

CHRISTCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Christchurch Parish Council held on Monday 9 September 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, B Gladwin, K Hill, N Lansdell, N Russell (Parishioners)

045/19-20 Apologies for Absence

None

046/19-20 Declarations of Interest

None

047/19-20 Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 8 July were correctly recorded and signed as being a true record.

048/19-20 Public Time

Mr Bower informed the Council that the common areas at The Croft were transferred to the Crown when the developer's company was dissolved and this includes the narrow strip of land behind the gardens at the back of the development. The Clerk was asked to investigate.

Clerk

There have been no volunteers to join the Speedwatch group, but an advert will be placed in the Heron. Training is taking place at March Police Station on Saturday 14 September.

It was suggested that residents of The Croft would object to public money being used to install the pavement near the Community Centre when similar requests from The Croft have been turned down. Cllr Sutton reminded Mr Bower that he and the Council had provided support in the past and that he continued to work to find a solution to issues in The Croft.

Mr Russell reminded members that the damage to Euximoor Bridge had not been repaired. Cllr Sutton offered to pursue this again with Highways officers.

Cllr Sutton

Mr Lansdell explained his new community organisation Christchurch Eco, which will initially work with Terracycle, a national recycling company that recycles items other companies will not take. The project aims to set up four recycling stations around the village, at the School, the Community Centre, the Dun Cow and the Padgetts Road end of Church Road. The school station is already set up and the children are involved in recycling there. The project has a website and Facebook page, through which money was collected to get started. Each station costs around £70 to build. Members agreed to cover the cost of the recycling station at the Community Centre.

Clerk

049/19-20 Matters Outstanding

- a) LHI schemes 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21 - the replacement gate has been installed outside the Community Centre, completing the 2018/19 traffic calming scheme. A Highways officer has visited the village to agree locations for the placement

of the new speed indication device under the 2019/20 LHI. The Forgotten Corner 2020/21 LHI is undergoing assessment.

- b) Recreation Ground - the tree work has been completed. Moles are still present, but there have been no further complaints.
- c) Rubbish and overgrown trees, Crown Road - the tree has been cut away from the street light.
- d) Grass cutting contract amendments - it was agreed that the bus shelter area will be removed from the grass cutting contract and that the verge opposite nos. 11-15 Wayside Estate would be added. **Clerk**
- e) Bus shelter improvement project - 115 cobbles have been painted and will be varnished before being installed.
- f) Crown Road verges - see d) above.
- g) Ash trees, Green Lane - the Tree Officer visited the site. The branches and undergrowth obstructing the road will need to be cut back. The Clerk will write to the owners of the two properties. **Clerk**
- h) Dog walking area and bins - the new bin at the junction of Green Lane and Padgetts Road should be installed shortly.
- i) Annual report - Cllr Hughes agreed to produce the final draft document. **Cllr Hughes**

050/19-20 Police Report
No report received.

051/19-20 County & District Councillors Reports
Cllr Sutton reported that the Golden Age Fair at Wisbech St Mary had been successful and the next event would be in March Library on 15 October.
He had met with Mr Bower to explore options for resolving issues relating to the sewage plant at The Croft.
Cllr Sutton congratulated the Car Show team for another successful event and Nate Lansdell for setting up the Christchurch Eco project.

052/19-20 Clerk's Report
The Clerk reported that the District Council had set up consultation workshops on the review of the Local Plan on 17 September from 2.00 - 4.00 and 6.00 - 8.00. Cllrs Aldridge, Miller and Owen agreed to attend.
The Combined Authority has a public consultation on the Local Transport Plan, with a deadline for comments of 27 September.
Cambridgeshire ACRE's Annual General Meeting will take place on 25 September from 2.00 at Little Downham Village Hall.
The Cambridgeshire Local Councils Conference will take place on 8 November from 9.00 at the Marriott Hotel, Huntingdon.
The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Against Scams Partnership has invited all town and parish councils to become a supporter, with training for members and a community scams champion to circulate information. Cllr Hughes agreed to advertise this on Facebook. **Cllr Hughes**
A resident has reported that several of the verge marker posts along the Sixteen Foot Bank were damaged or knocked over by the grass cutting contractor and will need to be replaced. This has been reported to Highways.

053/19-20 Christchurch Recreation Ground Charity

- a) Update on discussions with the Management Committee regarding future arrangements. The Clerk reported that he had attended a meeting of the trustees, at which the revised proposal was explained and adopted by the committee.
- b) To agree proposed structure and arrangements. The Clerk presented a summary of the proposal agreed by the charity trustees, which will create a new charitable incorporated organisation to run the Community Centre, with the Community Centre being leased to the new charity and the Recreation Ground being leased to the Parish Council for a period of 25 years. Members resolved to support this proposal, which will now be presented to the solicitor for detailed consideration.
- c) To consider a request from the Management Committee for financial support for the installation of solar panels. Cllr Harper reported that he had submitted an application to the Whitemill Environment Fund for solar panels to be installed on the roof of the Community Centre. The initial proposal was to feed the power generated into the national grid, however this was subsequently revised to include a battery bank to store power. With electric shutters on all doors and windows, the Centre cannot be opened or secured during a power cut. The cost of the revised project will be in the region of £12,700 + VAT, for which a grant of £10,795 (85%) has been requested, leaving a shortfall of £1,905. Members agreed in principle to contribute to the project, with the sum to be clarified once the final costs are confirmed.

Clerk

054/19-20 Planning

- a) It was noted that application F/YR19/0297/F was still under consideration. Applications F/YR19/0475/F and F/YR19/0574/F were granted.
- b) Application F/YR19/0615/F - Change of use from mixed use (A1 and C3) to residential (C3) to form additional living accommodation - Brimstone House and the Corner Shop, Church Road, was considered. Members resolved not to object to this application.

055/19-20 Income and Expenditure

The Clerk reported that the insurance policy is due for renewal on 1 October. A new policy is available to replace the Zurich policy, underwritten by Royal & Sun Alliance. The premium is £1,285.89 for one year, reduced to £1,221.59 per year for a three-year undertaking, a reduction of £177 on last year's premium. Members resolved to transfer to the new policy on a three-year undertaking.

- a) The following accounts were approved for payment:

Clerk salary and home office allowance (Aug/Sept)	£ 691.94
Christchurch PCC (churchyard maintenance)	£ 122.50
E Mason & Son (grass cutting)	£ 1,056.00
Business Services at CAS Ltd (insurance)	£ 1,221.59
Christchurch Eco	£ 70.00

- b) The financial report as at 31 August shows income received of £8,379.00 and expenditure incurred of £12,406.92 leaving a shortfall of £4,027.92 and total funds held of £46,303.64.
- c) Grant application from 1st Christchurch Rainbows and Brownies. An application was submitted for assistance with the rent payments for the 2019/20 school year. Members agreed to provide a grant of £600 and to encourage the group to seek funding from other sources to enable them to become self-funding in future years.

056/19-20 Footpath Outside Plot 1, Field Lodge, Upwell Road

The Clerk reported that a meeting took place between members of the council, Cllr Sutton and the developer regarding the installation of the pavement. The developer hopes to be in a position to complete this work in the near future. Members resolved to take no further action and to maintain contact with the developer regarding the timing of the works.

057/19-20 Matters for Next Meeting

No matters raised.

058/19-20 Next Meeting Date

The date of the next Parish Council Meeting will be Monday 14 October.