

CHRISTCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Christchurch Parish Council held in the Community Centre on Monday 14 June 2021 at 7.30pm

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

015/21-22 Apologies for Absence

None.

016/21-22 Declarations of Interest

None

017/21-22 Chairman's Announcements

None

018/21-22 Public Time

There were no issues raised by members of the public, but members mentioned the general condition of the roads around the village and the need for benches to allow residents to pause whilst walking around the village.

019/21-22 Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 17 May 2021 were correctly recorded and signed as being a true record.

020/21-22 Matters Outstanding

- a) Bus shelter improvement project - Street Pride will now lead on this project. The painted cobblestones are in the Community Centre container. They will need to be varnished before installation.
- b) Green Lane trees - The owners of the two properties in Green Lane have given permission for the trees to be cut back. The Clerk will draw up a specification for the works to obtain quotes from tree surgeons. Members agreed to include Green Lane and the willows in the Recreation Ground in the specification.
- c) Pavement outside Field Lodge, Upwell Road - The Section 278 agreement is about to be signed, clearing the way for the work to commence.
- d) Recreation Ground trees - See (b) above.
- e) Street lights - Fifteen of the sixteen lights in the current contract have been replaced.
- f) Roadside drains - The drain outside The Green, Upwell Road remains partially blocked, causing water to enter the adjoining property. Highways are to investigate the pipe under the road.
- g) Local Highway Improvement applications - The Clerk presented an analysis of the last six years of LHI applications in Fenland. Members asked the Clerk to share this data with other councils to consider a joint approach to the new Leader of the County Council. Members thanked the Clerk for his analysis of the data. Members agreed to consider safety features at junctions on the Sixteen Foot Bank for the application for 2022/23. To be agreed at the next meeting.
- h) Annual report to residents - Cllr Hughes asked members to forward ideas and information to him.

021/21-22 Police Report

The Clerk reported issues from the previous meeting with the Police. The Wisbech Neighbourhood Team has moved into the old Court House for three to four months during the refurbishment of the Police Station. A new lease has been signed for the Police Station for another 30 years. Police mounted a day of action against e-scooters in Wisbech. Eighteen warnings were issued and two e-scooters were seized; one for ignoring a warning and another for drink driving. Sightings of e-scooters in public places should be reported to the police. There have been a number of successful drugs raids, with drugs, cash and weapons seized and arrests made. The Police are now able to visit schools again and are keen to support local Speedwatch groups to combat speeding in villages.

022/21-22 County & District Councillors Reports

Cllr Sutton reported that he had been in regular contact with Highways regarding the blocked drain outside The Green and was awaiting a camera survey of the pipes. The Forgotten Corner northern bend cannot be protected, due to visibility issues at the junction. The southern bend project was over budget, but this has now been reduced and will proceed.

023/21-22 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported on correspondence received as follows:

- Cambridgeshire County Council re roadworks and events
 - re Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan Consultation
 - re Holiday Activity and Food Programme
- Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority update
- Fenland District Council re West March development
 - re Register of Members Interests
 - re Chairman of the Council
 - re loan shark awareness campaign
 - re resources to teach 7 to 11 year olds about cyber security
- Cllr Count re Innovate and Cultivate Fund advice sessions
- CAPALC re training programme
- Cambridge CVS re Support Fenland follow up
- Environment Agency re Ouse Washes virtual exhibition room
- Magpas Air Ambulance re appeal for funds

Members resolved to donate £250 to the Magpas Air Ambulance.

024/21-22 Members and Residents Issues

Members discussed the 20's Plenty for Cambridgeshire campaign group's request to pass a motion of support. They resolved not to support the proposal in its current form.

025/21-22 Planning

Members re-considered the following application:-

F/YR21/0139/F - Erect 2 x dwellings (2-storey 3-bed) at Land South West of Glebe House, 35 Church Road, Christchurch. (Re-consultation - design and materials revised).

The revisions were not sufficient to alter their previously stated opinion and they resolved to offer no further comment.

026/21-22 Finance and Audit

- a) The financial report as at 31.5.21 showed income of £15,389.76 and expenditure of £10,825.78, resulting in a surplus of £4,563.98 and total funds held of £48,383.36.

b) Members approved the following accounts for payment:

Clerk salary and home office allowance	£	355.33
Clerk (expenses)	£	79.98
Business Services at CAS Ltd (insurance for canopy)	£	40.30

027/21-22 Confidential Item

Members resolved to exclude the press and public from the following item by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, paragraph 1(2).

Legal and financial matter.

028/21-22 Matters for Next Meeting

a) Funding for benches on Recreation Ground and elsewhere.

b) LHI application 2022/23.

029/21-22 Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next Parish Council Meeting will be Monday 12 July.