

CHRISTCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Christchurch Parish Council held on Monday 14 January 2019 at Christchurch Community Centre, Upwell Road, Christchurch at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs P Owen (Chairman), J Bliss, R Gladwin, G Harper, J Hughes, R Lloyd, N Russell, W Sutton (FDC), D Gibbs (Clerk), G Chappell, R Guilford, K Hill, S Kay, C Steenson, D Yates (Parishioners)

101/18-19 Apologies for Absence

Cllr M. Tanfield (FDC)

102/18-19 Declarations of Interest

None

103/18-19 Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 10 December were correctly recorded and signed as being a true record.

104/18-19 Public Time

Mr Hill reported that the Community Car Scheme is not seeking additional volunteers as previously suggested in an article in The Heron.

Mr Yates spoke in favour of the continuation of funding for The Heron. The Chairman explained that the Council operates an annual budgetary process and this item will be considered as part of the budget setting for the forthcoming year.

Mr Yates also requested an update on speed reduction measures in the village, especially Church Road. The Chairman explained that a number of projects were being pursued using funding from the County Council's Local Highway Improvement grant scheme and schemes in both Upwell Road and elsewhere in the village will be delivered in the coming months.

Mr Guilford agreed to clarify the article in The Heron regarding the Community Car Scheme. He also reminded the Council that he has the Community Speedwatch equipment and is happy for it to be used by anybody who has received the appropriate training from the Police. He has offered the equipment to volunteers from Tipps End. Members asked for this item to be added to the next agenda.

Clerk

Mrs Kay spoke in support of The Heron and also reported a problem with rubbish from overflowing wheelie bins on Crown Road and a conifer blocking light from the street light next to the school. The Clerk was asked to investigate this and report to the next meeting.

Clerk

Cllr Sutton spoke as a resident of the village to reiterate his support for The Heron. He pointed out that the current financial commitment of £960 each year from the Parish Council equates to approximately 5½p per household per week.

Mr Hill reminded the Council that he had submitted questions at the previous meeting that were not included on the agenda for this meeting relating to The Heron and the terms attached to future funding. The Chairman agreed to include those items on the next agenda and Cllr Hughes agreed to investigate the feasibility of drafting a funding agreement.

**Cllr Hughes
Clerk**

Ms Nason submitted information regarding a new initiative entitled Lunch Break to be discussed in her absence. The activity will take place in the Community Centre twice each month and will provide a meeting place for people who live alone or wish to make new friends. Funding is required for the cost of hiring the Community Centre. The Chairman suggested that this item be discussed at the next meeting once the Community Centre Management Committee has had an opportunity to consider it.

Clerk

105/18-19 Outstanding Matters

- a) Allotment tenancy - the new agreement has been sent to the tenant for signature and will be signed by the Chairman at the next meeting.
- b) LHI schemes - the 2018/19 traffic calming scheme is due to commence this month. The funding decision on the 2019/20 bid for a speed monitoring device is due in March.
- c) Recreation Ground tree works - working party arranged for Saturday 23 February at 10.00. Public to be invited to take part. The Clerk will forward details to Mr Guilford for him to include in his notes of the meeting in The Heron. The Bowls Club would like to remove some trees to allow vehicular access for hedge cutting. Cllr Hughes to visit site to clarify.
- d) Townley School parking - the zig-zag lines have now been repainted.
- e) Footpath outside Plot 1, Upwell Road - no further information available.
- f) War memorial - a professional assessment of the work required and the likely cost is required. The Clerk was asked to investigate suitably qualified contractors and report to the next meeting.

Clerk

Cllr Hughes

Clerk

106/18-19 Police Report

The Police visited Townley School in December.

107/18-19 County & District Councillors Reports

Cllr Sutton reported that the Golden Age event in Friday Bridge had been very successful and thanked The Heron team for delivering leaflets for the event. A number of Christchurch residents attended. He took the opportunity to speak to the Fenland Association for Community Transport and a meeting has been arranged on 15 January to discuss the feasibility of a bus service to Downham Market.

Cllr Sutton drew the Council's attention to an unlit section of pavement at the junction of Upwell Road and Wayside Estate. The Clerk offered to look at this and suggest possible solutions.

Clerk

108/18-19 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported that he had arranged for the highways gully sucker to visit Church Road to clean out the blocked drains. Village Halls Week starts on 22 January with a launch event at Little Thetford Village Hall. The minutes of the CAPALC Annual General Meeting show that an increase in the membership subscription of 11% was agreed for the current year.

109/18-19 Recreation Ground Charity

The Clerk is preparing a list of the agreed roles and responsibilities for approval by the charity trustees ready for

submission to the solicitors.

110/18-19 Planning

Application F/YR18/1067/F for a single storey rear extension to Annies Cottage, Padgetts Road remains undetermined. A decision is due shortly.

111/18-19 Income and Expenditure

a) As at 31 December income of £16,962.68 had been received and expenditure of £8,974.48 had been incurred, resulting in a surplus of £7,988.20 for the year and total cash balance of £52,119.07.

b) Members considered the draft budget for 2019/20. The following sums were allocated:-

Replacement of 16 street lights	£ 16,782
Mobile speed monitoring device	£ 3,200
Legal fees for Recreation Ground charity	£ 2,000
War memorial reserve	£ 2,000
Election costs	£ 1,000
Heron grant	£ 960
Village entry sign on Padgetts Road	£ 500
Community Centre direction signs	£ 500
Additional bin outside Community Centre	<u>£ 309</u>
	£ 27,251

Total expenditure	£ 40,150
Available from reserves	£ 25,000
Anticipated income	£ 2,500
Precept required to balance budget	£ 12,750

Cllr Bliss proposed the adoption of the draft budget. This was seconded by Cllr Harper and approved unanimously.

c) Members resolved to set the precept for 2019/20 at £12,750, a reduction of £1,500 or 10.53%. This was proposed by Cllr Bliss and seconded by Cllr Harper.

d) Members approved the following accounts for payment:

Clerk salary and home office allowance	£ 335.57
Clerk back pay re 2018/19 pay settlement.....	£ 38.72
The Heron	£ 80.00
E Mason & Son	£ 1,680.00

112/18-19 Matters for Next Meeting

The following additional items will be included on the agenda for the February meeting:-

Speedwatch, litter and conifer in Crown Road, funding agreement for The Heron, Lunch Break, lighting at junction of Upwell Road and Wayside Estate, meeting with FACT re bus service to Downham Market.

113/18-19 Next Meeting Date

The date of the next Parish Council Meeting will be Monday 11 February. Items to be included on Agenda should be with the Clerk by Friday 1 February.