

**MINUTES OF THE CHRISTCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY 9th DECEMBER 2013 – MEMORIAL HALL CHRISTCHURCH 7:30pm**

Present: Councillors – Hannah Poole (Chair), Jill Bliss, William Beswick, Simon Freeland, Roger Gladwin, Wes Poole, Fred Yeulett (CCC) and Will Sutton (FDC).
Stephen Cowell (Clerk) and 2 members of the public were also in attendance.

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr. Nigel Russell, Cllr. Sutton who was attending another meeting but would turn up as soon as he can and PCSO Russ.

2. Signing of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th November were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

3. Disclosure and Declarations of Interests

None.

4. Update on action points from previous meeting

- The Clerk reported that he has requested a quote for the fixing of the street light in Green Lane from the company who fixed a light in Church Lane a couple of years ago.
- Cllr. Freeland asked when might the Council meet to decide on whom to instruct over the new Play Park now that 3 quotes have been received. The Clerk suggested that a separate meeting be held to allow councillors to concentrate on that matter rather than deal with it at the end of a normal meeting. It was agreed to meet at the Sports Pavilion on Monday 20th January at 7pm.

5. Public Adjournment

The following subjects were raised and discussed:

- A resident expressed concern at the parking of a car close to the Green Lane/Church Road junction with no lights on. It was confirmed that providing the car was parked the correct way round no lights are required in a 30mph area. It was suggested that this was temporary as it was being parked there will a driveway was being covered in tarmac.
- Concern was again raised about tiles being removed from the Sports Pavilion roof and of two vehicles parked in the car park, one with no road tax. **The Clerk was asked to inform the Police of the latter.**

6. Police Update

The Clerk reported that the Police report has been e-mailed to all councillors and that the only items included in the report are a burglary from a shed and the cutting of a horse's tail.

The next Rural Forum will be held in Elm on 25th March 2014.

7. Correspondence Received

Two items of post have been received one being details of the King's Lynn & West Norfolk consultation on the Draft Sustainability Appraisal Report and the other being details of the Fenland Volunteer Association's activities – both were made available for councillors to read.

8. Finance

The Clerk had circulated a proposed 2014/15 spending budget prior to the meeting in readiness for setting the Precept. The Clerk explained that once FDC have held finance meetings more information might be available to help the council set its own budget but either way the budget will need to be finalised at the January meeting. Cllr. Freeland requested an explanation of the allotment costs and income and was happy with the information provided.

The Clerk reported that spending levels included in the budget have been set at last year's cost with some small increases in so, u e s t count for inflation.

Councillors agreed the spend u e

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Cllr. Yeulett reminded councillors that Parish and Town Councils are the only councils not impacted by Central Government's budget caps.

The Clerk reported bank balances of £50,559.43 with outstanding cheques totalling £2,043.10 and reminded councillors that £32,000.00 is earmarked for the new Play Park.

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

- 8.1 Clerk's Salary £81.60
- 8.2 The Heron £70.00
- 8.3 E Mason and Son £1,611.60 (Grass Cutting)
- 8.4 Hall Hire £42.00 (Oct to Dec)
- 8.5 Christchurch PCC £122.50 Cemetery Maintenance

9. Planning Applications

Application F/YR13/0790/F – erection of a 2 storey 4 bedroom house with triple garage involving the demolition of existing dwelling and outbuildings at Acorn Farm, Padgett's Road was supported.

10. Highways Scheme

Cllr. Sutton arrived during this item.

Councillors discussed the option to request work on Upwell Road where it narrows near to the Bus Shelter and agreed to submit this to the Minor Highways Scheme. Cllr. Sutton reminded the Council that the scheme should be submitted with objectives rather than solutions – **Clerk to action.**

11. Liaison/Correspondence with other organisations

Cllr. Freeland requested clarification on how councillors should deal with other organisations after having a disagreement with another councillor on the protocol. Cllr. Freeland explained that the issue related to e-mails to and from the Highway's Department which he had copied into Cllr. Yeulett as our County Council councillor and other Parish Councillors.

The Clerk explained that individual councillors should take care not to give the impression that the individuals views can be construed as those of the Council unless prior permission had already been given but that it was in order for councillors to discuss matters with other organisations especially if they were of an exploratory nature but that it was good practice to copy other councillors in with the correspondence, as Cllr. Freeland had done in this case. If one of the other councillors then disagrees with the views shared an agenda item can be called for at the next meeting to obtain a view from the whole council.

It should also be remembered that if a councillor is merely pointing out something that should already happen by law or is within the other organisations normal operating practices a councillor is entitled to bring this to their attention as would any member of the public.

12. Parish Plan – Update

No updates to report.

13. Raising of Village Concerns

The following items were reported/discussed:

1. The increase of traffic through the village and the ceasing of minor road works leaving a stretch along Upwell Road incomplete.
2. The Street Light, number 10, near to 6 Upwell Road is still not fixed despite being reported several times – **Cllr. Sutton agreed to discuss this with officers at FDC.**
3. The fence around the effluent plant at The Croft has been damaged by the wind and is a Health & Safety issue– **Cllr. Sutton agreed to discuss this with FDC officers.**
4. A request for solid white lines adjacent to key road junctions near to the village was made – **Cllr. Yeulett agreed to discuss this with County Highways.**
5. Fires at the Scrap Yard along Euximoor Drive have been producing a lot of acrid smoke – **the Clerk was asked to make FDC Environmental Health aware.**

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6. Residents have reported the smoking of banned substances in the Church yard – **the Clerk to inform the Police.**

The Chair thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 8:29pm.



Christchurch Parish Council Bank Balance update for December 2013 meeting

Community a/c	3694.18	outstanding payments £2,043.10
Business Premium	8184.78	
Business Bonus	27339.63	
New Village Hall	689.21	
BoS Corp Bonus	<u>10651.63</u>	
	50559.43	