

**MINUTES OF THE CHRISTCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY 10th FEBRUARY 2014 – SPORTS PAVILION, UPWELL ROAD,
CHRISTCHURCH 7:30pm**

Present: Councillors – Nigel Russell (Chair), Hannah Poole, Jill Bliss, William Beswick, Simon Freeland, Wes Poole, Fred Yeulett (CCC) and Will Sutton (FDC).
Stephen Cowell (Clerk) and 7 members of the public were also in attendance.

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr. Roger Gladwin, Cllr. Michelle Tanfield (FDC) and PCSO Russ. Cllr. Russell welcomed Jacqueline Richardson, the Clerk to Benwick Parish Council, to the meeting explaining that she has applied for the role as Clerk to this Council. He also introduced Jacky Wincote, the Editor of the parish newsletter The Heron.

2. Signing of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th January were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

3. Disclosure and Declarations of Interests

Councillors Wes Poole and Hannah Poole declared interests in the Planning Application to be reviewed under item 9 of the agenda (later moved to item 11).

4. Update on action points from previous meeting

The Clerk reported that:

- The job to provide a quote for the repair of the Green Lane street light had fallen off the contractor's works sheet but he has informed the Council that he will attend to it as soon as he can. If the repair is a simple repair he will undertake it there and then as it will be more costly to quote and return. The Clerk reported that FDC have stated that repairs should be undertaken by Balfour Beattie their preferred contractor. The Clerk has argued with FDC on the grounds that giving all the work to one contractor could be seen as not proving best value and that as the Parish Council own the light they should have a say in the matter. The Council agreed with the Clerk and asked him to proceed with the matter.
- He has discussed payments to the Bowls Club for the use of this venue but will deal with this under Correspondence as there are other payments raised by the Bowls Club to consider.

Cllr. Yeulett reported that he has again discussed having solid white lines at the Padgett's Road/Sixteen Foot Bank Road junction with Highways and has been told they cannot be placed there due to Highways regulations and that Highways Officer has shown him the relevant regulations.

Cllr. Sutton reported that he visited the FACT office to discuss the request made by a resident at the last meeting but there was no one in authority there so he will visit them again and report back to the Council.

Cllr. Sutton reported that he feels that all the drains, not just the blocked one on Upwell Road, may need work to clear them to allow water to flow off the road better and he will discuss this with the appropriate officials.

Cllr. Sutton reported that he has asked the question as to the ownership of Rotten Drove but has not yet received an answer.

Cllr. Yeulett reported that he spoke on behalf of the Council at the Minor Highways bids meeting and is optimistic that the Christchurch bid might be successful.

5. Police Update

The Chair brought this item forward to enable more time for the Police Commissioner's representative to arrive to discuss strategic police issues within the Public adjournment.

Cllr. Russell reported that the person who has been breaking in to the pavilion has been caught following a visit to the premises by a Bowls Club member and a neighbour who called the police. The person was then arrested. It is felt that he had been sleeping in the loft following suspected issues at his home. The damage to the ceiling had been caused by him moving around.

The police report has been circulated to Council Members and Cllr. Russell summarised the report that included criminal damage to a vehicle parked in The Croft.

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The next Rural Forum is to be held at Elm on 25th March. *It will take place in the Outreach vehicle that will be parked near the Church from noon to 6pm.*

6. Correspondence Received

- MAGPAS letter explaining their role and a request for a donation. The Chair felt that given the uncertain nature of the Concurrent Functions Grant and the impending costs of the Sport Ground renovation the council should be circumspect with grants.
- The Clerk reported that the Bowls Club have informed the Council, today, of the costs of Water and Electricity for the Sports Pavilion and have requested that the Council or the Recreation Ground Charity pay towards those costs as they have done in the past. The Bowls Club have suggested £253.92 towards water and £100 towards electricity (this will include the costs for holding meetings in the Bowls Club area). It was agreed that as this request has only just been received the **Clerk should e-mail details to Council Members for them to further consider the request.** The Clerk reported that the Football Club have not paid anything for the usage of the facilities this year. The Clerk was provided with contact details of their Chair so the matter could be discussed.

7. Public Adjournment

With the non arrival of the guest speaker it was decided to hold the public adjournment. *It was subsequently learnt that Nicola Fenton had been delayed by a flooded road and the diversion would mean she felt she would arrive too late for the meeting. She has now been invited to the March meeting.*

A resident reported that reflector poles along Upwell Road have been knocked down – **Clerk to report to Highways.**

Speeding in the village at School opening and closing times by a Black VW were reported – **Clerk to notify the Police.**

The new editor of The Heron reported that the village newsletter would be folding due to verbal abuse of both her and the treasurer following the first edition edited by herself. She did not feel that she wanted to be subjected to that. Cllr. Bliss, the treasurer, confirmed the nature of the abuse. Attendees condemned the abuse and asked Jacky to reconsider but she felt she could not. Jacky explained that the committee felt that the money held by The Heron would go towards the new village hall unless someone else took over the running of the paper.

Jacky reported that there will be one more issue explaining the problem.

Residents questioned how they can raise community issues such as speeding, lack of a neighbourhood watch etc other than at this forum and a number of options were suggested:

- Via the Rural Forums
- Direct to the Wisbech Police Office
- To the Police Commissioner
- To the Independent Police Complaints Commission if it related to Police matters

The Chair reported that he has already discussed the lack of police presence at these meetings with the MP.

A resident expressed frustration at the lack of progress in getting a new hall built and this resulted in a heated discussion on what historically has happened and what the current situation is. Following the discussion it was decided that once Cllr. Russell has received the quotes for a new build based on the same design as for the renovation he will call a meeting of the Council and the Village Hall Committee to discuss those two sets of quotes and allow a discussion into whether there is a need to go back to the village for further direction regarding a complete redesign of the layout of the proposed building.

Cllr. Sutton and the Clerk explained that a complete redesign might put in jeopardy the £100k FDC grant that was given for the previous business case.



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8. Finance

The Clerk reported bank balances totalling £51,409.25 with outstanding cheques of £336.40 and reminded the Council of the ring fenced £31k section 106 monies for the Play Park work.

Cllr. Sutton felt that it would be a shame in The Heron was to fold over the verbal abuse of one person and offered to meet with Cllr. Bliss to discuss the matter. In light of this the £70 monthly payment was suspended for the time being.

The Clerk's salary of £68.00 was authorised.

The payment to SLCC was suspended until a decision is made regarding the new clerk as one of the applicants is already a member.

9. Parish Plan - Update

The Chair decided to leave Planning until last so those with interests could leave and not have to return.

Cllr. Freeland reported on his discussions with various people over the play park including the contractors and school children.

Following Cllr. Freeland's update it was decided to move forward with grass lock as the under floor material and to select Play Dell as the preferred supplier. They have quoted £31.9k with a 25 year guarantee. Their design was the one most supported by the school children involved in the process.

Cllr. Freeland to manage the liaison with Play Dell going forward.

10. Raising of Village Concerns

The following items were reported/discussed:

- Yet more pot holes along Euximoor Drove
- Cars driving through Green Lane thinking it is a through road and getting stuck.

11. Planning Application

Councillors Wes Poole and Hannah Poole left the meeting for this item. Prior to leaving the meeting Cllr. Wes Poole reported that the application was a resubmission of an application the Council had already supported but that the application had to be resubmitted as a report was missing from the original submission.

The Council continued to support the application.

The Chair thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 9.10pm.



Christchurch Parish Council Bank Balance update for February 2014 meeting

Community a/c	4492.98	outstanding payments £336.40
Business Premium	8185.80	
Business Bonus	27389.63	
New Village Hall	689.21	
BoS Corp Bonus	<u>10651.63</u>	
	51409.25	