

# CHRISTCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Christchurch Parish Council held on Monday 10 February 2020 at Christchurch Community Centre, Upwell Road, Christchurch at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs P Owen (Chairman), J Bliss, G Harper, J Hughes, K Miller,  
J French (CCC), W Sutton (FDC), D Gibbs (Clerk),  
P Clabon, N Lansdell, A Nason, J Quail, C Steenson (Parishioners)

**119/19-20 Apologies for Absence**

Cllrs S Aldridge, R Gladwin, S Count (CCC)

**120/19-20 Declarations of Interest**

None

**121/19-20 Confirmation of Minutes**

Minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2020 were correctly recorded and signed as being a true record.

**122/19-20 Public Time**

Mr Lansdell reported that the Christchurch Eco initiative continues to expand, with projects under way in three primary schools and two shipments per month being sent for recycling. The first meeting of the new Street Pride group will take place on 24 February. The Chairman congratulated Mr Lansdell on his success so far and thanked him for generating a whole page of Christchurch news in the local paper. A resident reported issues with the overhanging trees in Green Lane making access difficult for farm machinery. The Clerk will discuss this with the Local Highways Officer, prior to writing to the owners of the adjoining properties.

**Clerk**

Ms Nason delivered a grant application from The Heron, which will be considered at the next meeting. She expressed her concern that the VE Day Anniversary event at the Community Centre might conflict with a similar event at the Dun Cow and suggested that the two venues work together on a joint celebration.

**123/19-20 Matters Outstanding**

- a) LHI schemes 2019/20 and 2020/21 - the vehicle-activated sign is on order and will arrive shortly. The posts have been installed in the village. The Forgotten Corner application was well received by the panel members and it is hoped that the funding will be forthcoming.
- b) Bus shelter improvement project - approximately 2m<sup>2</sup> of cobbles are ready to be installed as soon as the weather improves.
- c) Annual report - the report has been published and delivered to every household by the Heron team.
- d) Euximoor Bridge - no further news.
- e) Post Office van service - the Clerk reported that he is still pursuing this.
- f) Section 137 grant, Citizens Advice Rural Cambs - members resolved to make a donation of £100.
- g) Green Dog Walker scheme - following clarification from Mr

**Clerk**

**Clerk**

Lansdell, members resolved to join the scheme. The bag dispenser will be placed on the grass near the noticeboard.

Clerk

**124/19-20 Police Report**

No report received.

**125/19-20 County Councillor Report**

Cllr French reported that the Council's budget-setting meeting is on 11 February. The budget includes a new fund of £5m for capital grants for community projects covering a wide range of themes. Match funding will be required. There is an additional £6.36m for highways and an extra £200,000 for the Local Highway Improvement scheme. The Council will also invest £15m in decarbonising 69 council-owned buildings. The Council Tax will rise by 1.59% plus an additional 2% for adult social care.

The Innovate & Cultivate Fund is a £1 million fund to help voluntary, community and social enterprise sector organisations realise their projects and ideas that help address the needs of local residents. Projects include Timebanks, Good Neighbour Schemes, Dementia Friendly Communities and Men's Sheds. Mr Lansdell mentioned that there is a large shed at the rear of the Dun Cow and the landlord might be interested in establishing a men's shed. Cllr Harper indicated that improvements planned for the Community Centre might be eligible for funding from the new capital fund.

**126/19-20 District Councillor Report**

Cllr Sutton expressed concern that when reporting issues to the Highways authority, he was receiving responses indicating that works would be carried out either within three months or not at all.

**127/19-20 Clerk's Report**

The Clerk reported on correspondence received, including the following:

Cambridgeshire ACRE re

- Wonderful Villages photo competition
- Free funding workshops for community groups 19.2.20
- Healthwatch draft strategy consultation 2020-25. Deadline 23.2.20
- Peer learning event re Local Councils Awards Scheme 31.3.20

Cambridgeshire County Council re

- Cambridgeshire Matters newsletter
- Operation London Bridge

Cambridgeshire Highways re roadworks and events

Cllr Steve Count re

- County Council funded health checks
- Innovate & Cultivate funding rounds and advice session

Keep Britain Tidy re Great British Spring Clean

Wisbech Town Council re Food poverty event 19.2.20

FDC re

- Walsoken Golden Age Fair
- Community Safety survey
- Street lighting letter from Cllr Boden

- Police & Crime Commissioner's Youth & Community Fund
  - Local Plan review suggested sites consultation
- CAPALC re
- Incorporation proposal. Deadline for response 14.2.20
  - January bulletin
  - Training courses
  - Royal Garden Party
- Wisbech Without Incineration re incinerator proposal

**128/19-20 Christchurch Recreation Ground Charity**

- a) The Clerk presented the draft constitution for the new Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Members asked for further clarification of the number of Trustees required to form a quorum at different types of meetings. The Clerk will investigate.
- b) No Dogs signs have been purchased to replace those removed previously. A more durable fixing is required to prevent future removal.

**Clerk**

**129/19-20 Street Lighting**

Members considered the letter from Cllr Boden, Leader of Fenland District Council regarding future payments. They suggested that the Town Councils be asked to make a contribution to the revenue costs of their lights sufficient to enable the District Council to offer an equivalent level of funding to the parishes. The Council is still awaiting the condition survey, so has been unable to replace any lights, so responsibility for this could now be handed back to the District Council. Members expressed the view that the revenue costs should be paid by the District Council, as they have been for the last 40 years.

**130/19-20 Planning**

No applications were received.

**131/19-20 Highways**

The Clerk advised members that the new Local Highways Officer will visit on 21 February at 9.00 to discuss current concerns.

**132/19-20 Income and Expenditure**

- a) The following accounts were approved for payment:
 

Clerk salary and home office allowance.....£	345.97
Christchurch Craft Club (grant) .....	£ 216.00
- b) The financial report as at 31 January shows income received of £25,579.03 and expenditure incurred of £35,522.56 leaving a shortfall of £9,943.53 and total funds held of £40,388.03.

**133/19-20 Matters for Next Meeting**

No matters were suggested.

**134/19-20 Next Meeting Date**

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