

Christow Parish Council

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

Tel: 01364 661532

Email: clerk@christowparishcouncil.gov.uk

Minutes of the meeting of Christow Parish Council held on Tuesday, 5th October 2021 at 7.30pm in the Main Hall, Teign Valley Community Hall, Christow.

Present: Cllr T Archer
Cllr K Evans
Cllr J Newton
Cllr AJ Orme
Cllr J Orme
Cllr G Read

Also Present Carol Retallick (Clerk) and four members of the public

Cllr Archer welcomed everyone to the meeting. Thanked Cllr J Orme for providing refreshments

Minutes of council meeting	ACTION
1) Apologies and Acceptance for Absence:	
Cllr S Purser, Cllr Fidock	
2) Public Discussion – To allow any questions, reports by members of the public on any matters relating to the agenda of this meeting. <i>(The period of time designated for public participation shall not exceed 5 minutes).</i>	
No comments made.	
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.	
<p><u>DNPA P Woods</u> – Ms Woods reported the Revision of Byelaws by DNPA. She gave an overview of the reason for the review and that the current laws were written some 30 years ago and are now not fit for purpose. The new laws are intended to protect the national park. The Consultation document is available from the DNPA website with a deadline of November 1st after which the Officers will consider the responses and produce a final draft which will be sent to DEFRA before adoption.</p> <p>The Otters were auctioned off last weekend and the sale raised £69,000 before costs are taken. The profits from the auction will go toward conservation projects that bring visitors to Dartmoor benefiting local businesses. Cllr Read asked if other national parks are supporting the revision of the Byelaws, Ms Woods confirmed they are, as they frequently work together on projects.</p> <p><u>TDC Cllr Stephen Purser</u> - A few items from Teignbridge. I hope to attend meetings but please accept my apologies if I do not make it.</p> <p>Newton Abbot Bradley Lane to be developed after many years of discussion. Should provide 40% social / affordable housing.</p> <p>Walking and cycling consultation has closed.</p> <p>October half term sports camps at Dawlish and Newton Abbot leisure centres available, book online.</p> <p>Free training for Landlords on Thursday Oct 21st, book online.</p> <p>TDC no current fuel issues for refuse vehicles.</p> <p>Dogs now allowed on beaches.</p> <p>Stoptober, stop smoking campaign now live, see online help to give up smoking.</p> <p>Flu and Covid jabs now available.</p> <p>72 room Travelodge agreed for Newton Abbot</p> <p>Platinum Jubilee website open for Queen's Jubilee in 2022.</p> <p>As usual please contact me if you have any questions or queries.</p> <p><u>Lengthsman</u> - The grass verges were cut this month at Foxhole Hill, Layne playing fields and along the Bennah easement. The grass is still growing strongly, even as we enter autumn. We now do not cut anything in October and give everything a last</p>	

<p>final cut in November as the winter sets in and the grass should cease to grow anymore until spring 2022.</p> <p>The kerbsides throughout the main village were sprayed off with quite a lot having germinated since July's last spray.</p> <p>The bus shelter is starting to see more use as covid restrictions continue to be relaxed and schools are back, so litter is increasing. Other than that, the shelter itself is all good.</p> <p>This month saw my first visit to all the drains that are on the list for this coming winter. Where the lanes have recently been flailed, the drains were completely covered along Wet Lane, to the point they were invisible. I unearthed them and removed the flailing and made sure the manholes were completely clear. I had a conversation with a few villagers at the top of Dry Lane about the manhole cover, which is on DCC's radar, which cannot be moved, and is therefore currently fully blocked. I will wait to see if anything happens within the next month before reporting it to Highways again.</p> <p>The easement off Commons Hill was completely cut back and the channel dug out again as it had filled in during the summer months. The easements alongside the road before the junction at the bottom of Commons Hill were cut right back and all the arisings removed so this should help keep the water on the sides of the road for when we have a heavier than normal storm.</p> <p>All the buddle's on Bennah were rodded and are completely clear. I lifted and removed lots of grit and mud from the two manhole chambers on the Bennah lane so they are now flowing well and will allow sediment to be caught in the chambers rather than travel down the pipes. Unfortunately, I could not lift the manhole just beyond the junction which is completely full and overflowing onto the lane. I did not report this to Highways. Lastly, the drains running from the bottom of Church Lane to the church itself had all of their manhole covers lifted and their chambers emptied. Whilst doing this new drain to this year's drains list, two residents approached me to say thank you for doing it. I said I would pass on their thanks.</p> <p><u>DCC Cllr J Brooks</u> – the vaccination programme including vaccinations in school is moving forward with the recorded daily positive cases increasing. 140,000 children in Devon have tested positive.</p> <p>A few refugees from Afghanistan's have come to Exmouth and are being looked after by their families.</p> <p>DCC Children services was reported as being inadequate by Ofsted. There is a severe shortage of social workers nationally and an insufficient number of foster carers. These are linked and does not help to relieve the problems.</p> <p>There is a shortage of work force generally with less young people coming forward to join the Learn as you Earn schemes, and this is affecting all businesses. Currently the Highway's department have a staff shortage of 33. However, on the road network – key performance indicators for mending roads are keeping targets and the roads are in a reasonable condition at the moment.</p> <p>A consultation document for Climate Change has ended and DCC will now consider the responses to plan how to tackle climate change in Devon. Part of the document covered connectivity and the Okehampton rail link is nearly ready with new stations in Exeter. This new network is regarded as essential as the road and cycle routes. Finally, there are concerns that without major cash injection Devon will not meet the Carbon Markers by 2050.</p> <p>Cllr Newton asked about 20mph speed signs, Cllr Brooks does not expect these will be issued in this area until the Newton Abbot scheme has been delivered. He believes that visitors to the area will obey speed signs, but local people tend not to.</p>	
<p>5) Minutes – to approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on the 7th September 2021.</p>	
<p>These were signed as a true record of that meeting and signed</p>	<p>Approved</p>
<p>6) Clerks Report - Update on matters arising from the last meeting for information only</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairman and Clerk have investigated the security of the recreation gate. • The head of terms amended and sent with CPC request for the play area 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road Closures for tree works from 25th Oct to 29th Oct • External Audit has been finalised with one comment with regards to the notice of inspection • DNPA has a Byelaw Consultation out for public comment the deadline is 1st November 2021 • Email received from parishioner requesting a covered bike rack at Christow car park. • Allotment rent renewals posted and notice given on plots 1,3 and 9. • Defibrillator replacement cabinet ordered. • Men's Shed project. 	
7) Housing Developments in Christow – discussion and information only	
<p>The Chairman explained that there is no further update available at this time as the organisations involved are considering the site off Stafford Close and how they can meet the needs of the community. The amendments have been submitted into the Head of Terms Document and we are awaiting that to be returned to the council with the amendments.</p> <p>Any other land or site within the parish, that rumours have been circulating about being developed, would be a private matter and not the business of this council.</p>	
8) Flagpole - Update	
<p>Cllrs AJ Orme and J Newton – have looked at the flag pole and they believe it can be repaired.</p>	<p>Seek parts for repair – AJO & JN</p>
9) Play area Improvements – Update from site meeting	
<p>The Clerk, Cllrs Slack and Read met and reviewed the RoSPA report, quotes, and equipment. They suggest the council act on the pieces of equipment that have high risk by removing or fencing off.</p> <p>While there is a question mark over redevelopment of the site, it would seem not sensible to invest in something that may have to be moved, or if funding is given from a developer.</p> <p>Cllr Read gave more information about the items which have been highlighted</p> <p>Cllr Archer suggested getting a working party to dismantle the pieces that could be stored and remove the badly damaged items. The meeting also agreed to remove the damaged small cargo net and replace with a ramp.</p> <p>It was agreed to meet on Saturday 30th October 9.30am</p>	<p>Cllrs meet at play area to remove damaged equipment AJO,TA, JN, GR & JO refreshments 30.10.21 at 9.30am</p>
10) Allotments – future plans	
<p>The clerk informed the meeting that the rent renewals have been sent out. Notice has been given to the plots that will be affected by the cemetery extension. (<i>SO suspended for a MOP to speak</i>). The MOP has 2 plots in the area for the cemetery extension and she thinks they will continue to use the plot until the deadline date next year. She is concerned though with the weeds from the vacant plots. (<i>SO resumed</i>) – the meeting agreed to ask our grounds contractor to strim the vacant plots. Re-let any vacant plots to people from the cemetery extension area to other vacant plots and fill any remaining from people on the waiting list.</p>	<p>Grd Maint to strim vacant plots once plots filled with new tenants.</p>
11) Cemetery – discussion with regard to maintenance and future plans.	
<p>Clerk and Cllr J Orme have completed the cemetery inspection with a few more wobbly headstones – the relatives have been informed. The weeds were very noticeable during the inspection. We also noted the general lack of maintenance. During the Lengthsman meeting it was agreed he would visit the cemetery and prepare a quote for regular maintenance.</p> <p>The meeting agreed to look at the works contract for the Cemetery and bear in mind to review the tasks as necessary.</p>	<p>Review Maintenance contract at next meeting.</p>
12) Lengths man – update from working party.	
<p>Cllr Archer reported that the working party had met and reviewed the current contract. Some savings have been made and some slight amendments made to times of visits but not the number of visits to locations. The Lengthsman will calculate the</p>	<p>Revised contract at November</p>

new arrangements for the council to consider at their next meeting.	meeting																																												
13) Request to use the recreation field.																																													
Enquiry received to use part of the field by a church who are having an away day this Sunday. They have booked the hall as well.	Approved																																												
Second enquiry is for using an area outside the hall on the concrete next to the entrance to set up a BBQ for a wedding reception in September 2022.	Approved																																												
14) PLANNING - Dartmoor National Park Authority has asked for comments from the Parish Council on the following planning applications:																																													
<p>a) 0414/21 Proposal: Improve existing agricultural track Site address: track adjacent to Lower Commons, Christow Improve existing agricultural track Application type: Prior</p> <p>Object –out of character to its location to large and excessive construction over engineered and too industrial, no provision for flood water.</p> <p><u>Grant of Planning Condition</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 197/21 proposed construction of timber framed agricultural building and hardstanding and access track at Land off B3193 at Christow • 0390/21 Proposed Replacement and regularisation of combined garden room and garage outbuildings at Fairlands, Village Road, Christow • 0334/21 Internal alterations to provide fire safety measures, Canonteign Manor, Christow. 	Object																																												
15) Finance																																													
<p>Expenditure:</p> <table> <tr> <td>Clerk's salary for</td> <td>September</td> <td>= £</td> <td>522.09</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC</td> <td></td> <td>= £</td> <td>178.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E Fairs Invoice</td> <td></td> <td>= £</td> <td>412.32</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PKF Littlejohn Audit</td> <td>£200 + £40 vat</td> <td>= £</td> <td>240.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SHS Ltd</td> <td>£205.32 + 41.06 vat</td> <td>= £</td> <td>246.38</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HP Instant Ink</td> <td></td> <td>= £</td> <td>7.49</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DALC – Cllr Training</td> <td>£30 + £6 vat</td> <td>= £</td> <td>36.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SW Grounds Maintenance</td> <td>£280.47 + £56.09vat</td> <td>= £</td> <td>337.37</td> </tr> <tr> <td>The Defib pad</td> <td>£389.00 + £77.80 vat</td> <td>= £</td> <td>466.80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DD's:</td> <td>Pennon Water Services</td> <td>= £</td> <td>15.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Income:</td> <td>TDC Precept</td> <td></td> <td>£9724.85</td> </tr> </table> <p>Bank Reconciliation and Statement: The Chairman has checked invoices and bank statement against the reconciliation statement. Reconciliation and bank statement circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting. Cllr J Orme proposed the payments are made and agreed with the statements and Cllr Evans seconded the proposal with all in favour.</p>	Clerk's salary for	September	= £	522.09	HMRC		= £	178.00	E Fairs Invoice		= £	412.32	PKF Littlejohn Audit	£200 + £40 vat	= £	240.00	SHS Ltd	£205.32 + 41.06 vat	= £	246.38	HP Instant Ink		= £	7.49	DALC – Cllr Training	£30 + £6 vat	= £	36.00	SW Grounds Maintenance	£280.47 + £56.09vat	= £	337.37	The Defib pad	£389.00 + £77.80 vat	= £	466.80	DD's:	Pennon Water Services	= £	15.00	Income:	TDC Precept		£9724.85	
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16) MEETINGS ATTENDED: to receive reports from councillors who have attended meetings on behalf of this council or actions from the previous meetings																																													
No meetings attended																																													
The next Council Meeting is on Tuesday 2nd November 2021, at 7.30pm.																																													
There being no other business the meeting closed at 21.03pm																																													

Signed.....

Date.....

Position.....

Email circulations during the past month	Paper circulation
Item for next month's agenda	
Lengthsman contract/ Budget/Cemetery maintenance	