

**MINUTES OF THE CHRISTCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY 13<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2014 – SPORTS PAVILION, UPWELL ROAD,  
CHRISTCHURCH 7:30pm**

Present: Councillors – Nigel Russell (Chair), Hannah Poole, Jill Bliss, William Beswick, Simon Freeland, Roger Gladwin, Fred Yeulett (CCC) and Will Sutton (FDC).  
Stephen Cowell (Clerk) and 2 members of the public were also in attendance.

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr. Wes Poole, Cllr. Michelle Tanfield (FDC) and PCSO Russ.

**2. Signing of Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> December were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

**3. Disclosure and Declarations of Interests**

None.

**4. Update on action points from previous meeting**

The Clerk reported that:

- The Police had been notified of the car parked at the Recreation Ground with no road fund licence and the allegation that youths are smoking banned substances on the grounds of the Church. Cllr. Russell updated the Council by reporting that the car was taxed but the disc was not easy to see and that it was being parked there while the owner gets a lift to work.
- The Minor Highways Scheme as agreed at the December meeting has been submitted to the Highways Department.
- The burning of toxic smelling waste at a property on Euximoor Drove was reported to FDC's Environmental Health Department.

Cllr. Yeulett reported that he has discussed having solid white lines at the Padgett's Road/Sixteen Foot Bank Road junction with Highways and has been told they cannot be placed there. Councillors questioned this as there are elsewhere along the Sixteen Road Bank Road – **Cllr. Yeulett to seek clarification.**

Whilst on the subject of Highways Cllr. Yeulett and Cllr. Sutton explained that 7 new dot-matrix signs are planned to warn motorists of any flooding of the Wash at Welney. 3 funded by Norfolk, 3 by Cambridgeshire County Council and the funding for the other has been agreed in principle by Fenland District Council – a discussion was held on the ideal location, near Christchurch, of this seventh sign. The Council agreed, subject to road safety considerations, it would be best placed just beyond the Church Road/Padgett's Road junction so it warned residents and traffic from the Sixteen Foot Bank direction alike. Cllr. Sutton to inform FDC of the proposed location.

Cllr. Sutton provided a summary of how the new signs worked and how they will provide a more accurate reflection of the water levels on the road.

Cllr. Yeulett informed members that the wording on the signs has already been agreed but that he would feedback the comment that to help businesses based in Welney that some indication that they were still open for business should be included.

It was confirmed that the faulty street light in Upwell Road was now working.

Cllr. Sutton reported that FDC were not able to assist with the fixing of the broken fences around the effluent plant at The Croft as it is on private land but that he has offered his own time should residents' decide to mend the fence themselves.

**The Clerk was asked to chase the Street Lighting contractor for a quote for the Green Lane street light that is still not working.**

**5. Public Adjournment**

The following subjects were raised and discussed:

- A request for the telephone number and address of the Editor of The Heron was requested.  
Cllr. Bliss to provide the address and telephone number after the meeting.



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- The frequency and duration of stay of buses and FACT transport was raised as the frequency of buses is very low and FACT transport often does not provide sufficient time for a leisurely stay. **Cllr. Yeulett and Cllr. Sutton offered to discuss issues with the management of FACT.**

**6. Police Update**

The Police report was circulated via e-mail to Councillors. The main area of concern was the regular break-ins to the Sports Pavilion – *damage was shown to councillors and residents at the conclusion of the meeting* – where nothing is stolen. This matter is now reported to the police and it was felt that Malcolm Hicks, from the Bowls Club, has discussed the matter further with the police.

**7. Correspondence Received**

- NHS report – a copy of which was given to each member.
- The Clerk reported all other correspondence has been forwarded to members by e-mail.

**8. Finance**

The Clerk reported that he has informed the Council of the changes to the Concurrent Functions Grant from Fenland District Council and its impact on income. The Council discussed the various options open to them, increase the Precept, reduce Council Reserves, which are not high, or reduce services and resolved in light of the reduction of the FDC Concurrent Functions Grant to increase the precept by £900.00 to £8,000.00. It was noted that this would be the first increase in the Precept for many years.

The following items, listed on the agenda, were agreed for payment

- 8.1 Clerk's Salary £68.00
- 8.2 HM Revenue & Customs £37.40
- 8.3 The Heron £70.00
- 8.4 Postage £6.00

Following a discussion on recompensing the Bowls Club, who pay the Utility bills at the Sports Pavilion, for energy used during meetings it was agreed to offer them £7.00 per meeting. **The Clerk was asked to liaise with the Bowls Club Treasurer regarding payment.**

**9. Planning Applications**

None.

**10. Parish Plan – Update**

No updates to report.

**11. Raising of Village Concerns**

The following items were reported/discussed:

1. Replacement for the Clerk – it was agreed to advertise the post in the local press
2. Drains adjacent to the Upwell Road/Toll Road junction require cleaning out as they are blocked. **Cllr. Yeulett and Cllr. Sutton to discuss with Highways**
3. Some of the iron work along Upwell Road is higher than the road causing drainage to be adversely affected
4. Rotten Drove, Tipp's End is impassable causing a resident's Carers and the Ambulance being unable to get to him. It was felt that the drove belonged to the resident but **Cllr. Sutton agreed to check.**
5. It was discussed whether the Village Survey needed to be updated – no firm decisions were made.

The Chair thanked all for attention and closed the meeting at 8.58pm.

