

CHRISTCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Christchurch Parish Council held in the Community Centre on Monday 10 November 2025 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs A Sparrow (Chairman), J Bliss, B Burfield, R Feeney, J Hayes, J Hughes, S Potter, D Gibbs (Clerk), five parishioners

107/25-26 Apologies for Absence

Cllr S Fisher (CCC), Cllr C Galbraith (CCC), Cllr D Roy (FDC), Cllr M Summers (FDC), PC L Foster-Bentham (Cambridgeshire Constabulary)

108/25-26 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked those who had attended the Remembrance Sunday service at the war memorial.

109/25-26 Public Time

A resident asked about the vacant bungalow near the former Chapel. The Clerk informed the meeting that Clarion Housing Group would determine the future use of the property but there is usually a significant delay in bringing vacant properties back into use.

Overhanging vegetation was reported in Church Lane. The Clerk will draft a letter to be delivered to all properties with vegetation obstructing the pavements.

A resident notified the Council that he had reported a street light not working at the junction of Crown Road and Wayside Estate, but it had not been repaired. The Clerk will investigate.

Recent incidents of hare coursing were reported.

A possible reduction in the speed limit on Padgetts Road was mentioned. The Chairman indicated that this may be possible once the new houses have been constructed.

110/25-26 Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 October were correctly recorded and signed as being a true record.

111/25-26 Matters Outstanding

- a) Fenland District Council Infrastructure Delivery Plan - To be discussed with Cllr Roy.
- b) Public defibrillators - The Clerk reported that the defibrillator at the Dun Cow has still not been registered on The Circuit and the cabinet may have been unplugged from the power supply. A new battery and pads are required. The Clerk will purchase these. The District Council responded to the Clerk's enquiry about mounting a defibrillator on a post. This would require a new metered supply from UK Power Networks and the District Council would not arrange installation. Alternative solutions will be explored.
- c) Parking outside Townley School - No progress.
- d) MVAS battery replacement - The new batteries have been delivered.

112/25-26 Police Report

Nothing to report.

113/25-26 County & District Councillors Reports

In the absence of the County and District Councillors, no reports were received.

114/25-26 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported on meetings attended and correspondence received, including a meeting with the Probation Service on 24 October.

Correspondence included a traffic order for the closure of Fifty Road from 10 November to 19 December, a County Council business planning survey, the results of the public survey on the Local Government Reorganisation, an invitation to the District Council Chairman's Carol Service, the relaunch of the Golden Age gift collection for older people, next year's precept form and concurrent functions grant prediction, a Norfolk County Council traffic order for the closure of Town Street, Upwell from 17 to 21 November, Healthwatch Older People's Partnership board vacancies, an invitation from Manea Parish Council to a Fens Reservoir Community Liaison Group meeting, and the launch of the Fens Reservoir stage 3 consultation.

115/25-26 Members and Residents Issues

- a) Green Lane reinstatement of verge - Members considered a proposal to consult with residents of Green Lane to seek their support for a Probation Service Payback project to reinstate the grass verge on the east side of Green Lane. They resolved to proceed with the consultation and asked the Clerk to produce a letter to residents. Cllr Hayes offered to deliver the letters.
- b) Possible unauthorised development - Members asked the Clerk to clarify whether the District Council's Planning Enforcement officers had visited the site.
- c) Village skip - Cllr Bliss reminded Members that many years ago, the Council provided a skip once each year to assist residents in disposing of their unwanted items. Members considered the possibility of reviving this tradition and agreed to consult residents via The Heron and Facebook.
- d) Property in Crown Road - Cllr Hayes reported that there has been no change of circumstances and further incidents had taken place.

116/25-26 Recreation Ground

Nothing to report.

117/25-26 Nature Park Project

Cllr Sparrow reported that the field has been sprayed again. Tender documents for the next phase of works were sent to three suitably-qualified contractors and all three have submitted tenders. Members considered the three submissions and resolved to appoint Giles Landscapes and Management Ltd.

118/25-26 Village Centre Regeneration Project

Cllr Sparrow reported that he has prepared a scoping document for consideration at the working group meeting on 26 November.

119/25-26 Clarion Garden Project

The Probation Service has been unable to commence the work, but this will start shortly. Clarion's landscaping team will remove the green waste. Once the site is cleared, a plan can be drafted and access issues confirmed.

120/25-26 Highways

- a) Wayside Estate - The Clerk advised Members that the 2025/26 Local Highway Improvement application for Wayside Estate has been approved. The Clerk will meet with the Project Officer later this month to discuss an implementation plan. Members agreed to consult with the residents of Wayside Estate and Townley School parents, via the school. The Clerk will prepare consultation letters for Wayside Estate and Cllr Hayes offered to deliver them. Cllr Sparrow will consult with Townley School.
- b) Sixteen Foot Bank - Cllr Sparrow advised Members that he had spoken to Mr Chappell, who will respond before the December meeting. It was noted that the two defect reports on the highway reporting system had both been closed with no further action. The Clerk offered to arrange a meeting between Cllr Feeney and the Local Highways Officer to enable him to discuss his concerns regarding the condition of the road.
- c) Local Highway Improvements 2026/27 - Members discussed potential projects for submission for the next round of LHI funding. Improvements to the junction of Church Road, Upwell Road and Green Lane and elements of the Village Centre Regeneration Project were suggested.

121/25-26 Finance

- a) The management accounts as at 31.10.25 showed income of £35,526.44 and expenditure of £16,734.48, resulting in a surplus of £18,791.96 and total funds held of £56,817.50.
- b) Members noted the following sums received since the last meeting:

Fenland District Council (precept instalment).....	£11,100.00
NatWest Bank (interest).....	£ 23.63
- c) Members noted the following sums paid by debit card:

RBL Poppy Shop (wreath)	£ 34.49
Post Office (stamps)	£ 13.92
- d) Members noted the following sums paid by direct debit:

Information Commissioner's Office (registration).....	£ 47.00
HMRC (tax and national insurance)	£ 349.57
- e) Members approved the following accounts for payment:

Clerk salary and home office allowance	£ 397.95
Fenland Leisure Products Ltd (play equipment repairs)	£ 1,443.06
- f) Members considered potential projects for inclusion in the budget for 2026/27. In addition to the Nature Park, Village Centre Regeneration and Clarion Garden projects, they agreed to consider the refurbishment of the skatepark.

Members also resolved to develop a 3-year plan to clarify the expenditure needed for these projects and consider potential sources of additional funding to facilitate the timely delivery of the proposals. A meeting will be arranged to start the process of formulating the new plan.

122/25-26 Policies and Procedures

Members considered the following policies and procedures and resolve to readopt them:

- a) Complaints Procedure
- b) Grievance Policy
- c) Disciplinary Policy

123/25-26 Santa Run

The Clerk confirmed that Fenland Farmers Santa Run will start at the Farmer's Boy at 5.00pm on the evening of 20 December. Three tractors will take part this year. Volunteers are needed to act as stewards for public safety.

124/25-26 Public Time

No further issues.

125/25-26 Matters for Next Meeting

Defibrillators.

126/25-26 Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting of the Parish Council will be Monday 8 December.

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