

# CHRISTCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Christchurch Parish Council  
held remotely on  
Monday 12 October 2020 at 7.30pm

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

**070/20-21 Apologies for Absence**  
None

**071/20-21 Declarations of Interest**  
Cllr Bliss declared a pecuniary interest in sites 40431 and 40432 of agenda item 080/20-21 b).

**072/20-21 Confirmation of Minutes**  
Minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2020 were correctly recorded and signed as being a true record.

**073/20-21 Public Time**  
No members of the public were present.

**074/20-21 Matters Outstanding**  
a) Bus shelter improvement project - still on hold due to lockdown.  
b) Green Lane trees - awaiting UK Power Networks.  
c) Street lights - a revised quote is awaited from Cable Test, the District Council's contractor and a second quote for comparison from another contractor.  
d) Pavement outside Field Lodge, Upwell Road - work has not commenced. The Clerk will contact the developer.

**075/20-21 Police Report**  
The Clerk reported that regular monthly video conference meetings are being arranged for Chairs of the local councils in the Wisbech Neighbourhood Police area to allow a dialogue on policing matters.

**076/20-21 County & District Councillors Reports**  
Cllr Sutton reported that the repairs to the Stonea railway crossing are almost complete, but the road will not reopen until November. The County Council is investigating wider safety issues at the crossing and the possibility of altering the traffic flow priority. A public consultation is planned.  
Cllr Sutton also congratulated Cllr Aldridge on completing a rough sleepover to raise funds for 50 Backpacks Vision.

**077/20-21 Clerk's Report**  
The Clerk reported that he had joined the first Wisbech Neighbourhood Police team video conference to discuss local policing issues.  
Correspondence received included the following:

- ACRE re Local Councils Conference 23 October

- LEAP (Local Energy Advice Partnership) re services for people on low incomes or with long term illness or disability.
- Environment Agency re pollution incident in Green Lane
  - re Ouse Washes bank works
- Age UK Cambridgeshire & Peterborough re COVID-19 support database
- FDC re review of Statement of Licensing Policy
  - re second Call for Sites
  - re leisure centres extending opening hours
  - re Council Tax Support consultation
  - re objections to proposed reform of national planning system
  - re Discretionary Heating Grants
- PKF Littlejohn re external audit query
- CAPALC re AGM and training courses
- Cambridgeshire Police re Stop and Search and Use of Force Scrutiny Panel
- Playdale Playgrounds re play equipment inspection (No action necessary)

**078/20-21 Members and Residents Issues**

- a) Recreation Ground trees - winter maintenance. Members resolved to obtain quotes from local tree surgeons to undertake all necessary work.
- b) Grass cutting contract - review. Members agreed to review the grass cutting contract and invite other companies to provide a quotation for comparison.
- c) Bin outside Community Centre - repair or replacement. Members resolved to purchase a new bin, via the District Council, to be installed once the new notice board has been erected.
- d) Pavement from The Hall to Field Lodge, Upwell Road. Members considered the request from a resident to extend the existing pavement northwards out of the village, however the likely cost was deemed prohibitive.
- e) Christchurch Neighbourhood Watch schemes. The Clerk advised members that the official database of Neighbourhood Watch schemes does not include the Christchurch scheme. Further investigation has revealed that the scheme was not formally registered.
- f) The Chairman expressed his thanks to Mr Ingram for cutting back the hedge along the pavement adjacent to the Community Centre.
- g) Cllr Hughes reported that one of the MVAS devices was faulty and would be returned to the manufacturer for repair.

**079/20-21 Community Centre Canopy**

The Chairman advised members that he had identified a company providing canopy kits suitable for assembly by a local contractor. Members supported the idea of employing a local person, but expressed concern about the durability of the kit and a potential lack of clarity over responsibility for remedial works. The Chairman will provide the Clerk with details of the product. Members also resolved to seek quotes from companies outside the local area.

**080/20-21 Planning**

- a) Members considered the following application:  
F/YR20/0863/F - Conversion of existing barn (involving raising the height) to a single-storey 2-bed annexe ancillary to existing dwelling, and erect a single-storey extension to side of existing dwelling - Laddus Farm, March Riverside, Upwell  
They resolved to offer no objection to this application.
- b) Members considered the following sites submitted for potential future development under the second Call for Sites process and resolved to respond as follows. Cllr Bliss declared a pecuniary interest in sites 40431 and 40432

and withdrew from the meeting whilst they were under discussion.

40431 - Green Lane - The development of this site would mirror existing development on the opposite side of Green Lane and is therefore not considered to be an incursion into open countryside. - Score 7

40432 - Church Road - This backfill development is acceptable in principle, although a smaller number of dwellings would be preferred. The scale of the development should be governed by the size of the site access. - Score 6

40463 - Land north west of Syringa House - Access to this site is undefined but it is assumed that this will be achieved either from Fen View or via 40090. Neither of these options is adequate for the purpose. The proposed development represents another block of housing in an already over-developed part of the village, bringing urban density to a rural location. - Score 1

**081/20-21 Income and Expenditure**

a) Members noted the following sums received during September:

Barclays Bank (interest) .....£ 2.79

b) Members approved the following accounts for payment:

Clerk salary and home office allowance.....£ 355.33

Cambridgeshire County Council (LHI contribution) .....£ 447.59

Middle Level Commissioners (drainage rates) .....£ 41.86

Upwell Internal Drainage Board (drainage rates) .....£ 33.81

E Mason & Son (Farmers) Ltd (grass cutting).....£ 624.00

c) The financial report as at 30.9.20 showed income of £19,038.38 and expenditure of £9,533.37, resulting in a surplus of £9,505.01 and total funds held of £47,309.04.

d) Members were asked to bring project proposals for 2021/22 to the next meeting.

**082/20-21 Matters for Next Meeting**

None

**083/20-21 Next Meeting Date**

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