

# Christow Parish Council

Clerk: Mrs C Retallick, Bagtor Barton, Isington, Newton Abbot, TQ13 9RT.

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Minutes of the Zoom meeting of Christow Parish Council held on Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021.

Present: Cllr Archer  
Cllr T Fidock  
Cllr K Evans  
Cllr AJ Orme  
Cllr J Orme  
Cllr R Slack

Carol Retallick (Clerk), Cllr J Brook (DCC) and one member of the public.  
Cllr Archer welcomed everyone to the meeting.

## Minutes of council meeting

### 1) Apologies and Acceptance for Absence:

Received from Cllr Purser

**2) Public Discussion** – To allow any questions, reports by members of the public on any matters relating to the agenda of this meeting. **The period of time designated for public participation shall not exceed 5 minutes.**

The member of the public wished to raise two items.

1. Could draft minutes be displayed on the council website?
2. Concerns about water running on the road and creating potholes at the junction near Gidley's Meadow. She asked if the sides of the road could be ploughed to allow water to flow down the edges of the road rather than across it.

Cllr Archer agreed that there is a problem. The build-up of debris would probably need a digger to remove it all.

**3) Declarations of Interest:** In accordance with the Code of Conduct.

None declared.

**4) District, County Councillor's, DNPA Ranger/Representative Forestry Commission officer, Police and Lengthsman - to receive reports.**

DCC J Brook – Cllr Brook noted the concerns raised by the parishioner and this has been discussed at Devon County Council as once lockdown has eased, there will be many visitors coming into the region using the road network, which has suffered from a lack of investment.

Budget summary - Headline figures from the various departments:

Adult Care. £282,435,000 Increase of 8.3%

Children Services. £158,267,000 Increase of 7.8%

Communities, Public Health, Environment £39,837,000

Corporate Services. £40,387,000

Highways and waste £57,520,000

Prior to the budget meeting, an additional £600,000 was added to the highways budget.

A new fund of £100,000 was created specifically for the cleaning and painting of community furniture. Communities to bid for this and match fund. Let us not be slow on getting our hands on some of this money when the 21/22 financial year starts.

The council tax will increase by 4.99%. 3% of this being ring fenced for adult social care in the community. The remaining 1.99% to support the budget generally.

COVID-19 has generated many additional expenses. Central government has made considerable sums available to meet these expenses. Importantly £6.4m has been made available as council tax support for individuals unable to pay as a result of the pandemic.

AS WE COME OUT OF THE AUSTERITY PERIOD IT IS WORTHY OF REFLECTING ON THE WHAT CHANGES HAVE BEEN MADE.

£180M LESS IN CORE FUNDING. This represents about 72% of funding.

£280m saved over the same period.

Staffing reductions close to 2500. Staff numbers have started to increase more recently as the DCC took back certain responsibilities from private companies.

Cllr Archer thanked Cllr Brook. *(Cllr Brook left the meeting)*

<p>TDC Cllr S Purser emailed this report – Budgets now all approved for precepting bodies so bills will follow shortly!          COVID still dominates business, but good news with vaccinations and a roadmap for the way forward.          Please see website for various grant schemes which are added to at short notice.          Housing strategy survey has been launched and closes on 24th March.          Census 21 now underway.          Watch out for increasing number of scams, especially COVID/vaccination/PPE related.          This week is food waste action week see websites for further information.          Annual fair trade fortnight also underway, again see websites.          Schools open on the 8th.</p>	
<p><b>5) Minutes</b> – to approve and sign the Minutes of the extra meeting held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021.</p>	
<p>These were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting.</p>	
<p><b>6) Clerk’s Report</b> - An update on matters arising from the last meeting and for the interest or attention of councillors (FOR INFORMATION ONLY ).</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Farmer’s Market – Confirmed agreements to allow the stalls into the car park for every Saturday in March.</li> <li>• Census is 21<sup>st</sup> March more details available online.</li> <li>• DCC have been sending regular weather alerts which are forwarded to the snow wardens.</li> <li>• Housing Needs survey – deadline for responses was 28<sup>th</sup> February, it will take 2/3 weeks to collate the information then the results will be released to the Parish Council.</li> <li>• Parish road closures for April - information is on the council website.</li> <li>• Housing strategy please send in your comments by 24<sup>th</sup> March.</li> <li>• The grit bin has been moved to Stafford Close. DCC Highways have informed us that Stafford Close has not yet been adopted, therefore they will not be able to refill the bin until this has happened.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>7) Community Garden</b> – Update &amp; review</p>	
<p>Following on from the last meeting the Clerk has contacted the TDC Estate Department but due to staffing and COVID-19 problems, our request will not be dealt with just now. Cllr Archer has spoken to officers and we are hoping there may be more news soon. The working party will meet again and be kept fully informed.          Cllr Archer has now organised the film and pictures of the field and will circulate those once they are available in a form that can be easily shared.          Cllr AJ Orme asked about an area off the mill footpath which belongs to the CLT.          Cllr Archer (suspended SO) to allow Ms Edwards to address the meeting. She confirmed the area was known as Dormouse Wood and she has asked the residents of Stafford Close for ideas for the use of that area. The CLT will consider proposals for its use.          (SO resumed)  <b>ACTION- the Clerk will arrange a Zoom meeting for the working party for Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March.</b></p>	<p>CR</p>
<p><b>8) Emptying of litter and dog waste bins from Christow</b> – Clarification of acceptance of new charges from TDC</p>	
<p>The Chairman has been monitoring the use and emptying of the bins over the last month. He confirmed that they are well used.          Cllr Evans stated that she empties the bin at the skate park which is usually full of dog waste. There is a dog waste bin near the gate of the recreation field and this should be used for that purpose. The other litter bins in the car park can also take dog waste. This information will be shared in Unity. The Council has accepted the new charges.  <b>ACTION – Note in Unity – not to put dog waste in the litter bin near the skate park. Accept the new charges.</b></p>	<p>CR</p>
<p><b>9) Housing needs Survey</b> - Update</p>	
<p>The surveys have been delivered. The deadline was 28<sup>th</sup> February and it will take 2-3 weeks for the data to be collected. The results will be released to the Parish Council after</p>	

that.	
<b>10) Annual Parish Meeting - Review</b>	
The government steps to leave lockdown do not match with the Coronavirus Act, therefore it was agreed to leave this on the agenda to be decided at a future meeting. <b>ACTION – add to the next agenda</b>	
<b>11) Toilet Cleaners – to discuss and decide contract cleaners</b>	
Commercial contractors have been contacted regarding the cleaning of the toilet block. I have also asked for advice from Teignmouth Town Council. It has been difficult to get a true like for like quote without an agreed schedule of work. Cllrs Slack and AJ Orme have agreed to look at the current letter of agreed services and will draw up an updated schedule to work from. <b>ACTION – send the original letter to councillors. Make a schedule of work to then seek quotes.</b>	AJO/RS
<b>12) Electric Charging points - discuss</b>	
This item has been raised following an email received through TDC for on street charging points, asking councils to register an interest for a grant bid. While there are limited suitable places on roads in Christow, the car park would seem to be an ideal place for a charging point. The Clerk will respond and suggest this. <b>ACTION – Clerk to respond</b>	CR
<b>13) Village Welcome pack/letter – to discuss and decide</b>	
This suggestion has come to the Parish Council through the CLT group. Several residents have supported this idea and the councillors discussed the best way forward. This could be a letter with links to websites giving further information about the village, its services and facilities. The first point of contact for ideas would be the Clerk and a meeting is being held on 31.3.21 at 2.30pm to discuss it further. The Clerk will attend. <b>ACTION Clerk to attend a meeting for more information</b>	CR
<b>14) Finance</b>	
<b>Expenditure:</b> Clerk's salary for February = £ 478.69 Clerks expenses = £ 81.90 SHS Cleaning for Toilets (Jan)191.89 +38.37 vat = £ 230.26 SHS Cleaning for Toilets (Feb)191.89 +38.37 vat = £ 230.26 HP Instant Ink = £ 3.49 <b>Bank Reconciliation and Statement:</b> The Chairman had checked the invoices and bank statement against the reconciliation statement with the clerk, both documents have been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting. Cllr K Evans proposed that the statement was correct, and payments should be issued. This was seconded by Cllr T Fidock, with all in favour.	
<b>15) MEETINGS ATTENDED:</b> to receive reports from councillors who have attended meetings on behalf of this Council.	
None attended.	
<b>The next Council meeting is Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2021, at 7.30pm. This will be a Zoom meeting.</b>	
There being no other business the meeting closed at 20.44pm.	

Signed.....

Date.....

Position.....

Email circulations during the past month	Paper circulation
<b>Item for next month's agenda</b>	
Annual Parish Meeting	

