

Christow Parish Council

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

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Minutes of the meeting of Christow Parish Council held on Tuesday, 4th October 2022 at 7.30pm in the Main Hall, Teign Valley Community Hall, Christow.

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

Also, present Carol Retallick (Clerk) and 4 members of the public

Cllr Archer welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes of Council meeting	ACTION
1) Apologies and acceptance for Absence	
Received from Cllr Purser, Fidock and Slack	
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>	
Cllr Newton noted that the bins were nearly a week late to be cleared last week and asked if the council could write to express the councillor's disappointment with the current service.	
3) Declarations of Interest: In accordance with the Code of Conduct.	
Cllr Archer declared in interest for item 12b on this agenda.	
4) County, District Councillor's, DNPA Ranger/Representative, Forestry Commission officer, Police and Lengthsman - to receive reports.	
<p>Cllr S Purser – TDC Clearly the refuse collection service is currently and for some time has been experiencing considerable difficulties. These arise in no specific order to staff shortages of drivers and loaders, sickness, abuse aimed at operatives and occasional vehicle breakdowns. As we see every day on the news there is a significant shortage of people prepared to do a range of jobs even though the pay has been increased and will be again.</p> <p>A radio recruitment campaign launched on Monday.</p> <p>Please be patient and do not take it out on the operatives.</p> <p>Devon carbon plan was launched yesterday and more information on website.</p> <p>Teignbridge lottery virtual launch today wed 28th.</p> <p>Let's talk teenagers sessions now online see website for more information.</p> <p>If you want covid and flu vaccine now available see NHS for details or GP surgery or pharmacy for flu jabs.</p> <p>Stoptober launched to help smokers quit, search online for help and advice.</p> <p><u>Paul Wilson (PCSO 30382) Chudleigh Police Officer</u> - PC David Hawkins has now taken over the role of Neighbourhood Beat Manager (NBM) for the area and is already out and about meeting members of the community</p> <p>In the period, 1st September 2022 to 30th September 2022 was 1 recorded offence in the Christow area, an assault.</p> <p>Police responded to 7 other non-crime incidents in this period.</p> <p>For the year so far from 1st of January 2022 to 30th September 2022 there has been a total of 12 recorded offences, which is 1 more than the same period in 2021 (+9.1%)</p> <p>Other incidents responded to by the Police in the same period in the Christow area are down by approximately 2.4%. Bearing in mind for part of this period in 2021 we were in lockdown; this figure is positive.</p> <p>I believe that the figures above continue to show, Christow remains a very safe place to both live and work.</p> <p>It is important that the Police work with all parts of the Community to find innovative ways to ease some of the issues that affect daily lives. If anyone has any ideas how we can better connect to our communities, we will welcome their ideas</p> <p><u>Lengthsman Report</u> - The drains along Bennah were all completely choked with</p>	

<p>stone and debris when visited. One of the neighbours came out to thank me as I was clearing it and asked how they go about getting all of the debris from the road cleared. I directed them to Highways. Apparently, it had all washed down in the previous days rains and was largely caused by the tractor driving up Bennah and onto the By-way which then loosened the earth which was then carried by the rainwater. Other than closing the by-way or resurfacing the by way I am not really sure what else can be done to resolve this issue. From the Lengthsman point of view it just means the drains will be continually filling each time there is a heavy rain but that is why we ensure we visit this section as often as we do.</p> <p>The hedges had been flailed along Dry Lane, so the drains were completely covered. The hedge debris was removed from site and disposed of away from any other drainage areas to avoid just relocating the problem.</p> <p>There was a large amount of debris along the drains in the village, presumably that which has washed down from Bennah. This was cleared and the manhole chambers cleared to allow water to flow, ready for when the rains return.</p> <p>The tap in the men's toilet has a considerable leak. I tried to tighten up the nut's underneath, but it is a leak at a joint which needs a special plastic joint key to tighten it. I do not have one of these. The amount of water leaking is quite a lot, and this will be happening 24/7. Whether or not a water meter is involved we really should get this resolved as a matter of urgency, particularly as we are still in a declared drought.</p> <p>As requested, I replaced the hanging post in the village hall car park into the field. The old post was well and truly concreted into the ground so was incredibly hard work digging it out in its entirety. I eventually managed to remove it and then replaced it with a locally sourced Chestnut post. This post weighs an absolute tonne and will be far more durable than any treated softwood post is nowadays. I rehung the gate and tweaked the latch so that it all closed fine. Just a note as well to say that the gate can easily be opened, despite being padlocked. By positioning the padlock in a particular way means the gate just can swing open without knowing the padlock code. You may wish to remedy this by replacing the padlock with a thicker padlock. Having rehung the gate, I reattached the post and rail to it all. In the long term you may wish to replace the fence post adjacent to the gate as it is also broken off at ground level. This is likely to have been caused by the weight of the dog poo bin and the lean of the broken hanging post causing additional stress on the fence post. I have secured it so it is safe for now, but I cannot guarantee for how long it will be OK. Re-locating the dog poo bin to a different post or location would certainly help reduce the weight on this bit of fencing so could be a short-term solution.</p>	
<p>5) Minutes – To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 6th September 2022</p>	
<p>An amendment made to remove Cllr Fidock from being present as her apologies were sent. These were then signed as a true record of that meeting.</p>	<p>Approved after correction</p>
<p>6) Clerks Report - Update on matters arising from the last meeting for information only</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External Audit completed and notices displayed on Website – No action was taken. • Line marking has been completed in the TVCH car park • Broken/damaged finger posts within the parish have been reported online to DCC • New Neighbourhood Police Officer details have been forwarded to all councillors • The tree work in the car park will take place on the 13th December. • Another allotment plot has been rented out, 2 people on the waiting list were called but no response from them. • 2 tonne of road salt has been ordered ready for the winter • A Wasps nest was reported at Laynes Field play area, A pest control contractor was contacted and dealt with the large nest today. • SLCC meeting the main topic for discussion was next year elections 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DALC attending AGM tomorrow 	
7) Operation London Bridge – Book of Condolence	
Following the death of our Queen, a condolence book was available in the church and the council agreed that the completed pages should be given to the history group for safe keeping.	Give to history group
8) Grant Application – to consider an application	
The application has been circulated to the councillors for consideration. Acorn have requested £250 to pay for the hall rental to run a drop-in session for the community. Cllr J Orme proposed that the application should be granted, and this was seconded by Cllr Newton with all in favour	Approved
9) Lengthsman duties, annual review – to set a time and date for working party to review the contract of tasks	
The working group consists of Councillors AJ Orme, J Orme, T Archer and Clerk. Also, E Fairs tends to attend. Wednesday 19 th October at 1.30pm at Chairmans house.	19.10.22 at 1.30pm
10) Grounds Maintenance contract – to review the details of the contract for publication	
The revised tender documents have been circulated to all ready for publication. Councillors all agreed the details were accurate.	Approved
11) Play Park - Update	
Cllr Slack was not available to give details, however the steps have been repaired.	
12) Recreation Field -	
to consider request to use the field – a) Country Club organiser has planned her annual fund raising event for 24 th November and would like to invite the Farmers market that would be pitched on the edge of the field. While the councillors are keen to support the event the decision will have to be delayed until nearer the time and weather dependant Doddicombsleigh have their annual Art show at the end of October and would like to have use of the field, again the council are happy to grant permission, but it will be dependant on the weather. It was agreed the Chairman will make the final decision b) Request to plant a tree – The Christow Show committee have asked to plant a tree in the field in recognition of Sam and Mary Archer’s supporting the show. Cllr Archer declined take any part of this discussion. The meeting agreed to grant the request and suggested a Rowan is planted on left of path towards the village hall. (Below Bob Baber’s tree) c) Contribution towards Wi-Fi connection - This request is being presented again following the receipt of an invoice for £70. It has been 6mths since the last decision, the reason for refusal is still the same however if the hall committee would like to apply for a grant this could be taken from this year grant budget. The councillors would like to ask the hall committee if the Wi-Fi could be improved more as it crashed on show day.	
13) Informal consultation on proposals for the diversion of public rights of way at Bowden Farm, Christow Footpath no. 6 (Christow) (two sections) Footpath no. 5 (Christow) and Bridleway no 4 (Christow)	
Footpath no 6 – No objection Footpath no 5 – No Objection Cllr Archer <i>suspended the Standing Orders</i> to ask if the paths would be fenced - no they won’t There is an intention to fence the whole of the bridle path so public would not be affected by livestock. Gradient from F-G would not be any steeper than it is now. Cllr Newton asked if the bridleway and the footpaths would cross, it was confirmed that they would be, and it would be managed with gates. <i>Standing Orders were resumed</i> Bridleway no 4 – no objection	No objection
14) Request for work on allotments – to consider and decision	
New allotment holders at Plot 16 has made 2 requests 1. for a small polytunnel and 2. To make a new wider gate way on the north	Authorised new gate

side of the boundary fence to received manure. The meeting authorised this request, however they would like more details of size and how it would be fixed	opening. More details needed for poly tunnel
15) Finance	
<p>Expenditure: Clerk's salary for September = £ 522.09 HMRC = £ 178.00 PKF Littlejohn's External Audit = £ 240.00 SHS Ltd toilets = £ 302.40 HP Instant Ink for September = £ 20.49 E Fairs for August to September = £ 610.55 Devon Maintenance Plus Line painting in Car Park = £ 240.00 Devon Maintenance Plus Repair to play equipment = £ 933.60 Viking Direct – Stationery = £ 71.80 PCM Removal of wasps nest = £ 90.00 SW Grounds Maintenance = £ 336.56 Grant cheque = £ 250.00</p> <p>DD's: Pennon water Services = £ 27.50 Source for Business water at Toilets = £ 47.95</p> <p>Income: TDC Precept = £ 10,211.09</p> <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 Evans Proposed the payments and agreed the statement details and Cllr Read seconded with all in favour.</p>	Authorised and agreed
16) MEETINGS ATTENDED: to receive reports from councillors who have attended meetings on behave of this council or actions from the previous meetings	
Cllr Newton attended an Online meeting with Rural Village Services group, and he found it difficult to follow the content of the meeting. He attended this as a free session, however, to attend more meeting would cost but he did not fell it would be beneficial to the council to attend any further meetings	
The next Council meeting is Tuesday 1st November 2022, at 7.30pm in the Main Hall at TVCH.	

There being no other business the meeting closed at 20.44pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Position.....