

CHRISTCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Meeting of Christchurch Parish Council on Monday 8 May at Christchurch Community Centre, Upwell Road, Christchurch at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs N. Russell, J. Bliss, W. Beswick, R. Gladwin, P. Owen, G. Harper, W. Sutton, J. Rees (clerk), V. Haresnape, P. Haresnape, P. Norman, S. Horne, L. Webster, R. Guildford, M. Hawthorn, S. Clarke (PCSO)

Apologies for Absence: Cllrs J. Hughes, M. Tansfield

Declarations of Interest: None

PM1/17-18 Welcome from Chairman of the Parish Council

Unfortunately, the talk from PC K. Allen had to be cancelled at the last minute due to an incident requiring PC Allen to work.

PM2/17-18 Report from Cllr Owen on the work of the Parish Council

The last year has been busy for the Parish Council.

A new clerk has been employed and is working out well.

The Council's LHI bid was accepted – the speed limit for Tipps End is to be reduced.

Parish Councillors have been part of working parties with Christchurch Recreation Ground Charity to trim trees, clear rubbish and install a pathway across the community centre car park following comments from Parishioners.

The street lights in the village have been a concern. The Parish Council are working closely with FDC, but the situation is currently problematic, but out of the Parish Council's hands.

Cllr Owen reminded Parishioners that all Councillors give their time free of charge and claim no expenses – it is an entirely voluntary role.

PM3/17-18 PCSO S. Clarke

Its been a quiet time in Christchurch.

PCSO Clarke has been spending time getting out into the village, doing talks and visiting drop-ins. If anyone has a group that would like a visit, please get in touch.

PCSO Clarke is planning on combining speedwatch with children from the school asking drivers questions on their reasons for speeding and if they understand the possible consequences. The school has agreed to this, so hopefully a date can be arranged soon.

PM4/17-18 Christchurch Recreation Ground Charity

Ruth Ingram gave a report on the first year of the new Community Centre.

The hall is run by volunteers. It has been well used, and people have reported that it is a pleasure to use. 12 groups use it regularly. The committee running the hall is made of representatives of the user group.

The constitution of the charity needs to be reviewed. The charity works closely with the the Parish Council to confirm who does what – its a learning curve for all involved.

The Charity would like to thank the Parish Council for their ongoing help and support.

Cllr Sutton responded with a vote of thanks to all members of the committee, and especially to Ruth who does so much work to

ensure everything runs smoothly.

PM5/17-18 Christchurch Residents' Association

Richard Guildford gave a report on the activities of the Residents Association.

It was set up 4 years ago. They have set up a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. Speedwatch is set up now, they are sharing equipment with other groups, so are in the process of setting up a rota for the equipment.

They work closely with the Parish Council.

Anyone is welcome to get involved with the Residents' Association; please feel free to go along to meetings. There is a £5 membership fee to help the group with costs of printing and so on.

PM6/17-18 Public Time

The rest of the meeting was given over to public time, enabling everyone attending the meeting to have some time for questions and queries.

- V. Haresnape queried the 5 minutes limit on an individual talking during Public Time, and asked if this would include everyone else's comments. Cllr Owen confirmed that all comments from the public would be facilitated as much as possible. The 5 minute rule is in place to ensure that everyone gets time to make their comments and no one person can dominate public time.
- P. Haresnape – the Parish Council's donation to the Heron is in the budget, but has not been formally agreed as yet. The donation helps to ensure that the Heron is as good as it can be. Cllr Sutton commented that he would be very disappointed if the Parish Council doesn't continue to support the Heron. M. Hawthorn the Heron is a necessity now – it is a very good magazine and useful. P. Haresnape gave further information on how the Heron is run by volunteers, whose time and equipment is given free. There have been changes over the last 12 months. Anyone can get involved – please get in touch with the steering group if you are interested. The magazine is produced in a paper format and also on the website. It is delivered free to all parishioners. The Heron couldn't function without the delivery team – again these are volunteers. They are always looking for more volunteers, so please get in touch if you would like to help. Cllr Sutton offered a vote of thanks to all on the Heron team.
- R. Guildford – the Christchurch Residents' Association are concerned about fly-tipping along Green Drove. He recently saw a TV programme suggesting a technique for dealing is solar powered cameras costing £195. They are unobtrusive and a sign could be put up saying that CCTV is in operation. Cllr Russell reminded that Green Drove is the border between our parish and Upwell parish, so it would need a joint decision. Cllr Sutton commented that there maybe regulatory problems and the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 would need to be considered – cameras can not just be put up, permission needs to be sought. P Haresnape mentioned that it would be difficult to find somewhere unobtrusive to put them. The CRA will continue looking into the options.
- L. Webster – commented that she took exception to comments in the Heron recently about the Cambridgeshire

Times not always being correct. This comment was made during a discussion at a recent Parish Council meeting on the paper's coverage of the Planning Application Appeal for a building application on Padgetts Road. Cllr Sutton confirmed that he felt the Parish Council had made the comment correctly – decisions shouldn't be made on the basis of what appears in the media. Cllr Harper mentioned that the Parish Council represents the whole community and must follow strict protocols. V Haresnape advised that the comment was made in an article mentioning a non-specific query concerning sustainable building, not the specific planning application appeal.

- L. Webster – mentioned that comments made recently on facebook by the clerk noted that a lady had attended a previous Parish Council meeting and was upset before arriving. Mrs Webster said this was not the case. The clerk reminded Mrs Webster that the lady had been able to discuss the matter she was concerned about outside of normal procedure because she was so upset and the Parish Council had facilitated the request so she did not have to sit through the whole meeting. Also, during the same meeting a public time query had been attributed to her husband, incorrectly as her husband had left the meeting by then. The clerk apologised for the error.

Meeting ended 7.30pm