

# CHRISTCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Christchurch Parish Council held on Monday 11 March 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), S Day, K Hill, K Miller, A Nason (Parishioners)

**127/18-19 Apologies for Absence**

Cllr M Tanfield (FDC)

**128/18-19 Declarations of Interest**

None

**129/18-19 Confirmation of Minutes**

Minutes of the meeting held on 11 February were correctly recorded and signed as being a true record.

**130/18-19 Public Time**

Ms Nason asked whether the name of the property on Plot 1, Upwell Road could be added to future minutes, to avoid confusion with No 1, Upwell Road.

**131/18-19 Outstanding Matters**

- a) Bus service to Downham Market - three options have been identified, namely a weekly service provided by the Fenland Association for Community Transport (FACT), a weekly service provided by volunteer drivers using a vehicle provided by FACT and a daily service provided by West Norfolk Community Transport. Members agreed to consult the community regarding potential usage and the availability of volunteer drivers. The Clerk will prepare a survey to be distributed with the forthcoming issue of The Heron. **Clerk**
- b) Allotment tenancy - the signed agreement has not been returned. The Clerk will contact the tenant. **Clerk**
- c) LHI scheme 2018/19 - despite several promised start dates, nothing has happened. The Clerk will contact Cambridgeshire Highways. **Clerk**
- d) Recreation Ground tree works - there was a good turnout for the Community Action Day, but there is still more tree work to be done and a trailer will be needed to remove the debris from the site. It was agreed that letters will be delivered to properties in Wayside Estate regarding fly-tipping of garden waste in the Recreation Ground. **Clerk**
- e) Footpath outside plot 1, Field Lodge, Upwell Road - the Clerk is awaiting a copy of the sale agreement for Plot 1, which will clarify the various responsibilities. A meeting will then be arranged with the relevant parties.
- f) War memorial - the Clerk has submitted details of the required works to a suitably qualified contractor and is awaiting an estimate for the works.
- g) Community Speedwatch - Mr Guilford has the equipment, but a coordinator is needed to lead the scheme. The equipment has not been used for some time and may require attention. An article will be published in the Heron to ascertain interest.
- h) Rubbish and overgrown trees, Crown Road - the trees are

obscuring light from street light FPC2A and can be cut back on safety grounds. The rubbish will be monitored and reported to Clarion if it becomes a problem again.

- i) The Heron - Ms Nason indicated that it is unlikely that The Heron will sign the new funding agreement. The magazine will now seek funding from other sources, including private donations and a move towards a self-funded model. Members resolved to make a payment for March and to cease funding from 31 March. It was also confirmed that the agreement remains in draft form and will need to be ratified by the Council at the April meeting. On behalf of The Heron, Ms Nason thanked the Council for the support received over the years. The Chairman reiterated that the Council values the contribution of The Heron to community life and will consider providing funding in the future, should the need arise.
- j) Lunch Break - the sessions have been well-supported, with about a dozen people attending each time.
- k) Bowls Club tree removal - work will take place when the ground has dried out.
- l) Street lighting, Upwell Road, jcn of Wayside Estate - the Clerk has asked for an estimate of the cost of providing a new street light column on Upwell Road opposite Wayside Estate. Two further street lights have failed - Green Lane FPC1 near the Dun Cow and Crown Road FPC1 outside Townley School.
- m) Winter gritting arrangements - the Clerk confirmed that all through routes in the village are on the primary gritting routes to be gritted whenever needed and Euximoor Drove is a secondary gritting route, to be gritted during a prolonged spell of bad weather or heavy snowfall.
- n) Highways inspection and signage - the Clerk met with the local Highways Officer for an inspection of the village. It was agreed that the footpath outside Plot 1, Field Lodge, Upwell Road could be delivered as a Parish Council project under the Privately Funding Highway Improvements scheme. The pavement outside Townley School will be resurfaced. The gully sucker will be used to clear out all drains in Upwell Road. The new Christchurch sign for the junction of Church Road and Padgetts Road has been ordered. A new village entry sign on Padgetts Road heading north from Tipps End will be ordered shortly. It may be feasible to place a traffic island in Church Road at the junction with Padgetts Road, but further investigation is required. Members expressed concern regarding parking outside Townley School preventing access for a fire engine. It was agreed to invite the Head Teacher to the next meeting to discuss a joint initiative to tackle this. An overgrown hedgerow was reported to be obstructing the pavement in the vicinity of the old village shop. The Clerk agreed to inspect this and report back.

**Clerk**

**Clerk**

## **132/18-19**

### **Police Report**

There were no issues on this month's police report, but members reported the theft of two motorbikes from a property in the village, a drugs arrest mentioned on Facebook and a car in the Sixteen Foot River.

The Chairman has sent a message to the Police & Crime Commissioner, via the MP's office, regarding the lack of visible policing in Christchurch and concerns regarding speeding.

**133/18-19**

**County & District Councillors Reports**

Cllr Sutton reported that the parishes of Manea, Wimblington and Christchurch had committed to supporting the combined Local Highway Improvement scheme bid, now entitled the Forgotten Corner. Doddington and Chatteris Town have declined the opportunity to be involved. Several local businesses have offered support and more meetings are scheduled. The Chief Executive of the Middle Level Commissioners has backed the scheme, which will be presented to their Board meeting on 26 March. The Chief Executive and Leader of Fenland District Council have been approached. The cost of the previous scheme on the North Bank, Peterborough, was less than had previously been indicated, suggesting that this scheme may be achieved within the available funding.

Cllr Sutton also explained that he is now serving as an independent member of the District Council, having received an e-mail suspending his membership of the Conservative Party. Following ongoing correspondence with the District Council from Cllr Sutton and the Clerk, it has been agreed that groups in Christchurch may be eligible for funding from the Whitemill Environment Fund, which is the community benefit fund of the Coldham windfarm. An event will be held on 16 May at Friday Bridge to explain the eligibility criteria and encourage groups to apply.

**134/18-19**

**Clerk's Report**

The Clerk attended the briefing session provided by the District Council for the forthcoming elections.

The vehicle activated speed monitoring sign has been ordered and should be delivered before the end of April. Locations for its use must be agreed with the Highways department.

The County Council has requested details of activities aimed at the over-65s. Members were asked to provide details.

The Greater Cambridge Partnership is consulting on journeys to, from and around Cambridge.

The Clerk and Cllr Sutton attended the recent Pride in Fenland award ceremony, but there did not appear to be any nominees from Christchurch. This event is an opportunity to put the parish on the map.

**All**

**135/18-19**

**Recreation Ground Charity**

The Clerk met with the Chairman and Treasurer of the charity to gain a better understanding of the charity's financial position and with the whole Management Committee to draft a final proposal to be submitted to the solicitors.

The intention, subject to the agreement of the Charity Commission, is to place the Community Centre and the car park under the control of a new charity, with the Recreation Ground and the children's play equipment reverting to the Parish Council and the existing charity being wound up. This is simply a reflection of the current situation.

Members approved the briefing paper, which will now be subject

to final approval by the Management Committee at their next meeting.

**136/18-19 Planning**

F/YR19/0149/F - Erection of a 2-storey 3-bed dwelling - North West of Holly Tree Cottage, Crown Road.

This is a detailed application following the outline application supported by members in April 2018. Members were pleased to note that their previous observations regarding the need for a low fence to improve visibility at this location had been incorporated into the plans and asked that this be added as a condition to this application. Members agreed to support the application.

**137/18-19 Income and Expenditure**

a) Members approved the financial statement for the period to the end of February

b) Members approved the following accounts for payment:

Clerk salary and home office allowance (Feb & Mar)	£ 671.14
Clerk administrative expenses .....	£ 257.70
The Heron.....	£ 80.00
E Mason & Son.....	£ 156.00

**138/18-19 Matters for Next Meeting**

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

Parish Assembly, funding agreement, Crown Avenue, parking outside Townley School, moles on football pitch.

**139/18-19 Next Meeting Date**

The date of the next Parish Council Meeting will be Monday 8 April, commencing with the Parish Assembly at 7.15pm