

# CHRISTCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Christchurch Parish Council held on Monday 10 June 2019 at Christchurch Community Centre, Upwell Road, Christchurch at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr J Hughes (Chairman), J Bliss, R Gladwin, G Harper, K Miller, W Sutton (FDC), D Gibbs (Clerk), S Aldridge, M Beswick, W Beswick, S Carr, G Chappell, S Davies, K Hill, S Kay, A Nason, A Sadler, M Sadler, L Webster, D Yates (Parishioners)

**017/19-20 Apologies for Absence**

Cllr P Owen

**018/19-20 Declarations of Interest**

None

**019/19-20 Confirmation of Minutes**

Minutes of the meeting held on 13 May were correctly recorded and signed as being a true record.

**020/19-20 Public Time**

Several parishioners raised issues regarding dogs on the Recreation Ground. Prohibition signage has been removed from the Crown Road entrance and dogs are being exercised on the field, including around the children's play equipment. Owners have been aggressive when challenged. Parishioners asked whether a secure fenced area could be created for dogs, either on the Recreation Ground or at another location nearby. Issues: suitable location, cost of fencing and gates, grass cutting, cost and emptying of dog bins, would people use it? Members agreed to give this further consideration, to replace the missing signs and to consider locations for additional dog bins.

Mr Chappell offered an update on the Forgotten Corner project to secure Local Highway Improvement funding from the County Council. The Chairman agreed to allow Mr Chappell to speak on this matter under agenda item 021/19-20 b).

Mr Carr asked whether the Council had plans to trim the trees along the southern boundary of the Recreation Ground. The Chairman confirmed that the work will be undertaken this year and volunteers are needed to assist with this.

Ms Nason reported that the Friends of the Heron would be holding their Annual General Meeting on Monday 17 June at 7.30pm in the Community Centre and that everybody is welcome to attend and to boost the representation from the community.

Clarity was requested regarding the responsibility for grass cutting alongside the unmade section of Crown Road behind the Recreation Ground. The Clerk was asked to ascertain whether this is an adopted highway.

**Clerk**

Concern was expressed regarding household items and rubbish outside a recently-vacated bungalow at The Hill. Members agreed to monitor the situation.

**021/19-20 Matters Outstanding**

- a) Vacancy for a Parish Councillor to be filled by co-option - the Clerk reported that three people had expressed an interest, but one had not confirmed his intention to stand. Cllr Sutton informed the meeting that a second candidate had asked to withdraw from the process. The remaining candidate, Sharon Aldridge, was duly co-opted onto the Council and signed her declaration of acceptance form in the presence of the Clerk.
- b) Local Highway Improvement schemes - the County Council has submitted an invoice relating to the 2015/16 LHI scheme that was not settled at that time. Mr Chappell reminded the Council that the Charlotte's Way charity had offered to contribute half of this sum at the time and is still willing to do so. Members thanked Mr Chappell for this offer.  
The 2018/19 village gateway scheme will be completed when the replacement gate is installed.  
The 2019/20 award to provide a speed monitoring device has an estimated completion date of 8-12 months from 1 April.  
Mr Chappell reported that the maximum grant available under the 2020/21 LHI programme has increased to £15,000. If all partners increase their contribution, the additional sum could be used to extend the length of the barrier at Honey Farm bends. Members resolved to increase the Council's contribution to £1,670 to secure the maximum sum from the County Council.
- c) Recreation Ground - a date for the working party is required. The moles are still present.
- d) Footpath outside Plot 1, Field Lodge, Upwell Road - the Clerk reported that he had spoken to the developer regarding the provision of the footpath. The developer is willing to work with the Parish Council. The Clerk has obtained an estimate from the County Council and will obtain quotes from contractors on the County Council's list.
- e) War Memorial - the cleaning of the war memorial will start shortly. Cllr Miller agreed to oversee the work.
- f) Rubbish and overgrown trees, Crown Road - the Chairman offered to cut back the trees around the street light.
- g) Street lighting, Upwell Road / Wayside Estate - the quote for a new street light amounted to £12,450. This was considered too expensive, so no further action will be taken at present.
- h) Grant funding agreement - members resolved to adopt the draft agreement. Details would be added to the website.
- i) Grass cutting contract amendments - Cllr Miller reported that she had spoken to the Head Teacher of Townley School regarding the plan to install painted cobbles around the bus shelter and they are keen to involve the children. A budget of £500 was agreed to enable the project to start immediately. Opportunities will be offered to others to take part in this project, with details published in The Heron.
- j) Euximoor Drove bridge - the sharp edges have been removed from the damaged section of the balustrade, however this has revealed significant decay to the structural elements. Further work will be required. Visibility is an issue at this location after dark and it was suggested that reflective tape be applied to the bridge sides. The Clerk will discuss this with the highways officer.

**Clerk**

**Cllr Miller**

**Cllr Hughes**

**Clerk**

**Clerk**

**022/19-20 Police Report**  
No matters to report.

**023/19-20 County & District Councillors Reports**  
Cllr Sutton reported that he had visited Elm Speedwatch who are using a vehicle activated sign to monitor speeding in the village. It is still hoped that Christchurch Speedwatch will be re-launched shortly, but more volunteers are needed.  
Cllr Sutton's motion that the District Council resumes financial responsibility for parish street lighting was amended, but the District Council will examine the financial implications of doing so. The motion to remove the charge for the garden waste service will also be investigated.

**024/19-20 Clerk's Report**  
The Clerk attended the presentation on the Whitemill Environment Fund grants, which are now available to groups in Christchurch. Suitable projects might include solar energy at the Community Centre and an outdoor classroom at Townley School.

The notice of public rights has been published and the period during which members of the public may examine the accounting records runs from 17 June to 26 July.

The ash trees in Green Lane covered by TPO 02/2003 require attention. The Clerk will ask the District Council's Tree Officer to inspect them and make recommendations.

**Clerk**

Street light PC8 outside 34 Fen View was listed for replacement, due to vehicle impact damage, but has not been replaced. This will be monitored.

**025/19-20 Christchurch Recreation Ground Charity**  
During discussions with the solicitor, it has become apparent that the Recreation Ground belongs to the charity and is held by the Parish Council on their behalf. This will have implications for the proposed arrangements and further work will be required to resolve this. A meeting with the solicitor will be arranged shortly.

**026/19-20 Highways**  
The matters raised at the May meeting have been reported to the highways department and will be addressed in due course.

**027/19-20 Communication Strategy**  
It was agreed that a short synopsis of each meeting be added to the website after each meeting. Cllr Hughes agreed to prepare this. It was also agreed that an annual report be prepared for distribution with The Heron. Content to include a photograph of the members of the Council.

**Cllr Hughes**

**028/19-20 Planning**  
a) It was noted that application F/YR19/0185/F for equestrian facilities at Ivy House Farm, Upwell Road had been granted planning permission.

Application F/YR19/0297/F for an extension to The Cattle Walk, Hall Farm, Upwell Road is still under consideration.

- b) Application F/YR19/0393/O for a new dwelling west of Mirabelle, March Road, Tipps End was considered. Members resolved to support the application.

Application F/YR19/0475/F for a new dwelling adjacent to Holly Tree Cottage, Crown Road was considered. Members resolved to support the application.

**029/19-20 Income and Expenditure**

- a) The financial report as at 31 May shows income received £6,531.00 and expenditure incurred £5,881.96, leaving a surplus of £649.04 and total funds held of £50,980.60.

Following changes to the membership of the Council, the bank mandate requires updating. It was resolved to add Cllrs Owen and Hughes and to remove former Cllr Beswick.

**Clerk**

- b) The following accounts were approved for payment:

Clerk salary and home office allowance .....	£	345.97
Viking (stationery) .....	£	60.47
Cambridgeshire CCC re 2015/16 LHI .....	£	1,081.41
E Mason & Son (grass cutting) .....	£	648.00

**030/19-20 Matters for Next Meeting**

Annual Report to parishioners.  
Dog walking area and bins.

**031/19-20 Next Meeting Date**

The date of the next Parish Council Meeting will be Monday 8 July.