCC) and Will Sutton (FDC).  
Stephen Cowell (Clerk) and 5 members of the public were also in attendance.

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

Apologies were received from PCSO Russ.

Cllr. Russell welcomed the new councillor Mr Gladwin, District Councillor Sutton, County Councillor Yeulett and the residents present.

**2. Signing of Minutes**

The minutes of the 12<sup>th</sup> August meeting were signed, by the Chair, as true record of the meeting.

**3. Disclosure and Declarations of Interests**

The Clerk briefly explained this item to Cllr. Gladwin.

The Clerk also reported that there were some additional payments to be added to the list of payments to be made these being the renewal of the Council's Insurance policy, a quote for which was received after the agenda was issued, and payments for rent due to Mrs Negus and Mrs Seaton due early next month.

The Clerk confirmed that no planning applications have been received for consideration.

Councillors Hannah Poole and Wesley Poole declared interests in the rent payment as the recipients are family members.

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

The Clerk reported that:

- Cllr. Sutton had been able to locate material to fill the large pot hole in the un-adopted part of Crown Drove and had filled it with the help of a friend. Before and after photographs have been sent to councillors. The Council thanked Cllr. Sutton for undertaking this work.
- Cllr. Bliss has spoken to the contractor who prunes the willow trees in the Recreation Ground and he has confirmed that he is willing to prune the trees overhanging resident's gardens bordering the Recreation Ground.
- Following discussions with the leaders of the junior football club regarding them compensating the Bowls Club for their losses due to break-ins the football club felt that the fault lay with the Council for not having easily lockable doors. The Clerk suggested that as the Bowls Club's rent in due that he invoices them for a lower amount to recompense them for the losses and reminds all users that valuables are left on the premises at the user's risk. This was agreed by the Council.
- Cllr. Russell has obtained quotes and drawings from Fenland Leisure Products to compare to those provided by Wickstead. Sharman's are not able to provide like for like quotes. It was agreed to review the FLP drawings and proposals after the meeting. It was also agreed that the Clerk should check the Financial Regulations to agree how many quotes should be obtained for this level of spending.
- FDC have apologised for the lack of action regarding the Clothing Bank and have confirmed that one will be installed in the very near future.

**5. Public Adjournment**

The following subjects were raised and discussed:

- The pavement near to the Village Notice board is uneven and a trip hazard. Cllr. Yeulett offered to look at it after the meeting and take appropriate action.
- A street light in the Norfolk part of Green Lane has been removed due to the bracket being rusty. Cllr. Sutton reported that according to Cambridgeshire County Council records it belongs to the Parish Council. A quote is being obtained for it to be replaced. Councillors agreed that once the quote is received the Clerk should discuss sharing the costs with the Upwell Parish Council.



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- A resident questioned whether it would be better to just chop all the trees down in the Recreation Ground that border resident's gardens so the problem of pruning them does not return. The Council were unwilling to chop trees down just for this reason and felt for environmental reason they should remain.
- A car has been parked in Crown Drove for many months and is never moved. It was asked if the police could remove it. The Council heard that it belongs to a resident so it was agreed that Cllr. Russell would speak to the owner and that the Clerk would make the police aware in case it was parked illegally with no tax.
- A resident raised an issue of impaired visibility when turning out of Scott's Road due to an overgrown Rose bush and an 'Eggs for Sale' sign. The Clerk was asked to write to both residents
- A resident questioned whether the Council was looking at village infrastructure or had a transport plan as the village was without an adequate Bus Service. Following a discussion it was agreed that Cllr. Yeulett would inform the Clerk of the name of the County Transport co-ordinator so the Clerk can liaise with that officer on a review of the Bus Service needs of the village.

**6. Police Update**

The Clerk reported that he has distributed, to Members, PCSO Russ's report that only included one item being the break in at the Bowls Pavilion.

Cllr. Russell reported that he has discussed the lack of police presence at Council meetings and the lack of police support regarding the break-ins at the Pavilion with the local MP and he was assured that there would be police presence at this meeting. As no member of the Police Force has attended he will be taking the matter further.

**7. Correspondence Received**

The Clerk reported that the only correspondence received other than the e-mails passed on to councillors during the month were two letters regarding the impaired vision already discussed under item 4.

**8. Finance**

8.1 The Clerk reported bank balances of £50,639.13 with cheques issued to the total of £3,141.79 to be paid from this.

The Clerk reminded Members that around £32k was earmarked for Play parks and also reported that the next payment of Precept was due to the Council.

8.2 The Clerk reported that most expenditure items were within budget but that the Office Expenses will exceed budget due to the costs of advertising for a new clerk and paying for the hall for interviews. The Parish Council renewal quote has been received and even though the Council is in a five year term with the providers they have offered a revised new five year term with a renewal cost of almost £140.00 per annum savings. The Council approved the acceptance of the quote after the Clerk had assured them that additions to the policy can be made during the five year term. The Clerk reported that the only income item not likely to meet the budget is the recycling item.

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

8.3.1 Clerk's Salary £183.78

8.3.2 The Heron £70.00

8.3.3 Hall Hire (July – Sept) £42.00

8.3.4 Hall Hire (Clerk interviews) £14.00

8.3.5 Postage £6.00

In addition the Insurance renewal at £760.80 and the rent payments to Mrs Negus and Mrs Seaton of £206.25 each were authorised.

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**9. Planning Applications**

None to consider.

**10. Parish Plan – Update**

There were no updates.

**11. Raising of Village Concerns**

The following items were reported/discussed:

1. A dog walker who regularly uses the Recreation Ground despite it being a no dogs area was asked to leave the field by Cllr. Sutton and he did so. Cllr. Sutton was thanked for his intervention.
2. Cllr. Beswick expressed concern at the increasing number of HGVs driving through the village.
3. Cllr. Gladwin suggested that before the white lines are painted on the resurfaced Sixteen Foot Bank Road the Highways Authority should be approached suggesting that solid white lines be used at junctions to indicate no overtaking.
4. Cllr. Russell again expressed concern about the lack of action in filling pot holes along Euximoor Drove and the number of signs left on the side of the Sixteen Foot Bank Road after work has been completed. Cllr. Sutton said he would look into the matter of the signs and that he is trying to get a Highway's Officer to inspect Euximoor Drove with him. Cllr. Russell also expressed concern of the waste of gravel on the recent resurfaced Sixteen Foot Bank Road due to a lack of tarmac being applied and the gravel not sticking to the surface.
5. Concern was expressed at the poor quality of the Minor Highways work at the Padgett's Road and Upwell Road junctions with the Sixteen Foot bank as the reflective posts were very flimsy. The Clerk was asked to look into the scheme of works to ensure that it had been done as agreed by the Council.

The Chair thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 8:27pm.

