

CHRISTCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Christchurch Parish Council held on Monday 11 February 2019 at Christchurch Community Centre, Upwell Road, Christchurch at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs P Owen (Chairman), J Bliss, R Gladwin, G Harper, J Hughes, R Lloyd, W Sutton (FDC), D Gibbs (Clerk), M Irvine (FACT), E Bailey, G Bailey, M Beswick, W Beswick, R Guilford, K Hill, S Knight, K Miller, A Nason, M Simmonds, C Steenson, J Swallow, P Warby, D Yates, W Yates (Parishioners)

114/18-19 **Apologies for Absence**

Cllr N Russell, Cllr M Tanfield (FDC)

115/18-19 **Declarations of Interest**

None

116/18-19 **Confirmation of Minutes**

Minutes of the meeting held on 14 January were correctly recorded and signed as being a true record.

117/18-19 **Public Time**

Cllr Sutton, as a resident of the parish, asked whether some form of average speed monitoring could be installed to address speeding concerns within the village. The Chairman reported that a speed monitoring device is on order and will be available shortly.

Mr Hill reported that work on replacing street lights has commenced, as a new LED light had been installed outside his home. He also asked which roads in the village were included in winter gritting rounds. The Clerk agreed to clarify this for the next meeting.

Mr Guilford suggested that Speedwatch training could be carried out by trained members of the Speedwatch group, rather than a police officer.

Ms Nason asked whether the CFC Disposal site will be cleared and decontaminated if no development takes place there. Cllr Sutton explained that there is no obligation on the site owner either to develop or to clear the site.

Clerk

118/18-19 **Outstanding Matters**

a) Bus service to Downham Market - the Chairman welcomed Michelle Irvine to the meeting. Cllr Sutton reported that he had spoken to Michelle Irvine, Head of Finance & Funding at Fenland Association for Community Transport (FACT) at the recent Golden Age Fair at Friday Bridge. A meeting was arranged to discuss the possibility of providing a regular service to Downham Market. Two options were offered.

i) As a FACT dial-a-ride service with a driver, the costs vary between £103 per trip with a single pick-up and drop-off point to £115 with up to three pick-up and drop-off points. Fares would be determined by FACT and the service would be free to Cambridgeshire bus pass holders. Pre-booking would be required to ensure that an appropriate vehicle was provided. The fare income would offset the cost of the service, but any shortfall would be paid by the Parish Council.

ii) As an alternative, the Parish Council (or any other suitably-constituted organisation) could join FACT as a group member, at a cost of £15 per annum. This would entitle them to hire vehicles on a self-drive basis, using a volunteer driver. The hire cost for the vehicle would range from £35 per trip with a single pick-up and drop-off point to £45 with up to three locations at each end of the journey. The fares would be determined by the Parish Council. The driver would collect the vehicle from the FACT depot in March and return it at the end of the journey. All volunteer drivers would need to hold the nationally-accredited MiDAS training qualification. FACT can provide this training at a cost of £140 per person for the basic driving element or £225 per person to include handling of wheelchairs and use of the tail lift.

Members agreed to consider these two options alongside other alternatives. The Chairman thanked Michelle for attending the meeting and Cllr Sutton for his work behind the scenes to facilitate this.

- b) Allotment tenancy - the tenant has not returned the agreement. The Clerk will contact him. **Clerk**
- c) LHI scheme 2018/19 - the new signage has been installed in Padgetts Road. The village gateway in Upwell Road will be installed shortly, subject to the weather. Members considered options for the design of the speed monitoring device selected the option of the Westcotec happy and sad faces. The Clerk will place the order. **Clerk**
- d) Recreation Ground tree works - the working party will take place on Saturday 23rd February.
- e) Footpath outside Plot 1 - it is understood that the owner of Plot 1 has been in discussions with the County Council regarding the cost of installing the missing section of footway. There may be a cost saving in delivering this through the Parish Council. The Clerk will undertake further investigations.
- f) War memorial - the Clerk is still looking for an appropriate contractor to provide an estimate of works. **Clerk**
- g) Community Speedwatch - deferred to next meeting.
- h) Rubbish and overgrown trees, Crown Road - the Clerk will pursue this issue with the tenant and their landlord. **Clerk**
- i) The Heron - the Clerk read a letter from Mr Guilford, in his capacity as editor of the Heron, to the Parish Council, in which he indicated that the Heron would not accept any funding agreement or terms and conditions in return for future funding for the publication. Cllr Hughes stated that he felt that the editor had taken advantage of his position in publishing irresponsible and divisive articles, letters and editorials and that the Parish Council could not be seen to condone such actions by providing funding for the Heron. He explained the process by which the funding agreement had been prepared, based on those of other similar funders and proposed that it should be used by the Parish Council to cover all future funding of community organisations, projects and activities. This was agreed by the members. **Clerk**

Cllr Lloyd expressed the view that the relationship relies on trust and the role of editor carries significant responsibility. Mr Guilford rejected the agreement, as a matter of principle, without reading it, but was given a copy to discuss with his management committee. He explained that he had considered resigning from the role of editor, but had received letters of support and would now review his position.

Ms Mason spoke on behalf of those involved in the publication of the Heron, explaining that they would all be saddened if the publication ceased and that they hoped for a positive resolution to the situation.

- j) Lunch Break - funding of £500 has been offered by Care Network through the Healthy Fenland Fund to cover the initial costs of the scheme. Ms Nason thanked Cllr Sutton for providing the information on this funder. The first Lunch Break is scheduled for Wednesday 13 February.
- k) Bowls Club tree removal - Cllr Hughes reported that he had visited the Bowls Club and confirmed that the removal of a small number of trees was necessary to facilitate access for hedge cutting machinery. Members agreed to this proposal.
- l) Street lighting, Upwell Road, junction of Wayside Estate - the Clerk explained that the installation of an additional light would be costly as there is no suitable location on the west side of Upwell Road and no public electricity supply on the east side. Options include channelling across the road or installing a solar-powered light. Approximate costings will be obtained for consideration at the next meeting.

Clerk

119/18-19 Police Report

The Police visited Townley School in January.

120/18-19 County & District Councillors Reports

Cllr Sutton reported that the next Golden Age Fair will take place on 12 February in Chatteris.

Further work has taken place on the joint LHI scheme to install a safety barrier at Honey Farm bend. Chatteris Town Council originally rejected participation in the proposal, but members have now agreed to reconsider. Doddington Parish Council will consider it at their meeting on 13 February.

121/18-19 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported that he had submitted the Precept form to Fenland District Council.

He attended a training session on planning issues relating to trees and wildlife and has obtained details of the tree preservation orders in the village.

Following a report of an accident caused by the uneven pavement surface in Crown Road outside Townley School, the Clerk will meet with the local highways officer to discuss remedial action.

Village Halls Week, the national celebration of village halls and community centres in January was very successful and will present an opportunity for the Community Centre charity to be involved in next year's event.

The Clerk has enquired about the possibility of a Christchurch Village Only sign for the junction of Church Road and Padgetts

Road, although this may not be possible. If not, a Christchurch sign will be installed, with no mention of the through route to Downham Market.

122/18-19 Recreation Ground Charity

The Clerk will attend the next meeting of the Management Committee to discuss revised proposals for the future structure and management of the charity, prior to seeking agreement from the Parish Council at the March meeting.

Clerk

123/18-19 Planning

Permission has been granted for the single-storey rear extension to Annies Cottage, Padgetts Road.

Members were consulted on the suggested name for the new development on the site of the former Shrub House, Church Road. The development is to be called Shrubbery Close.

Members supported this proposal.

124/18-19 Income and Expenditure

a) Members approved the financial statement for the period to the end of January

b) Members approved the following accounts for payment:

Clerk salary and home office allowance	£	335.57
The Heron	£	80.00
E Mason & Son	£	156.00

125/18-19 Matters for Next Meeting

The following additional items will be included on the agenda for the March meeting:-

Gritting, highways inspection and signage.

126/18-19 Next Meeting Date

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