

# Christow Parish Council

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

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**Minutes of the meeting of Christow Parish Council held on Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022 at 7.30pm in the Bowden Room, Teign Valley Community Hall, Christow.**

Present: Cllr T Archer Cllr T Fidock Cllr J Newton  
Cllr AJ Orme Cllr J Orme Cllr G Read  
Cllr R Slack

Also present Carol Retallick (Clerk) and six members of the public  
Cllr Archer welcomed everyone to the meeting.

<b>Minutes of council meeting</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
<b>1) Apologies and Acceptance for Absence:</b>	
Cllr S Purser, Cllr Evans	
<b>2) Public Discussion</b> – 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>	
<p>A member of the public who had attended last month's meeting and had written to the Council with regard to the termination notice on his allotment plot, had received the answers to his queries but not the results of the council survey and asked for clarification of this. He asked the Council to defer any decision making of the cemetery extension until he had chance to consider the answers provided. The Chairman noted his comments but explained that the Councillors had received the information to make a decision and that the results of the survey would not be disclosed until the item was discussed among the Councillors. The gentleman would like all the allotment holders to be part of the discussions and have the opportunity to analyse the information provided. The number of vacant plots was discussed. The gentleman concluded by advising that should a decision be made this evening, he would be lodging a complaint and suggested that the manner in which this matter had been dealt with was outdated and medieval. He offered to advise the Council on how to consult with the public on future matters.</p> <p>Another member of the public asked how long before a meeting is information circulated. The Chairman confirmed that it is not unusual for information to be circulated one or two days before the meeting, especially if the information helps the Councillors to be fully informed regarding the items which are to be discussed. The same member of public thanked the Council for displaying the draft minutes from last month's meeting.</p>	
<b>3) Declarations Of Interest:</b> In accordance with the Code of Conduct.	
None declared	
<b>4) District, County Councillor's, DNPA Ranger/Representative Forestry Commission Officer, Police and Lengthsman</b> - to receive reports.	
<p><u>TDC Cllr S Purser</u> – Covid rules have changed again with the lifting of restrictions although care for your own safety is still advised.</p> <p>Omicron hospitality and leisure grants for businesses are available and up to £6000 per business. Please apply online.</p> <p>There are changes coming from BT, albeit 2026, on when the use of copper wire for analogue phones will change. This may well affect those people who have broadband through a copper wire supply, even if only a short length from a cabinet and businesses who have a mini exchange run through copper wire. I am researching this further and will keep you updated.</p> <p>Not too late to complete the Garden Birdwatch.</p> <p><u>Lengthsman reports</u> - Having had a few days light rain and forecast for more I made the most of getting out and doing the last round of drain clearing as part of this year's Lengthsman contract.</p>	

<p>There was an awful lot of surface water coming down through the village from Church Lane. So much in fact, that it back blocked and backed up the drain outside the church and was overflowing the easement which goes into a pipe and under the Community Hall car park. I unblocked the easement beside the car park so that the water ceased overflowing onto the road and then set about uncovering and then rodding each drain between the car park and Church Lane. I managed to get all but one flowing.</p> <p>Unfortunately, the drain outside the church is blocked somewhere downhill beyond the reach of my rodding poles. I went downhill and tried to rod up but to no avail. This blockage is causing the water to back up and then flow overland from the church all the way down to the car park as it is now on the side of the road where there are no drains. Due to the good camber on the road and the steepness of the lane I feel as though the water will stay beside the kerb and not be an imminent standing water risk in terms of ice. However, I would suggest contacting Highways and asking them to blast the pipe with their pressure hose.</p> <p>The easements on Commons Hill were all choked full of flailings and the manhole blocked where the neighbours have flailed their hedge back. This was all cleared and removed from site.</p> <p>All the rest of drains were swept clear of leaves, silt and flailing so that they were all flowing clear.</p> <p>The bus shelters were all clear and tidy. I am due to visit the bus shelter one more time this month.</p>	
<p><b>5) Minutes</b> – to approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022.</p>	
<p>Signed as a true record of that meeting.</p>	
<p><b>6) Clerks Report</b> - Update on matters arising from the last meeting for information only</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• My husband &amp; I joined volunteers to make a start on tidying up the cemetery. The trees at the entrance have been trimmed back and the grass edges around the monkey puzzle have been trimmed.</li> <li>• Met with the highways officer and visited Bridford Rd and Commons Hill spoke to landowners and making a plan to improve the route of the water there as possible.</li> <li>• Attended Police Neighbourhood TEAMS meeting and raised the point of PC's nonattendance at meetings. We were promised more commitment from officers and more attendance at meetings. Asked about Community Speed which was also raised by Cllr Evans.</li> <li>• Attended Community pay back TEAMS meeting – potential to be useful in this parish once all covid restriction lifted. Following on there is another meeting planned for 23<sup>rd</sup> March again via TEAMS</li> <li>• Attended DNPA local plan meeting interesting but only covered how the plan developed and the aims of the new document. The plan has been adopted by the Park on December 21 and is available through their website.</li> <li>• Queen's garden party – nominations invited</li> <li>• Play area inspections are booked for March</li> <li>• Local Bus service will end in February and the contract has ended, DCC are looking for a new service provider.</li> <li>• CPC has been awarded £2000 towards the 21-22 Lengthsman contract from HMCE Fund</li> <li>• The hall booking in March which was going to use the car park has been cancelled – I have informed the organiser of the farmers market and left it with them if they wish to use the car park in March.</li> <li>• There will be interruptions to the power in the public toilets on 17<sup>th</sup> February 1-hour in the morning and 2 in the early evening.</li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dry lane will be closed for 1 day in June by Western Power details will go onto our website</li> <li>• Spoken to hedge cutter contractor who explained the reasons for only cutting cemetery hedge at the moment. This is due to work scheduling and safety.</li> <li>• Still dog waste is being placed in the bin at the skate park which is being emptied by our councillor – can we add this to next month’s agenda to think of a different style of bin to discourage dog waste from being placed in it.</li> </ul>	
<b>7) Allotments and Cemetery Extension – To discuss and decision</b>	
<p>The revised extension plan had been circulated to the Councillors for consideration. The Councillors had received all the information regarding this and the requirements for the extension together with the forecasts of plots needed for the next 40 and 50 years. Cllr Archer proposed that the revised plan is accepted, and this was seconded by Cllr Fidock.</p> <p><i>Standing Orders were then suspended</i> for a member of the public to speak. He informed the meeting that he would be making a complaint regarding the process the Council has taken, Cllr Archer assured the member of public that the process was correct and the only matter which could have been altered would be consulting all allotment holders and not just the tenants which were being affected. He apologised for that. Cllr Fidock noted that the decisions the Council make are for the benefit of the whole parish. The member of the public was still unhappy and renewed his offer to advise the Council on the way to consult with the public.</p> <p><i>Standing Orders resumed.</i></p> <p><u>DCC Cllr J Brook</u> – reported that the DCC proposed budget for 2022-2023 will increase the Band D properties up by £45. The allowances for Adult Care and Children’s Services will increase but they will still struggle to provide the same amount of care and there is a high demand. Highways and maintenance will increase by £200k, Councillor’s Locality Budget has been reduced to £8,000. Every budget is extremely difficult to set, and it will tough for some households. Cllr Brook thinks that the budget with the recommendations will be accepted in February.</p> <p>The debt from the Education Department through statementing of children with special needs is in the region of £80 million. It is hoped that some of this debt will be settled by central government.</p> <p>DCC have made provision within their procedures and protocol for climate change and meeting the target for becoming carbon neutral. However, this may have an economic impact for vulnerable groups and families on low incomes. It is hoped that these matters are considered when making the changes.</p> <p>Cllr Newton asked if DCC have considered what will happen to the batteries from electric cars once they are no longer useable, Cllr Brook could not answer this query. All authorities have been tasked to create a climate plan and hopefully there will be a sensible solution to many of the issues which are created from the new plans.</p> <p>(Cllr Brook left the meeting)</p>	<p><b>Agreed to create Cemetery extension from revised plan.</b></p>
<b>8) Annual Parish Meeting – to set a date</b>	
<p>The Councillors agreed on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April with an early evening start at 6pm. The topics of mobile reception and broad band provision will be discussed. The children from Christow Community School will be invited to the meeting to discuss the letters they sent to the Council.</p>	<p><b>Invite School children.</b></p>
<b>9 Asset &amp; Tree inspection – set a date for councillors’ inspection</b>	
<p>The Councillors agreed to meet on Saturday February 26<sup>th</sup> at 10am at the allotments field.</p>	<p><b>ALL</b></p>
<b>10) Queens Jubilee – discussion and decision</b>	
<p>The meeting discussed a tea party either on the street or at the recreation field on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June. If held at the field, the tables and chairs could be borrowed. The tea party would be arranged as a bring your own food event.</p> <p>A working party was agreed to consider the details of any celebrations and or any souvenirs i.e., mug, coin, toy etc.</p> <p>Local organisations should be invited to help organise the celebrations such as the WI,</p>	<p><b>Working party Cllrs Archer, Fidock and Newton. Ask for</b></p>

the school and the church. Christow would like to join the beacon lighting on Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June The Clerk noted that there has not been an allowance included within the precept so any funding would need to be through grants. The Council will seek other suggestions and ideas through Unity.	<b>ideas for celebrations in Unity</b>																																	
<b>11) PLANNING - Dartmoor National Park Authority has asked for comments from the Parish Council on the following planning applications:</b>																																		
<p>a) 0012/22 Proposed: Alterations and extension to dwelling at 8 St James Place, Wet Lane, Christow. <b>No objection</b></p> <p>b) 0026/22 Proposed: Retrospect garage at Rockway, Foxhole Hill, Christow. SO Suspended for residents to speak - they are concerned as the building is bigger than the original plan that was withdrawn. There is a lot of noise being produced from the site. <b>Strong Objection - the building is disproportionate for the site of the plot. It is an unreasonable use of the land. The building has been built without permission. The vehicle access is not adequate for its use.</b></p> <p><u>Grant of Planning</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0660/21 Proposed revised porch, side extension, rear extension, alterations to include change of window frame colour to anthracite grey and additional off-road parking, Tralawny, Christow.</li> </ul>																																		
<b>12) Finance</b>																																		
<p><b>Expenditure:</b></p> <table> <tr> <td>Clerk's salary for January</td> <td></td> <td>= £ 522.09</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SHS Ltd</td> <td>£205.32 + 41.06 vat</td> <td>= £ 246.38</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HP Instant Ink</td> <td></td> <td>= £ 9.49</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DALC – Cllr Training inv 3391</td> <td>£30 + £6 vat</td> <td>= £ 36.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rhinos Play deposit for Croc Swing</td> <td>1962.50 + vat 392.50</td> <td>= £ 2355.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Clerks and Councils Direct subscription</td> <td></td> <td>= £ 12.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E Fairs Inv No 153</td> <td></td> <td>= £ 261.29</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SW Grounds Maintenance Inv 141</td> <td>£276.66+ 55.33 vat</td> <td>= £ 331.99</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vision ICT Biennial fee for Domain name</td> <td>£65 + £13vat</td> <td>= £ 78.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vision ICT Web hosting, support, emails</td> <td>£338 + 67.60vat</td> <td>= £ 405.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>DD's:</b> Pennon water Services</td> <td></td> <td>= £ 15.00</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>Bank Reconciliation and Statement:</b> 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 J Newton seconded the proposal, with all in favour.</p>	Clerk's salary for January		= £ 522.09	SHS Ltd	£205.32 + 41.06 vat	= £ 246.38	HP Instant Ink		= £ 9.49	DALC – Cllr Training inv 3391	£30 + £6 vat	= £ 36.00	Rhinos Play deposit for Croc Swing	1962.50 + vat 392.50	= £ 2355.00	Clerks and Councils Direct subscription		= £ 12.00	E Fairs Inv No 153		= £ 261.29	SW Grounds Maintenance Inv 141	£276.66+ 55.33 vat	= £ 331.99	Vision ICT Biennial fee for Domain name	£65 + £13vat	= £ 78.00	Vision ICT Web hosting, support, emails	£338 + 67.60vat	= £ 405.00	<b>DD's:</b> Pennon water Services		= £ 15.00	<b>Authorised and agreed</b>
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<b>13) MEETINGS ATTENDED:</b> to receive reports from councillors who have attended meetings on behave of this council or actions from the previous meetings																																		
None attended																																		
<b>The next Council meeting is Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022, at 7.30pm in the Bowden Room at TVCH.</b>																																		
There being no other business the meeting closed at 21.12pm																																		

Signed..... Date.....

Position.....

Item for next month's agenda