

CHRISTCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Christchurch Parish Council held on Monday 8 July 2019 at Christchurch Community Centre, Upwell Road, Christchurch at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs P Owen (Chairman), S Aldridge, J Bliss, R Gladwin, G Harper, J Hughes, K Miller, W Sutton (FDC), D Gibbs (Clerk), M Bower, K Hill, A Nason, P Pomeroy, N Russell, M Simmonds, (Parishioners)

032/19-20 Apologies for Absence

None

033/19-20 Declarations of Interest

None

034/19-20 Confirmation of Minutes

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

035/19-20 Public Time

Mr Simmonds expressed his frustration at the lack of progress in creating the footpath from the Community Centre to his property and asked the Council to undertake the works then pursue the developer for repayment. Mr Russell explained that he had been involved in the original negotiations with the developer and has recently reminded him of his responsibilities. Mr Simmonds asked whether it is the Council's intention to wait for the developer to provide the funds and the Chairman confirmed that this is the case. The Clerk was asked to arrange a meeting with the developer to discuss the project and clarify a timetable for the works.

Clerk

Mr Bower asked why the Council has resolved not to pursue the option of a bus service to Downham Market. Cllr Hughes explained that the recent community survey had indicated insufficient demand to make the service viable. Mr Bower suggested that the Council should speak to residents individually to clarify this.

Mrs Pomeroy requested more speed limit signs in Church Road. The Chairman informed her that the new vehicle-activated sign will be placed in Church Road shortly.

Mr Bower advised the Council that he has accepted the role of Speedwatch Coordinator and training has been arranged. He needs more volunteers, so an appeal will be included in The Heron. He also asked for the equipment to be delivered to him. Cllr Gladwin to arrange.

**Cllr
Gladwin**

036/19-20 Matters Outstanding

- a) LHI schemes - no progress since last meeting.
- b) Recreation Ground - the football club has reported that the grass is too long. Clerk to contact contractor. The moles are still present. Further tree work will be undertaken shortly.
- c) Footpath outside Plot 1, Field Lodge, Upwell Road - meeting to be

Clerk

arranged with developer. Clerk to ask solicitor for copy of file.
Other options to be investigated.

Clerk

- d) War memorial - Cllr Miller reported that the work has been completed to a very high standard. Members thanked her for overseeing the refurbishment.
- e) Rubbish and overgrown trees, Crown Road - no progress since last meeting. Cllr Hughes advised that he will be undertaking the tree work this week. The rubbish adjacent to the Baptist Chapel is still there, but has been reported.
- f) Grass cutting contract amendments and bus shelter area - Cllr Miller visited Townley School today to talk about the bus shelter project. All materials are in hand and the children will complete their cobbles before the end of term. Extra materials have been purchased for other members of the community to participate.
- g) Crown Road verges - Members thanked Mr Russell for cutting the grass alongside the unadopted section of Crown Road. The Chairman asked the Clerk to investigate the feasibility of adding the verge opposite 15 Wayside Estate to the village grass cutting schedule.
- h) Dog walking area and bins - the new No Dogs signs for the Recreation Ground have been purchased and will be installed shortly. The southern end of Green Lane at its junction with Padgetts Road has a problem with dog fouling. Members agreed to install a dog bin at this location.
- i) Publication of annual report - Cllr Hughes agreed to produce the Annual Report and asked members to submit information and ideas to him.

Clerk

Clerk

037/19-20 Police Report

Nothing to report.

038/19-20 County & District Councillors Reports

Cllr Sutton reported that a Golden Age Fair will take place on Thursday 11 July at Wisbech St Mary.

A meeting took place last week to discuss long standing issues with sewers and highways at The Croft. There was some positive news on sewers, but nothing on highways.

Manea and Wimblington Parish Councils have increased their contributions to the combined LHI bid for the Forgotten Corner. The Middle Level Commissioners will consider doing so at their next meeting.

Cllr Sutton voiced his appreciation of the War Memorial refurbishment, which was even better than he expected and he felt that the cost was a small price to pay to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

039/19-20 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported that he had been asked to investigate the ownership of a row of trees requiring attention to the rear of The Croft. The trees lie outside the fence line of the adjacent properties, but are located within the original development curtilage, so belong to the

adjoining homeowners.

The Tree Officer was due to inspect the protected trees in Green Lane, but it is not clear whether or not he attended. Clerk to clarify.

Clerk

040/19-20 Christchurch Recreation Ground Charity

The solicitor has submitted a revised fees estimate for the additional work required, which takes the project well over the agreed budget. Other options will be explored for discussion at the next meeting.

The Chairman reported that two quotes have been obtained for the installation of solar panels on the roof of the Community Centre. A third quote will be requested. This proposal will be developed over the coming months. A funding application will be submitted to the Whitemill Environment Fund by the Recreation Ground charity.

Cllr Harper suggested that the Council could purchase a cordless strimmer to be used for general maintenance around the Recreation Ground and elsewhere. Members agreed to this proposal. It was also agreed that it could be loaned to the church if required.

041/19-20 Planning

- a) It was noted that applications F/YR19/0297/F and F/YR19/0475/F are still under consideration. Application F/YR19/0393/O for a new dwelling west of Mirabelle, March Road, Tipps End was refused as a non-essential dwelling contrary to policy LP3.
- b) Application F/YR19/0574/F - Erection of 2no storage sheds and 2.0 metre high palisade security fencing involving demolition of existing sheds and portacabin - Land South East of Roots Bungalow, Euximoor Drove was considered. Members had no objection to this application.

042/19-20 Income and Expenditure

- a) The following accounts were approved for payment:

Clerk salary and home office allowance	£	345.97
Fenland District Council (street light recharge)	£	1,253.93
Independent Memorial Inspection (war memorial) ...	£	2,572.80
Foras Ltd (cobble for bus shelter)	£	75.96
Middle Level Commissioners (drainage rates)	£	41.86
Upwell Internal Drainage Board (drainage rates)	£	32.20
K Miller (paint for bus shelter)	£	66.39
- b) The financial report as at 30 June shows income received of £8,379.00 and expenditure incurred of £8,017.81 leaving a surplus of £361.19 and total funds held of £50,692.75

The external auditor has confirmed receipt of all of the necessary paperwork. As the Council applied for exemption from audit for the 2018/19 financial year, there will be no further correspondence from the auditor unless a member of the public raises an issue for investigation.

A mandate change form was signed in respect of the Barclays Bank accounts as agreed at the previous meeting under minute 029/19-20a).

043/19-20 Matters for Next Meeting

No matters raised.

044/19-20 Next Meeting Date

The date of the next Parish Council Meeting will be Monday 9 September.