

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

Present: Councillors – Nigel Russell (Chair), Jill Bliss, Hannah Poole, William Beswick, 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 Cllr. Wes Poole and PCSO Russ.

Cllr. Russell welcomed all to the meeting and invited everyone to stand for a minutes silence for Mac Cotterell who passed away recently.

After the minutes silence Cllr. Sutton said a few words about Mr Cotterell reminding those in attendance of how much Mr Cotterell had done for people and said that he will be remembered as a people's man and will be sadly missed.

2. Signing of Minutes

It was remarked that the minutes of the 14th October had some errors. The Clerk reported that this was due to the Clerk for that meeting not being familiar with councillors' names and getting them mixed up. He reported that he is in the process of correcting them. The Chair signed a copy of the minutes and they were accepted subject to changes relating to who said what.

The Chair reported that the new Clerk has resigned giving her reasons for resignation in an e-mail sent to him. He thanked Mr Cowell for stepping back into the Clerk role until a replacement can be found. The Clerk reported that he has been approached by someone interested in the role and it was agreed that the subject would be discussed at the end of this meeting.

3. Disclosure and Declarations of Interests

Cllr. Hannah Poole declared an interest in the planning application F/YR13/0780/F.

4. Update on action points from previous meeting

- Cllr. Sutton has obtained a quote from FDC for the fixing of the street light in Green Lane, however, he felt that the cost was very high. Cllr. Sutton provided the Clerk with details of a company used by Welney Parish Council. **The Clerk to request a quote from them.**
- Cllr. Sutton reported that the quote for the street lighting near to the junction between The Croft and Church Road has been requested but not yet received.
- Cllr. Yeulett reported that another letter has been sent to the residents of a property in Fenview whose shrubs are overgrown and encroaching on the pathway.
- Cllr. Yeulett reported that the missing Stop sign, reported at the last meeting, has been replaced.
- The Chair reported that a meeting has been arranged, tomorrow, with Rod Marshall, Cambridgeshire Highways, to discuss the Bus Stop area. Cllr. Sutton reported he will be attending.
- Cllr. Yeulett reported that he has invited a representative of the Police and Crime Commissioner's office to attend the February meeting of the Council so that Councillors and the public can discuss policy and strategy issues with her. It was pointed out that she will not be able to discuss any individual issue as that is not the role of the Commissioner.
- The Chair decided to bring forward the Police report normally discussed within item 6 to prior to the Public Adjournment to inform attendees of the theft of two vehicles from the village recently, one of which was found in Stowmarket. He also informed attendees of today's accident adjacent to Day's Bridge on the Sixteen Foot Bank Road.

5. Public Adjournment

The following subjects were raised and discussed:

- A resident was concerned that the Police who had said they would attend a Resident's Action group did not turn up. He also advised that the Action Group has written to the Planning Department backing the revised planning application for plots 2 and 3 Upwell Road near to the bowls green.

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- The same resident reported that some parishioners felt that the detail in the biodiversity report for planning application F/YR13/0780/F was not accurate and they would be making their views felt directly the Planning Department
- A resident asked if the Council knew what the payback time was for replacing the old street lamps with the new more efficient ones was. The Council did not know but it was pointed out that the Parish Council does not currently pay for the ongoing energy costs only repairs. Cllr. Sutton reported that FDC are going to review street lighting belonging to them and may look at this during that review.
- It was reported that most if not all of the recycling banks are full and require emptying.
- A resident was concerned that the new No Dogs sign still has not been put up at the Crown Drove end of the playing field.
- A resident was concerned about speeding vehicles in Wayside – **the Clerk was asked to alert PCSO Russ to this.**
- It was reported that a resident is having problems with a dog barking all day. It was suggested that the resident should contact Fenland District Council and refer the matter to the Environmental Service there.

6. Police Update

The Clerk reported that he has distributed, to Members, PCSO Russ's report that was discussed within item 4.

Concern was again expressed at the lack of police presence at meetings.

7. Correspondence Received

The Clerk has circulated details of the Highway's Departments Minor Highways Improvement Scheme and suggested that Members consider any schemes they wish to put forward so they can be discussed at the December meeting – **Clerk to add to the agenda.**

8. Finance

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

- 8.1 The Heron £70.00
- 8.2 Remembrance Day Wreath £25.00

9. Planning Applications

F/YR13/0780/F

Cllr. Poole left the meeting for this item.

Following a discussion that included whether there is a need for additional housing to keep the School viable, clarification on the FDC Housing Strategy in relation to the Local Development Boundaries and Cllr Freeland's concern about urban sprawl it was agreed to support the application subject to adequate provision of street lighting.

10. Parish Plan – Update

Cllr. Russell updated members on the progress with the sale of plot 1 Upwell Road and that he has authorised a £75 insurance policy covering the purchasers against any liability relating to the boundary adjacent to the drainage ditch at the front of the properties. He also indicated that both purchasers wish to retain the ditch.

11. Raising of Village Concerns

The following items were reported/discussed:

1. Holes in the Bowls Club roof – Cllr. Gladwin was authorised to arrange for them to be fixed and send the invoice to the Council.
2. Speeding in Tipp's End
3. 'No Road Markings' signs being left after the marking have been painted near to Scott's Farm – Cllr. Yeulett said he would report it to Highways when he meets them.

The Chair thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 8:36pm.