

CHRISTCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Christchurch Parish Council held on Monday 13 January 2020 at Christchurch Community Centre, Upwell Road, Christchurch at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs P Owen (Chairman), S Aldridge, J Bliss, R Gladwin, G Harper, J Hughes, K Miller, D Gibbs (Clerk), N Lansdell, A Nason, C Steenson (Parishioners)

103/19-20 Apologies for Absence

Cllr W Sutton (FDC)

104/19-20 Declarations of Interest

Cllrs Hughes and Miller declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 115/19-20c)

105/19-20 Chairman's Opening Statement

The Chairman welcomed everybody to the meeting and wished them a Happy New Year. He also thanked all of the Councillors and members of the public who volunteer their time to improve the village.

106/19-20 Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 9 December 2019 were correctly recorded and signed as being a true record.

107/19-20 Public Time

Ms Nason reported that the Heron was applying for a grant from the Whitemill Environment Fund and asked whether the Council would be willing to offer a letter of support. Members agreed. With 41% of the Heron's costs raised through advertising, there is a need for additional sources of funding.

Clerk

Mr Lansdell reported that the first Litter Pick had been very successful, with 14 volunteers attending who collected 5 bags of recyclable rubbish and 10 bags of non-recyclable. He will now be working with those volunteers to establish a Street Pride group for the parish. A meeting on 24 February will adopt the constitution and elect the committee in readiness for the Great British Spring Clean event from 20 March to 13 April.

Mr Steenson reported that the Post office van service continued to be unreliable and asked whether it is possible to find out beforehand if it will not be present. The Clerk offered to pursue this again.

Clerk

Cllr Gladwin reported that the no through road sign at the junction of Crown Drove and Sixteen Foot Bank was missing and vehicles had been attempting to use this during recent road closures in the area.

The Clerk will report this.

Clerk

108/19-20 Matters Outstanding

- a) LHI schemes 2019/20 and 2020/21 - the vehicle-activated sign should be delivered shortly. The Clerk will confirm the arrangements for the installation of the additional mounting poles required. The Forgotten Corner application is undergoing assessment and more will be known after the Assessment Panel

Clerk

- meeting on 22 January.
- b) Bus shelter improvement project - no change since previous meeting.
 - c) Annual Report - the Clerk will print sufficient copies to be distributed with next Heron.
 - d) Euximoor Bridge - no further information has been received. Additional damage has been reported.
 - e) Street lights, Church Road - these were reported by the Clerk after the last meeting and have been repaired. The Chairman reported that Mr Hill had written to him to ask him to thank the Clerk for his prompt action.
 - f) Post Office van service - the Clerk is still engaged in correspondence with the Post Office.
 - g) Section 137 grant, Citizens Advice Rural Cambs - the Clerk is awaiting a response from the applicant regarding use of their services by Christchurch residents.
 - h) Green Dog Walker Scheme - Mr Lansdell reported that there are 28 dog walkers interested in the scheme. The level of funding required was unclear. Mr Lansdell will contact the District Council for clarification. Decision deferred to next meeting.

Clerk

109/19-20 Police Report

No report was received.

110/19-20 County & District Councillors Reports

Cllr Sutton submitted a written report.

He has requested a meeting with the Leader of the Council to develop proposals for the District Council to address the disparity in funding for street lighting between the towns and the parishes.

He reported that the Litter Pick was well attended and had been highly successful.

He had followed up the report from Cllr Hughes of the automatic warning signs for flooding at the Welney Washes not working. This may have been a telecommunication issue, but the signs are now working.

111/19-20 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported on correspondence received, including the following:

Cambridgeshire ACRE re

- Peer learning event on Local Council Award Scheme - 31.3.20
- Village Halls Week 20 to 26 January
- Funding opportunities

Cambridgeshire Highways re roadworks and events

Cllr Steve Count re

- Arts Council funding advice evening - 30.1.20

Rebecca Robinett re funding for Green Dog Walker scheme

FDC re

- March Skate Park opening
- Community Safety Partnership newsletter
- Street lighting proposals
- Civic event dates
- Getting it Sorted recycling website

- Pride in Fenland Awards
 - Fenland Twinning Association
- CAPALC re
- subscription increase in 2020
 - Buckingham Palace Garden Party 27.5.20
 - Incorporation proposal
 - Councillor training days
- NALC re Spring Conference - 17.3.20
- Peterborough Environment City Trust re
- free home energy advice
 - Big Energy Saving Week - 20 to 26 January
- Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Service consultation on Integrated Risk Management Plan - deadline 24.1.20
- Cambridgeshire Archives re opening of new Ely Centre
- Annie Nason re letters of support for Heron funding application
- Norfolk County Council re temporary closure of New Road, Welney - 27.1.20 to 7.2.20

Members resolved to nominate Nigel Russell for an invitation to the Buckingham Palace Garden Party on 27 May.

Clerk

112/19-20 Christchurch Recreation Ground Charity

The Clerk will present the draft of the new governing document to the charity at their meeting on 29 January. Subject to their approval, the document will be presented to the Council at their next meeting. Cllr Harper reported that he has applied for a grant to install CCTV at the Community Centre and that BT Openreach conducted a pre-installation survey for the wifi and concluded that a new telegraph pole will be required in the car park. A 30-day consultation period is required before this can be installed.

113/19-20 Planning

It was noted that the appeal against the archaeological investigation condition imposed under application F/YR19/0185/F had been rejected.

114/19-20 Highways

The following issues were identified to be discussed with the new Local Highway Officer:

- Sixteen Foot Bank near the Old Wheatsheaf
- Crown Drove signage
- Potholes – Wayside Estate and Upwell Road near Fen View
- Junction of Sixteen Foot Bank and Padgetts Road
- Euximoor Bridge
- Missing 30mph sign on Upwell Road near Ha'penny Toll Road

115/19-20 Income and Expenditure

- a) The following accounts were approved for payment:
- | | |
|---|----------|
| Clerk salary and home office allowance.....£ | 345.97 |
| Christchurch PCC (churchyard maintenance).....£ | 122.50 |
| E Mason & Son (grass cutting) | £ 240.00 |

- b) The financial report as at 31 December shows income received of £14,784.03 and expenditure incurred of £34,814.09 leaving a shortfall of £20,030.06 and total funds held of £30,301.50. The grant for the solar panels from the Whitemill Environment Fund was not received in December, but should be in the January account. The contribution of £500 from the Horse Show account has not been received. Cllr Bliss will contact Mr Russell. The allotment rent is outstanding. The Clerk will issue a reminder. Members asked the Clerk to notify the tenant that the tenancy will not be renewed after the termination date.
- c) The Christchurch Craft Club submitted a grant application under Section 137 for £216. Members resolved to support this application as a one-off donation.

Cllr Bliss

Clerk

116/19-20 Footpath Outside Plot 1, Field Lodge, Upwell Road

The Clerk reported that the developer has appointed a contractor and is negotiating a Section 278 agreement that will require no involvement from the Council. It is hoped that the works will be completed in March.

117/19-20 Matters for Next Meeting

The following item will be added to the agenda for the February meeting:

- Dogs on the Playing Field - replacement of signage.

Cllr Bliss also reported vandalism and tree damage near the teen shelter, which will be investigated prior to the meeting.

118/19-20 Next Meeting Date

The date of the next Parish Council Meeting will be Monday 10 February.