

CHRISTCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Christchurch Parish Council held in the Community Centre on Monday 13 September 2021 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs P Owen (Chairman), S Aldridge, J Bliss, R Gladwin, G Harper, J Hughes, K Miller, D Gibbs (Clerk), A Crick, S Day, K England, S Horne, R Ingram, N Lansdell, P Rigby, N Russell, S Simpson, J Sparrow, C Tebbs, M Tebbs, G Turner, P Warby, L Webster, (Parishioners)

044/21-22 Apologies for Absence
Cllrs W Sutton (FDC)

045/21-22 Declarations of Interest
None

046/21-22 Chairman's Announcements
None

047/21-22 Public Time
Mr Lansdell reported that the final part of the bus shelter project will be starting soon. Christchurch Eco and Street Pride are now running again after the pandemic. Mr Russell expressed concern about the timing of the publication of minutes and agendas for council meetings. He also noted that one of the road signs at Euximoor Drove had been damaged by the county council's grass contractor. It was reported that the football club is relocating to an alternative venue for the current season. The net on the football goal at the far end of the Recreation Ground needs repair or replacement. Residents of Padgetts Road presented a petition in support of a reduction in the speed limit. Cllr Hughes explained the recent history of previous attempts to improve safety in this part of the village. The Clerk agreed to discuss the residents' concerns with the Police and to seek the support of our MP.

048/21-22 Confirmation of Minutes
Minutes of the meeting held on 12 July 2021 were correctly recorded and signed as being a true record.

049/21-22 Matters Outstanding

- a) Bus shelter improvement project - work to start shortly. The possibility of a painted mural in the bus shelter was discussed and repainting of the bench. Members agreed to consider this in more detail.
- b) Pavement outside Field Lodge, Upwell Road - no further update. The District Council has advised that they intend to recommence enforcement action.
- c) Street lights - All replacements have now been completed, but no invoice has been received. Lights opposite the former chapel and adjacent to the former hall site are not working. The Clerk will report them.
- d) Roadside drains - Highways have excavated the blocked drain and will report their findings shortly.
- e) Annual report to residents - the Clerk will discuss the report with Cllr Hughes.
- f) Fly-tipping, Community Centre and The Croft - A new witness statement is required to enable proceeding to commence against the truck driver responsible for the glass at the Community Centre. Clerk to liaise with Cllr Harper. The soil dumped at The Croft has been removed.

- g) Benches, play equipment, outdoor gym - Several possibilities were discussed. Members agreed to visit other play areas to consider options. It was noted that there is damage to the skate park and an inspection is required.

050/21-22 Police Report

The Clerk reported issues from the previous meeting with the Police, including tackling anti-social behaviour and off-road motorbikes. Use of e-scooters has decreased following previous enforcement action.

051/21-22 County & District Councillors Reports

In the absence of Cllr Sutton, no report was received.

052/21-22 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported on meetings attended and correspondence received as follows:

- a) Meetings
 - Wisbech Neighbourhood Police - 9 July
 - Unleashing Fenland's Potential - 2 September
- b) Correspondence
 - Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority
 - Ox-Cam Arc Spatial Framework Consultation Updates
 - Cambridgeshire County Council
 - Highways re Remembrance Events
 - Community Gritting Scheme
 - Traffic Management for Events training course
 - Fenland District Council
 - Citizens Advice service at Community Hub
 - Workplace vaccination campaign
 - 2021 Annual Household Canvass
 - Pride in Fenland awards launch
 - Community Safety Partnership survey
 - Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Association of Local Councils
 - Annual awards
 - Annual Conference
 - Chairman and Clerk surveys
 - Cambridgeshire ACRE
 - Updated guidance on reopening community buildings
 - Future Fens: Understanding and appreciating flood management in the Great Ouse Fens
 - Rural Affordable Housing Partnership
 - Home Energy Support Service
 - Annual General Meeting invitation
 - Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Resilience Forum
 - County Safety Advisory Group letter re Covid-safe event planning
 - Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Against Scams Partnership
 - Latest scams
 - King's Lynn & West Norfolk Council
 - Local Plan review
 - Environment Agency
 - Ouse Washes bank raising works newsletter
 - Local Energy Advice Partnership
 - Service re-opening
 - Fenland Bridleways Access Group
 - Group launch

Members resolved to seek volunteers to set up a community gritting team, with the help of Mr Lansdell and the Street Pride volunteers and to add rural affordable housing to the agenda for the next meeting.

053/21-22 Members and Residents Issues

Members discussed the issues raised by residents and resolved as follows:

- a) Roadside verges - The verges have now been cut, but will be monitored next year and reported if they represent a hazard to motorists.
- b) Christchurch Bowls Club - The club has been disbanded and a new use is required for the green. It is unlikely to be used for bowls. Members discussed several options, but no solution was identified.
- c) Remembrance Sunday - Cllr Sutton will lay a wreath on behalf of the Parish Council as usual.

054/21-22 Local Highway Improvements

- a) Letter to the Leader and Deputy Leader of the County Council - Members approved the wording of the letter and authorised the Chairman to sign it.
- b) Project for 2022/23 - Following the receipt of the petition from residents and having heard their concerns about speeding, members resolved to submit an application for speed reduction measures in Padgetts Road.

055/21-22 Planning

Members considered the following applications:-

F/YR21/0807/F - Erect single-storey side extensions and porch to front of existing dwelling involving demolition of existing side extension - Corner House, March Road, Tipps End

F/YR21/0935/CERTP - Certificate of lawfulness (Proposed) - Erect a cabin in rear garden of existing dwelling - Corner House, March Road, Tipps End

They resolved to offer no objection.

056/21-22 Finance and Audit

- a) The financial report as at 31.8.21 showed income of £17,957.26 and expenditure of £14,323.07, resulting in a surplus of £3,634.19 and total funds held of £47,453.57.
- b) Members noted the following sum received:
Fenland District Council (Concurrent Functions Grant) £ 2,567.00
- c) Members approved the following accounts for payment:
Clerk salary and home office allowance £ 710.66
Christchurch PCC (grass cutting) £ 122.50
Business Services at CAS Ltd (Insurance) £ 1,375.01
- d) Members noted the following direct debit payment:
Information Commissioner (registration fee) £ 35.00
- e) Members reviewed the report of the external auditor. There were no matters requiring their attention.
- f) Members resolved that the Clerk's annual appraisal would be conducted by Cllrs Owen and Hughes.
- g) Members considered the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel in respect of the payment of a Parish Basic Allowance. They resolved not to receive any allowances in the current financial year.

057/21-22 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).

Consideration of arboricultural tenders.

058/21-22 Matters for Next Meeting

Rural affordable housing.

059/21-22 Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next Parish Council Meeting will be Monday 11 October.