

CHRISTCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Christchurch Parish Council held on Monday 9 March 2020 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, W Sutton (FDC), D Gibbs (Clerk), K Hill, N Lansdell, A Nason, C Steenson (Parishioners)

135/19-20 Apologies for Absence

Cllr K Miller

136/19-20 Declarations of Interest

None.

137/19-20 Chairman's Announcements

Nothing to report.

138/19-20 Confirmation of Minutes

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

139/19-20 Public Time

Ms Nason reported that she has made contact with the driver of the Post Office van and asked to be notified when it is not visiting Christchurch. She has submitted a grant application for the Lunch Break group. The Chairman advised her that this will be considered at the next meeting.

Mr Lansdell reported that Christchurch Eco has now recycled more than 147kg of waste in six months and raised £90 for Townley School. Townley parents participated in a Recycle Now survey and the school was awarded a further £500. He is investigating aluminium can collections. The Street Pride group has been launched and a Litter Pick is scheduled for 4 April. The Green Dog Walkers scheme will also go ahead. USB memory sticks are being collected for Cambridgeshire Libraries.

140/19-20 Matters Outstanding

- a) LHI scheme 2019/20 - the MVAS speed sign is at the Huntingdon Highways Depot and will be delivered to March shortly.
- b) Bus shelter improvement project - nothing to report.
- c) Post Office van service - see Public Time minute above.
- d) Green Lane trees - a Highways officer has inspected the trees and advised that they are in riparian ownership and not the responsibility of the County Council.

141/19-20 Police Report

The Police were due to visit a Lunch Break session, but did not attend.

142/19-20 County & District Councillors Reports

Cllr Sutton reported that the Forgotten Corner Local Highway Improvement application had received the highest score of all applications in Fenland and was expected to be approved for funding at the committee meeting on 10 March.

The District Council has allocated additional funding for street lights, but will not take responsibility for the lights. The funding is linked to the concurrent functions grant, so can be withdrawn at any time.

An order has been placed for the long-awaited repairs to Euximoor Bridge, so the work should start shortly.

Cllr Sutton expressed his concern that too much inaccurate information was being circulated regarding the proposed incinerator development in Wisbech and the facts are being lost. He stated that he is not opposed to incineration, but feels that the proposed development is too large and in the wrong place.

143/19-20 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported that he had attended the Operation London Bridge briefing at Fenland Hall and that he will take the necessary steps to ensure that the Council is able to mark the death of a public figure in a suitable way.

Clerk

Correspondence received included the following:-

Cambridgeshire ACRE re

- National Village and Community Halls Survey
- Peer Learning Event on Local Council Award Scheme

Cambridgeshire County Council re Health & Wellbeing Strategy consultation

Cambridgeshire Highways re

- Roadworks and events
- Traffic management course

Cllr Steve Count re Coronavirus briefing

Keep Britain Tidy re Great British Spring Clean

FDC re Community Safety survey

CAPALC re Training courses

Cambridgeshire Police re VE Day celebrations

Cllr Hughes re drainage issues

Ordnance Survey re Public Sector Mapping Agreement licence

144/19-20 Christchurch Recreation Ground Charity

The Clerk will forward the draft constitution for the new charity to the solicitor for approval.

Clerk

145/19-20 Street Lighting

Fenland District Council has clarified the offer of additional funding for street lighting as follows:-

- In 2020-21 a one off payment of £8,250 in respect of a contribution towards past, current and future renewal of lights, columns, pole brackets and other associated infrastructure.
- From 2020-21 onwards an increase to your current Concurrent Functions Grant (CFG) (£1,833) of £733 every year representing a contribution to energy and maintenance costs taking your new CFG to £2,566 per annum.

- In 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23 only, an additional £1,000 to be made in those years where, as at the preceding 20th February all or almost all of your lighting stock has been converted to LED.
- In recognition of the disproportionate administrative cost for smaller Parish Councils to deal with the replacement of their lighting stock, an additional one off payment of £1,000 to be paid in 2020-21.

Members resolved to accept the offer.

146/19-20 Highways

Cllrs Owen, Sutton and the Clerk met with the new Local Highways Officer on 21 February for a tour of the village. A number of issues were discussed and defects have been reported for attention.

147/19-20 Planning

- No new applications were received.
- Members considered the six sites nominated for development during the Call for Sites exercise last year. Of these, permission has been granted for the development of four sites, so only two remain for consideration.
 - 40136 - Land to rear of Church Road - Members felt that the restricted width of this site would result in poor quality development. It was also noted that the site plan includes an adjoining property on Padgetts Road. Not supported - Score 3
 - 40369 - Land adjacent to the Fern, Padgetts Road - Members felt that this larger site has merit for a future expansion of the village. Supported - Score 8

148/19-20 Income and Expenditure

- Grant applications from Christchurch Eco and Heron Publishing were considered. A grant of £250 for Christchurch Eco was proposed by Cllr Harper, seconded by Cllr Aldridge and approved. A grant of £1,020 for Heron Publishing was proposed by Cllr Hughes, seconded by Cllr Gladwin and approved.
- The following accounts were approved for payment:

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| Clerk salary and home office allowance..... | £ | 345.97 |
| Clerk expenses..... | £ | 509.53 |
| Cambridgeshire ACRE (subscription) | £ | 57.00 |
| Citizens Advice Rural Cambs..... | £ | 100.00 |
| Christchurch Eco (grant)..... | £ | 250.00 |
| Heron Publishing (grant)..... | £ | 1,020.00 |
| Fenland District Council (election) | £ | 247.08 |
- The financial report as at 29 February shows income received of £25,579.03 and expenditure incurred of £36,084.53 leaving a shortfall of £10,505.50 and total funds held of £39,826.06.

149/19-20 Matters for Next Meeting

None proposed.

150/19-20 Next Meeting Date

The date of the next Parish Council Meeting will be Monday 6 April.