

CHRISTCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Christchurch Parish Council
held remotely on
Monday 11 May 2020 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs P Owen (Chairman), S Aldridge, J Bliss, R Gladwin, G Harper, J Hughes, S Count (CCC), W Sutton (FDC), D Gibbs (Clerk), K Hill (Parishioner)

001/20-21 Apologies for Absence
Cllr K Miller

002/20-21 Declarations of Interest
None

003/20-21 Confirmation of Minutes
Minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2020 were correctly recorded and signed as being a true record.

004/20-21 Public Time

Mr Hill enquired about progress on safety improvements at the junction of Church Road and Padgetts Road. He also reported poor visibility due to overhanging trees at the junction of Halfpenny Toll Road and A1101 Wisbech Road. The Chairman responded that the Church Road and Padgetts Road junction was under consideration for a future Local Highway Improvement funding bid to explore options and the Clerk agreed to report the overhanging trees.

Clerk

Cllr Hughes reported that a resident had complained about the condition of the pavement surface opposite the former village shop. The Clerk agreed to investigate this.

Clerk

It was also noted that dogs were once again being walked regularly in the Recreation Ground.

005/20-21 Annual Meeting of the Parish Council

- a) Election of Chair and signing of declaration of acceptance – Cllr Owen was nominated by Cllr Aldridge, seconded by Cllr Hughes and elected unanimously. Members resolved to allow Cllr Owen to sign his declaration of acceptance at a later date.
- b) Election of Vice Chair and signing of declaration of acceptance – Cllr Hughes was nominated by Cllr Owen, seconded by Cllr Harper and elected unanimously. Members resolved to allow Cllr Hughes to sign his declaration of acceptance at a later date.
- c) Review and confirmation of standing orders and financial regulations – the Clerk confirmed that the Council has adopted the latest model documents and members resolved to re-adopt them.
- d) Confirmation of insurance arrangements – the Clerk confirmed that the Council holds adequate insurance against all risks with Royal & Sun Alliance Insurance arranged through Community Action Suffolk with a renewal date of 1 October.

- e) Review of the Council's subscriptions to other bodies – the Council holds subscriptions to the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Association of Local Councils and to Cambridgeshire ACRE. Members resolved to continue both subscriptions.
- f) Confirmation of the Council's register of assets as at 31st March 2020 – the register is being updated as part of the annual audit process and will be confirmed at the next meeting.
- g) Confirmation of meeting dates for the municipal year – Members resolved that the Council will meet on the second Monday of every month, namely 8 June, 13 July, 10 August, 14 September, 12 October, 9 November, 14 December, 11 January, 8 February, 8 March, 12 April, 10 May.

006/20-21 Coronavirus Pandemic

The Chairman reported how well the community had come together to provide support for those self-isolating. He thanked all who had volunteered to help, especially the Caring for Christchurch group and the key workers who continued to provide essential services. He also thanked everybody for their sacrifices in following the guidelines to keep themselves and others safe. Many villagers took part in celebrations of the VE Day anniversary, which proved to be a very lively event. Cllr Hughes offered to write an article for the Heron on behalf of the Parish Council.

Cllr Hughes

007/20-21 Matters Outstanding

- a) LHI scheme 2019/20 – the vehicle-activated sign has been delivered, but will require padlocks to attach it to the brackets. Cllr Hughes will purchase suitable locks and arrange for the sign to be installed when possible. Cllr Aldridge offered to assist.
- b) Bus shelter improvement project – no update provided.
- c) Green Lane trees – BT Openreach have visited again to inspect the trees around the phone lines. The Clerk will write to the owners of the trees to ask for them to be cut back if BT Openreach does not undertake the work.

Cllr Hughes

Clerk

008/20-21 Police Report

No report was received, but members noted the recent theft of dogs and puppies from a property in Upwell.

009/20-21 County & District Councillors Reports

Cllr Sutton (FDC) paid tribute to the hard work of Gill Watts, Ruth Ingram and Karen Wilcox in running the Caring for Christchurch group providing vital support to the community. He also thanked Cllr Aldridge for helping to extend the 50 Backpacks food distribution network into Christchurch.

The temporary dam installed in the watercourse under Church Road had not achieved the desired outcome, so the Upwell IDB will remove it. Cllr Gladwin stressed that the installation of the dam had not increased the risk of flooding, as it was low enough for water to flow over it if the level increased.

Discussions had taken place with Cllr French (CCC) and officers regarding the possibility of obtaining funding through the County

Council's new Community Capital Grants scheme for the sewage pumping system at The Croft. This approach was unsuccessful, but an application for the road surface and pavement may be possible.

Cllr Count (CCC) thanked members for inviting him to the meeting. He explained that he is rarely able to attend Parish Council meetings due to his workload as Leader of the County Council, but is always willing and able to provide support when needed.

He explained that the County Council is providing support for shielded residents in the most vulnerable category on behalf of the Government. Other vulnerable residents are being supported through the local hubs at district level, and numerous local initiatives involving Town and Parish Councils and voluntary groups. He thanked residents for their sacrifice in staying at home to minimise the impact of the pandemic and explained that most of the latest cases locally had been either in care homes or amongst people who were not following the guidelines. The number of cases in the county remains low. The £40 million in additional funding received from the Government is likely to be spent by the end of June, placing considerable strain on the Council's finances, with the adult social care bill in particular increasing year on year.

Cllr Count thanked Cllr Sutton for his work on the issues at The Croft and offered his continuing support for all efforts to resolve the situation.

010/20-21 Clerk's Report

Correspondence received included the following:

Coronavirus daily or weekly information and updates from the National Association of Local Councils, the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Association of Local Councils, Cambridgeshire County Council, Fenland District Council, the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority, various NHS bodies, the emergency services, Cambridgeshire ACRE, Age UK, the Charity Commission, the National Council for Voluntary Organisations and others.

Event cancellation notices from Cambridgeshire County Council, Fenland District Council, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Association of Local Councils, Keep Britain Tidy.

Ivan Cooper re internal audit arrangements.

PKF Littlejohn re external audit arrangements.

Cambridgeshire County Council re new Communities Capital Fund.

Fenland District Council and Wisbech Standard re playground signage.

Fenland District Council re

- Street light funding.
- Combined Authority Bus Service Review.
- Consultation on Dog Public Space Protection Order.

Cambridgeshire Highways re works in Poulter's Drove and Crown Drove.

Cambridgeshire ACRE re Local Councils Covid-19 impact survey.

011/20-21 Planning

- a) F/YR20/0393/F - Erect a single-storey front extension to existing dwelling - Mirabelle, March Road, Tipps End - members considered this application and resolved to offer no objection.
- b) F/YR20/0401/CERTLU - Certificate of Lawful Use (Existing):
Siting of a mobile home for residential use - Country View, Euximoor Drove, Christchurch - members considered this application and resolved to offer no objection.

012/20-21 Income and Expenditure

- a) The Clerk presented the internal accounts for 2019/20. Members resolved to accept the accounts.
- b) Members reviewed an application for funding from the Lunch Break group and resolved to award a grant of £432.
The following accounts were approved for payment:
Clerk salary and home office allowance.....£ 691.94
E Mason & Son (grass cutting)£ 888.00
CAPALC (subscription and data protection fee)£ 389.93
Christchurch Community Centre (Lunch Break).....£ 432.00
- c) The financial report as at 30 April was deferred until the next meeting.

013/20-21 Matters for Next Meeting

None.

014/20-21 Next Meeting Date

The date of the next Parish Council Meeting will be Monday 8 June.