

# CHRISTCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Christchurch Parish Council held on Monday 9 December 2019 at Christchurch Community Centre, Upwell Road, Christchurch at 7.30pm

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

**089/19-20 Apologies for Absence**

Cllr J Bliss

**090/19-20 Declarations of Interest**

None

**091/19-20 Confirmation of Minutes**

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

**092/19-20 Public Time**

Mr Hill reported problems with street lights in Church Road in the vicinity of The Croft, leaving a section of the road in darkness. The Clerk offered to investigate.

**Clerk**

Ms Nason informed members that the Post Office van was absent again. The Clerk was asked to try to find a telephone number for the service.

**Clerk**

The Heron will have a new editorial team from February and a new focus on village news and information. Contact details will stay the same. The committee is seeking additional sources of funding.

**093/19-20 Matters Outstanding**

- a) LHI schemes 2019/20 and 2020/21 - the MVAS sign from the 2019/20 application is due to be delivered before Christmas. Posts are due to be installed shortly. The Forgotten Corner safety barrier application from 2020/21 is being assessed.
- b) Bus shelter improvement project - the first batch of cobbles will be installed in the spring, when the weather improves. Further cobbles will be painted. Plants have been mown or strimmed again, so no further planting will take place until a defined border is created. Further expenditure of up to £200 was agreed for this project.
- c) Ash trees, Green Lane - the County Council's contractor has cut back the shrubs under the ash trees, but removal would be a better option. To be discussed with new Local Highway Officer during forthcoming visit.
- d) Annual report - members viewed a final draft of the document. The Chairman thanked Cllr and Mrs Hughes for preparing the report. Clerk to liaise re printing.
- e) Euximoor Bridge - no further information available. The bridges officer has advised Cllr Sutton that they are considering options.
- f) Hedge near village shop - the hedge has been trimmed, but will require regular attention.

**Clerk**

**Clerk**

**094/19-20 Police Report**

A Police contact point took place at the Community Centre in October and the local policing team visited Townley school.

**095/19-20 County & District Councillors Reports**

Cllr Sutton expressed his gratitude to Mr Guilford for his commitment to the Heron and wished the new team success.

Street Lights were due to be discussed at December's cabinet meeting, but this has been cancelled due to the General Election. He invited the Parish Council to consider a tree replacement policy whereby it commits to planting 2 new trees for every one removed. Members agreed to adopt this idea.

It appears that the Forgotten Corner LHI project will receive only one £15,000 contribution, rather than one per council. Officers previously advised a combined bid to secure sufficient funding. The rules are unclear and meetings are taking place to clarify the situation before the assessment panel meets on 22 January.

The Upwell Charities Dole Distribution took place on Friday.

Donations were made to the Heron, the church and the community centre. Cllr Sutton donated his dole money to the community centre to subsidise the forthcoming bookings for Christchurch Eco.

Finally, Cllr Sutton wished everybody a merry Christmas.

**096/19-20 Clerk's Report**

The Clerk reported that he had attended a Planning Training event provided by the District Council on 21 November

Correspondence received included:

Cambridgeshire ACRE re

- Pocket Parks funding
- Acre re Healthwatch Cambridgeshire survey
- Town & Parish Councils Conference presentations
- National Lottery 25<sup>th</sup> Birthday grants
- Secure Communities funding
- Wonderful Villages photo competition
- Coffee Morning at Haddenham 22 January - security and licensing

Cambridgeshire Highways re roadworks and events

Cllr Steve Count re

- Attendance at February Parish Council meeting
- Cambridgeshire Online directory
- A14 bypass opening 9 December

Rebecca Robinett re funding for Green Dog Walker scheme

Cambridgeshire Matters newsletter

Cambridgeshire County Council re Voluntary & Community Sector Capacity Building Partnership

Fenland District Council re

- Code of conduct training presentation
- Operation London Bridge briefing 13 February

Richard Horton re Sixteen Foot Bank safety issues

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Association of Local Councils re

AGM 4 December

Cambridgeshire Insight re local area profiles

National Association of Local Councils re Spring Conference 17 March

Peterborough Environment City Trust re free home energy advice

**097/19-20 Christchurch Recreation Ground Charity**

The draft governing document will be presented to the next meeting.

**098/19-20 Planning**

No applications have been received.

**099/19-20 Income and Expenditure**

a) The following accounts were approved for payment:

Clerk salary and home office allowance.....	£	345.97
Perrin Energy (solar panels) .....	£	15,240.00
E Mason & Son (grass cutting) .....	£	240.00

b) The financial report as at 30 November shows income received of £14,769.01 and expenditure incurred of £18,988.12 leaving a shortfall of £4,219.11 and total funds held of £46,112.45.

c) Requests for funding from Citizens Advice Rural Cambridgeshire and East Anglia's Children's Hospices were discussed. Members asked the Clerk to write to CAB to clarify whether Christchurch residents make use of their services.

**Clerk**

d) Members considered and agreed the budget for 2020/21 and resolved to set a precept of £12,750.

**100/19-20 Footpath Outside Plot 1, Field Lodge, Upwell Road**

The developer has confirmed the sale of his Elm property. The Clerk will arrange a meeting to discuss the next stage of the project.

**Clerk**

**101/19-20 Matters for Next Meeting**

Highways, in particular the Sixteen Foot Bank verge giving way near the Wheatsheaf and the damage to marker posts from the grass cutting.

Green Dog Walker scheme.

**102/19-20 Next Meeting Date**

The date of the next Parish Council Meeting will be Monday 13 January 2020.