

# CHRISTCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Christchurch Parish Council held on Monday 12 November 2018 at Christchurch Community Centre, Upwell Road, Christchurch at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs P. Owen (Chairman), J. Bliss, R. Gladwin, G. Harper (from 084/18-19), J. Hughes, R. Lloyd, N. Russell, W. Sutton (FDC), D Gibbs (Clerk), K Hill, K Miller, A Nason (Parishioners)

**074/18-19 Apologies for Absence**

None

**075/18-19 Declarations of Interest**

None

**076/18-19 Confirmation of Minutes**

Minutes of the meeting held on 8 October were correctly recorded and signed as being a true record.

**077/18-19 Public Time**

Ms Nason asked whether the Council has a mission statement, what its policy is regarding combating loneliness and whether funding might be available to the Parish Council to support local loneliness initiatives, including rent-free use of the Community Centre or funding for The Heron. The Chairman responded that the Parish Council does not have a mission statement and is not responsible for charges for the use of the Community Centre. The Clerk agreed to investigate the loneliness initiatives and funding and report to the next meeting. Cllr Bliss reported that the Health Centre Patient Participation Group provides Afternoon Tea at Upwell Village Hall for lonely patients with free door-to-door transport.

**Clerk**

Mr Hill expressed his disappointment at the divisive article in The Heron regarding the resurfacing of Crown Road. Members of the Council agreed that the article was provocative and unacceptable. He asked what steps the Parish Council would take to clarify the facts of the matter. The Chairman reported that he and the Vice Chairman had discussed the matter with the Editor and that a rebuttal would be published in the next edition.

**078/18-19 Outstanding Matters**

- a) Website - the Clerk reported that the new website is now online and that further pages will be added in due course.
- b) Allotment tenancy - the Clerk reported that he will be issuing a new tenancy agreement based on model document from the National Association of Local Councils.
- c) Speed monitoring device – the application for funding from the National Lottery has been submitted and a response is expected shortly.
- d) LHI schemes 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20 – the 2017/18 scheme for speed reduction in Tipps End has now been completed. Contribution required from Parish Council £565.90. The 2018/19 scheme for traffic calming in the village will commence shortly. A bid has been submitted for 2019/20 for a speed monitoring device. The Clerk will present this

- application to the assessment panel on 22 November.
- e) Recreation Ground tree inspection – the Clerk has prepared a report of works to be undertaken this winter.
  - f) Pruning of willow trees on Recreation Ground boundary – Cllr Lloyd reported that the planned work had not been carried out due to a mechanical breakdown and the ground is now too soft. To be revisited in spring/summer next year.
  - g) Townley school parking – awaiting the repainting of the lines. Clerk to check on progress.
  - h) Footpath outside plot 1, Upwell Road – an enforcement notice has been issued by the District Council and progress will be monitored.
  - i) Occupants of van in Euximoor Drove – Cllr Russell confirmed that the van is no longer there.

**Clerk**

**079/18-19 Police Report**

All of the Neighbourhood Constables based in Wisbech are now trained in the use of speed measuring devices and are carrying out speed enforcement work in the villages.

There have been reports of men selling fish from a van, using a portable card reader that inflates the value of the transaction. A number of motorcycle thefts have taken place using a van to remove the vehicle.

**080/18-19 County & District Councillors Reports**

Cllr Sutton thanked everybody who had helped with the cleaning and preparation of the war memorial before the Remembrance Sunday service. The service was well attended and it was good to see the brownies participating for the first time.

He thanked the councillors who had attended the meeting with representatives of The Heron and Ms Nason for her contribution to the meeting, which led to significant progress being made.

The garden waste collection service will continue next year at the same price as this year.

A Golden Age Fair will take place at Friday Bridge on 11 December from 11.00 to 2.00.

Thelma Wadsley from Cambridgeshire County Council's Adult Learning Service has funding for free computer and internet training in venues with hardware and internet access.

The Christmas Fair in Wisbech takes place on 9 December from 10.00 to 3.00.

The District Council is promoting the Green Dog Walkers Campaign, whereby people pledge to be responsible dog owners and to encourage others to do likewise. The scheme is being trialled in Wimblington and Whittlesey.

**081/18-19 Recreation Ground Charity**

The trustees of the Recreation Ground Charity have agreed to assume full responsibility for the Community Centre and the Recreation Ground, with the exception of the children's play equipment. A memorandum of understanding is being drawn up to start the process of formalising the arrangements which will lead to the drafting of a new governing document for the charity. Once this document has been agreed, it will be conveyed to the solicitors appointed by the Parish Council to prepare the documentation.

**082/18-19 Street Lighting**

- a) The Clerk presented a report of his visual inspection of the Council's street lights. This suggests that 15 lights may need to be replaced and a further light removed. The cost of this work is anticipated to be in the region of £18,000, of which £2,418 will be paid by the District Council. This information will be used in the calculation of the budget for 2019/20. Members thanked the Clerk for the comprehensive report.
- b) The Chairman signed the Service Level Agreement with Fenland District Council for the maintenance and management of the Council's street lights.

**083/18-19 The Heron**

Cllr Owen reiterated Cllr Sutton's earlier comments regarding the meeting which took place between members of the Parish Council and representatives of The Heron. Recent issues between the two parties were discussed at length and significant progress was made towards a new way of working. Ms Nason has agreed to join the committee of The Heron and will attend Council meetings to report on agenda items.

Cllr Owen proposed that funding for The Heron be continued until the end of the current financial year, with future funding to be considered as part of the budget-setting process. This was agreed. The Clerk suggested that a funding agreement could be considered to govern future financial support, in accordance with best practice for voluntary sector funding.

**084/18-19 Planning**

- a) The following applications have been granted since the October meeting:
  - F/YR18/0801/F - Erection of a detached 1-bed Annexe ancillary to existing dwelling - Jacmar Lodge, Upwell Road. Permission granted.
  - F/YR16/1170/O - Erection of up to 16no dwellings (Outline with matters committed in respect of access) at CFC Disposals Limited, Upwell Road. Permission granted.

The following application is still under consideration:

  - F/YR18/0880/F - Erection of a 2-storey 4-bed dwelling with detached garage at Land West of Albert House, 52 Church Road. Decision pending.
- b) To consider potential projects for Section 106 funding from application F/YR16/1170/O
  - The outline permission for 16 dwellings on the CFC Disposals site provides an opportunity for the Council to submit suitable projects for funding under Section 106 of the Town & Country Planning Act. Sums have been allocated under the following headings, some of which may not be appropriate for Christchurch and costed proposals are required:
    - Neighbourhood Parks, Childs Play, Natural Greenspace, Allotments and Outdoor Sports.
  - Suggestions included improvements to the skate park, a paved area, possibly covered, to the rear of the Community Centre, outdoor table tennis table and improved flood lighting.

**085/18-19 Income and Expenditure**

Received: None

a) The following accounts were approved for payment:

Clerk salary and home office allowance .....	£	330.73
The Heron.....	£	80.00
Cambridgeshire CC re Tipps End LHI .....	£	565.90
E Mason & Son.....	£	384.00

b) Financial report as at 31.10.18:

Income	£	16,031.69
Expenditure	£	7,203.12
Surplus	£	8,828.57
Total funds	£	52,959.44

**086/18-19 Matters for Next Meeting**

Loneliness initiatives and funding.

Missing and damaged road signs.

**087/18-19 Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next Parish Council Meeting will be Monday 10 December. Items to be included on Agenda should be with the Clerk by Friday 30 November.