

CHRISTCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Christchurch Parish Council
held remotely on
Monday 9 November 2020 at 7.30pm

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

084/20-21 Apologies for Absence
None

085/20-21 Declarations of Interest
None.

086/20-21 Confirmation of Minutes
Minutes of the meeting held on 12 October 2020 were correctly recorded and signed as being a true record.

087/20-21 Public Time
No members of the public were present. Cllr Hughes reported that a member of the public had spoken to him regarding speeding in Padgetts Lane. Solutions for this issue will be considered as part of the Local Highways Improvement bid for 2021/22.

088/20-21 Matters Outstanding

- a) Bus shelter improvement project - still on hold due to lockdown.
- b) Green Lane trees - awaiting UK Power Networks.
- c) Pavement outside Field Lodge, Upwell Road - the Clerk reported that the work was delayed due to a revision of the drainage plan, but the developer hopes to start shortly. Members also discussed the possibility of installing a safety railing to the rear of the existing pavement adjacent to this location. The Clerk will investigate. **Action: Clerk**
- d) Recreation Ground trees - Cllrs Owen and Hughes will identify suitable contractors to undertake remedial work. **Action: Cllrs Owen and Hughes**
- e) Grass cutting contract - the Clerk will prepare a specification for the contract and circulate it to local contractors. **Action: Clerk**
- f) Bin outside community centre - members resolved to remove the existing bin and install a replacement in the same location. **Action: Clerk**
- g) Neighbourhood Watch - Cllr Hughes offered to write an article for publication in The Heron seeking a new coordinator for the scheme. **Action: Cllr Hughes**

089/20-21 Police Report
The Clerk reported on the monthly meeting with Sgt Arnold. A restructuring is in progress that will reduce the number of PCSO's in the county, close the enquiry offices at Wisbech and March and remove the dedicated community safety team. In due course, more police officers will be recruited. Further details of the impact of this should be available at the next meeting and the new structure will be implemented by the end of March.

Crimes reported in October were one domestic assault and one public order offence and there was one report of anti-social behaviour relating to a motorbike being ridden at speed through the village.

The county Neighbourhood Watch coordinator is offering free online training to raise awareness of cyber crime and to help spread the key messages.

090/20-21 County & District Councillors Reports

Cllr Sutton reported that the Remembrance service was well attended and he had laid a wreath on behalf of the Parish Council. He is awaiting an update on repairs to the Stonea railway crossing and the re-opening date. There is no further news on the Forgotten Corner barrier works on the Sixteen Foot bank, but it is hoped that the project will commence shortly. The members of the village Covid support group have confirmed that they will continue to provide services to those in need. Finally, he thanked the Street Pride group for their work in creating floral displays at the entrance to the village near the Community Centre.

091/20-21 Clerk's Report

Correspondence received included the following:

- ACRE re Local Councils Conference 23 October
 - re grants to combat fuel poverty
- Cambridgeshire County Council re British Cycling Places to Ride small grants programme
 - re roadworks and events
- Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust newsletter
- FDC re Test and Trace support payment scheme
 - re review of polling districts and polling places
 - re proposed changes to social housing allocation policy
 - re Loan Sharks online training
 - re Co-op Food Fund grants
 - re support during lockdown
- PKF Littlejohn re completion of external audit
- CAPALC re training courses
- Steve Barclay's office re local issues
- Police & Crime Commissioner re toolkit for encouraging reporting of crime

092/20-21 Members and Residents Issues

- a) Book exchange in bus shelter - suggested by Street Pride group. Members expressed concern about possible vandalism, however it was agreed that this could go ahead on a trial basis after the pandemic.
- b) Cllr Hughes reported that the faulty speed monitoring sign has been repaired and returned and is now in use again.

093/20-21 Street Lights

Members considered two quotations for the replacement of the street lights and resolved to appoint the District Council's contractor to undertake the works.

094/20-21 Community Centre Canopy

The Clerk reported that he had investigated the kit suggested by the Chairman, but felt that it was not sufficiently robust for the purpose. Invitations to tender have been sent to a number of companies and will be reviewed at the next meeting.

095/20-21 Planning

Members considered the following applications:

F/YR20/0992/F - Erect a 3-storey 4-bed dwelling with detached open car port involving demolition of existing dwelling - The Cottage, Rotten Drove, Tipps End

F/YR20/1001/F - Erect a 2-storey side extension (covered way with living accommodation above) and a single-storey rear extension to existing dwelling - 15 Wayside Estate, Christchurch

They resolved to offer no objection.

096/20-21 Income and Expenditure

a) Members noted the following sums received during October:

Fenland District Council (precept).....£ 6,375.00

b) Members noted the following payment made by direct debit:

Information Commissioner (registration fee)£ 35.00

c) Members received the external auditor's report for the year ended 31 March 2020 and resolved to accept it. There were no matters requiring the council's attention.

d) The financial report as at 31.10.20 showed income of £25,413.38 and expenditure of £11,070.96, resulting in a surplus of £14,342.42 and total funds held of £52,146.45.

e) Members approved the following accounts for payment:

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

PKF Littlejohn LLP (external audit)£ 240.00

f) Members were reminded that project proposals are invited for inclusion in the budget for the 2021/22 financial year. Members suggested the cutting or removal of the willow trees alongside the Recreation Ground and a regular clean for the War Memorial.

097/20-21 Matters for Next Meeting

Budget for 2021/22. Padgetts Road speeding.

098/20-21 Next Meeting Date

The date of the next Parish Council Meeting will be Monday 14 December.