

# CHRISTCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Christchurch Parish Council held on Monday 8 April 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), PCSO Clarke (Police), R Ambrose, K Hill, A Hutchins, K Miller, A Nason

**140/18-19 Apologies for Absence**

Cllr M Tanfield (FDC)

**141/18-19 Declarations of Interest**

None

**142/18-19 Confirmation of Minutes**

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

**143/18-19 Public Time**

Mrs Miller reported that the Police had visited the Coffee Shop, but offered little reassurance about their ability to respond to low level issues in Christchurch. The Chairman mentioned that he had contacted Steve Barclay's office regarding dissatisfaction with policing. Households in Christchurch now contribute £60,000 annually to the police budget via their council tax, but see little in return.

Ms Nason thanked everybody who has helped to organise the annual Parish Lunch for the over 65s.

Cllr Hughes reported that he had become aware that a Christchurch resident had posted a series of unfounded defamatory statements about the Parish Council on the Facebook page of Manea Parish Council. Members agreed not to respond.

He also reported that a new Facebook Group entitled Christchurch Community Group had been set up by a resident. Members asked that the subject of communications be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

**Clerk**

**144/18-19 Matters Outstanding**

a) Parking outside Townley School - PCSO Clarke offered to discuss this matter with the Head Teacher.

b) Bus service to Downham Market - Manea Parish Council declined the invitation to share the bus service. The response to the survey has been poor, with only 11 forms submitted. More time will be allowed and the matter will be finalised at the next meeting.

c) Allotment tenancy - The tenant has signed and returned the agreement. The Chairman signed on behalf of the Parish Council. The Clerk will issue the invoice for the current year's rent.

**Clerk**

d) LHI scheme 2018/19 - Work has not commenced as anticipated. The Clerk will investigate and report to the next meeting. The application for a vehicle-activated speed monitoring sign in the 2019/20 bidding round has been approved.

**Clerk**

e) Recreation Ground - The moles have been removed from the football pitch. Cllr Lloyd to supply contact details of contractor

**Cllr Lloyd**

to prune willows and undertake remaining tree work, including conifers in Crown Road.

- f) Footpath outside Plot 1, Field Lodge, Upwell Road - Members asked the Clerk to obtain a quote for undertaking this work under the county council's Privately Funding Highway Improvements initiative. **Clerk**
- g) War memorial - A quote of approximately £2,100 + VAT has been received from Independent Memorial Inspection for the proposed repairs and cleaning of the war memorial. Members agreed to accept this quote and asked the Clerk to make the necessary arrangements for the work to be completed. **Clerk**
- h) Community Speedwatch - Ms Nason offered to advertise in the Heron for a Coordinator. PCSO Clarke offered to help with the scheme. Cllr Gladwin will collect and store the equipment. The new speed monitoring sign has been ordered. The Clerk will identify appropriate locations in Upwell Road and Church Road and complete the necessary paperwork to secure approval for the use of the sign. **Cllr Gladwin**  
**Clerk**
- i) Rubbish and overgrown trees, Crown Road - The trees will be cut back shortly. At present there is no significant issue with rubbish at this location, but the situation will be monitored.
- j) Street lighting, Upwell Road, jcn of Wayside Estate - The Clerk has requested a quote for the installation of a new light on the east side of Upwell Road.
- k) Village name sign, Padgetts Road - Members resolved to order the following sign - Christchurch, Please drive carefully through our village. **Clerk**
- l) Funding agreement - deferred to the next meeting.
- m) Crown Avenue grass cutting - The contractor has quoted £30 per cut for the verges in Crown Avenue. Members resolved to accept this quote. The contractor has also questioned whether an alternative to grass would be more appropriate adjacent to the village sign. Members agreed to consider this at the next meeting and to ascertain whether any other areas might be added to the contract.
- n) LHI project 2020/21, the Forgotten Corner - Cllr Sutton reported that the Middle Level Commissioners have agreed to support the project. Members reaffirmed their commitment to the scheme.

#### **145/18-19 Police Report**

PCSO Clarke reported that the area based system means there is no longer a dedicated PCSO for Christchurch. She and colleagues visit Townley School on a regular basis. She will endeavour to attend Parish Council meetings when working.

#### **146/18-19 County & District Councillors Reports**

Cllr Sutton reported that he took part in a litter pick on the Recreation Ground that he had seen advertised on the new Facebook group. He remains optimistic about the possibility of starting an official Street Pride group. Concern has been expressed regarding the condition of the road surface at the northern end of Euximoor Drove, which has been repaired with loose chippings. Further investigation is required. He has also asked highways for information on missing signs

outside the Community Centre and is awaiting a response.  
Cllr Sutton paid tribute to Cllr Russell, who has decided not to seek re-election after 28 years on the council and also to Cllr Lloyd for his valuable contribution more recently.

**147/18-19 Clerk's Report**

A damaged street light in Fen View (FPC8) requires immediate replacement. Members authorised the work.

Age UK e-mailed regarding a new Visiting Support Service, seeking venues and activities for older people. This information was forwarded to Ms Nason.

The Healthy Fenland Fund is offering grants of between £250 and £5,000. Deadline 1<sup>st</sup> May.

The Annual Local Councillors' Survey has been forwarded to all members.

Six valid nominations were submitted for Christchurch Parish Council in the forthcoming election, so there will be no poll and the nominees will be duly elected.

The county council has launched surveys on its highways service and street lighting. It has also published a new policy on attaching items to county-owned street lights.

The accounts are being prepared for the internal audit, which will take place before the next meeting.

**148/18-19 Christchurch Recreation Ground Charity**

The Clerk will arrange a meeting with the solicitors for the chairmen of the council and the charity.

**Clerk**

**149/18-19 Planning**

Members considered application F/YR19/0185/F for a manège at Ivy House Farm, Upwell Road. They resolved to support the application, but expressed concern about the positioning of two floodlights facing oncoming traffic on Upwell Road.

Following an enquiry from a parishioner, the Clerk contacted the district council's environmental health team regarding monitoring of potential pollution from the CFC Disposals site. The response stated that there is no routine monitoring of the site, however any report of possible pollution would be investigated.

**150/18-19 Income and Expenditure**

a) The draft accounts for the year ended 31 March 2019 show income of £19,045.87 and expenditure of £12,845.18, leaving a surplus of £6,200.69 and reserves of £50,331.56

b) Members approved the following accounts for payment:

Clerk salary and home office allowance .....	£	345.97
Fenland DC street light replacement.....	£	689.71
Cambridgeshire ACRE subscription .....	£	57.00
Heron Publishing .....	£	20.00

**151/18-19 Matters for Next Meeting**

Annual meeting of the council

Co-option to fill vacancy

Highways - road surfaces and signage

**152/18-19 Next Meeting Date**

The date of the next Parish Council Meeting will be Monday 13 May 2019.