

MINUTES OF CHRISTLETON PARISH COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING

INCORPORATING KING GEORGE'S TRUST

Held on TUESDAY, 14th January 2020 at 7.30 pm

At Christleton Methodist Church Hall

SIGNED

Present Cllrs Luke Henley (Chairman) Elizabeth Inall, Mike McGarva, Damian Murphy, John Beckett Janet Brown, John Eccles & Susan Robson

In Attendance: CWAC Cllr Stuart Parker, 3 members of the Air Quality Working Group, Littleton Parish Councillor & 1 member of the College of Law Strategy Group.

Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Cllr Elizabeth Inall and Cllr John Eccles declared an interest in agenda item 8c – to consider request from St. James Church for financial support for tree works in graveyard.

Minutes of the last Meeting

1. The Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 3rd December 2019 were approved and signed as a true and correct record.
2. The Minutes of Christleton Parish Council Traffic Meeting held on Monday 16th December 2019 were not signed to allow further discussion at the February Meeting in connection with paragraph 4 concerning clarification on the subject of displaced vehicles and insufficient car parking matters.

Public Forum

3. There were no issues brought up in the public forum section.

Planning

Planning Applications

4. A list of planning application previously circulated to all Councillors was considered. Comments were noted by the Clerk for submission to CWAC Planning Authority. All comments can be viewed on CWAC website.

Update on meeting with Developers of College of Law site.

5. The College of Law Strategy Group met with the Chairman of the Developer owner of the CoL site together with a Planning Consultant and Surveyor.
6. The group were presented with two very different draft proposals for the site, giving an indication of the size of development that they hope to achieve.
7. Option 1 – 28 homes for private sale, 10 adapted bungalows, intended for social rent to independent tenants (not sheltered housing or care facility). The listed building would house the offices of the developers Trust Foundation and other business interests which would create employment for 25 people. The timescale for this development would be in the region of two years to complete.
8. Option 2 – A retirement village comprising 110 dwellings, leisure facilities (for the use of the village) and a restaurant. The communal facilities would be in existing listed building and an extension to the rear. This development would take in the region of four to five years to complete.
9. A lengthy discussion then ensued with particular emphasis on what planning gain benefits would be available to the village, the C o L group provided the developer with an overview of current challenges faced by the village and areas in which we might want funding assistance,

- particularly looking at parking provision and with potential plans for re-engineering the centre of the village to ease traffic and air quality issues.
10. Cllr Henley voiced his grave concerns with potential erosion of the Green Belt, this was a major factor with the previous proposed development of this site and formed a substantial part in the objections to that planning submission which was refused, along with increase in traffic, infrastructure issues and both schools being at full capacity.
 11. The developer is keen to work with the Parish Council and be a 'good neighbour' to the wider community and will also look into alternative access options to the site to avoid inevitable building traffic vehicles coming through the village.
 12. It was agreed at this stage not to favour either ideas put forward and to go back to the developer to explore more fully the planning gains the village could expect.
The following motion was put to the members: To continue to engage with developer without committing the Parish Council to support any particular plan or scheme. The current areas of interest from the Parish Council lies in maximising the planning gain to the benefit of the village and its population. Particularly looking at car parking and re-engineering the centre of the village.
A vote on the motion was carried by 7 for the motion and 1 abstention.
Action: The Strategy Group will contact the Developer for further discussions on this matter.

To discuss Neighbourhood Planning following presentation at the December Meeting

13. This item was deferred to a later meeting.
Item 8a was b/fwd

Report from Air Quality Working Group

14. A very comprehensive and far reaching report was presented to the meeting by the group which highlighted their findings following months of monitoring air quality in and around the centre of the village, from the A51 to A41, Pepper Street, A41 cycle path and across the Hamburger roundabout, Littleton A51 junction to Vicars Cross Golf Club and Little Heath Road to the A51, all of these locations are routes to schools used by children.
15. The levels of pollution identified in the report from A41 through Christleton Village to the A51 is comparable to larger urban locations like Bolton, Bournemouth, Leicester, Edinburgh, Manchester, Newcastle, Liverpool, to name just a few of over seventy locations throughout the UK.
16. Failure to act in Christleton and Littleton could result in fine particles penetrating deep into the lungs and cardiovascular system of young children with long term consequences of strokes, heart disease, and other respiratory problems if nothing is done to alleviate the problem.
17. The Air Quality Working Group are working with the Traffic Working Group on this issue and will continue to keep the Parish Council updated on their progress.
18. Cllr Murphy proposed a vote of thanks to all those who have been instrumental in collecting and collating all the data contained in this report.

Traffic & Road Safety

19. It was reported that progress with a number of agreed actions from the December Traffic Meeting were ongoing:
H- Bars – all residents affected with this action have been contacted and all, but one, has confirmed agreement to have H-Bars outside their properties.
Location and design of the buildouts and gateways are progressing and will be brought back to the Parish Council for agreement.
Vehicle Activated Sign (VAR) – This matter is progressing, and it was confirmed that the actual cost of the VAR is £5000 of which CWAC Highways are contributing £2500 towards the cost.

20. Cllr Eccles confirmed that a Speedwatch Workshop has been arranged for volunteers on Friday 21st January 2020.

To discuss employing a Civic Architect to hold workshop on ways of improving village centre and costs involved.

21. The issues highlighted in the Air Quality Working Group report and recommendations from the Traffic Working Group to find ways to help combat the issues presented in the report. The first step is to reduce the flow of traffic through the village, congestion, gridlock and other safety related problems and to look for fundamental changes and understand what it is possible to achieve, lots of little things can be achieved without too much cost by consulting a Civic Architect.

Resolved: To arrange with a Civil Architect, for a workshop at a cost of £1500 as a beginning to re-engineering the village centre. TWG members and Cllrs Inall, Eccles & Murphy to form the workshop.

Action: Cllr Beckitt to action this item.

Update for the Asset Working Group

22. There was nothing to report at this meeting.

King George's Trust Items

To approve expenditure for January 2020

23. There was no expenditure to approve this month

To arrange a liaison meeting with Christleton Sports Club

24. The Clerk will contact the Secretary of the Sports Club to arrange a meeting but following the recent criminal damage to the premises this may have to be deferred until such time as the club is back in operation.

Update on improvements to the First Field

25. The groundwork contractor is to prepare a square in the centre of the field, with intensive rolling and additional mowing to try to create a suitable area fit for sporting use.

Monthly Inspection for Little Heath Play Area and Bike Track

26. There were no immediate issues to report this month, but it was noted that the level of play bark around the equipment was quite low. This will be addressed along with topping up the play sand in the Spring.

Allotments

To receive a report from the Allotment Group

27. There was no report this month, but the Clerk confirmed that matters regarding plot holders of uncultivated plots is still being monitored and a further inspection will be carried out before the end of March prior to next year's rent reminder being sent.

Update on Land Registry

28. This matter is being put on hold until later in the year

Finance

29. The following expenditure was approved.

ORGANISATION		
Sue Thwaite – Clerk Expenses for December 2019	113.62	LGA 1972 – Sec 112
Water Plus – Allotment Water Charges	7.81	Small Holding & Allotments Act 1908
Boughton Heath Allotment Association – Excavating pothole at entrance to site, filling and Tarmac finish	530.00	Small Holding & Allotments Act 1908
The National Allotment Society – Annual Subscription	66.00	Small Holding & Allotments Act 1908
Rob Piece – Roadside Clearance (6 hrs) & Re-furbish hinges and gate for Church Footpath	234.00	Open Spaces Act 1906
No Prior Approval Payments		
Sue Thwaite Clerk – Salary for December 2019 & Additional hrs for November 2019	597.15	LGA 1972 – Sec 111
HMRC – PAYE DECEMBER 2019	171.37	LGA 1972 – Sec 2
Derek Garner – Village Asst Pay & expenses DECEMBER 2019	76.30	LGA 1972 – Sec 112
Christleton Methodist Church – room hire JANUARY 2020	25.00	LGA 1972 – Sec 111
INCOME: Bank interest		
Bank Balances – @ 20/12/19		
H/I Account	74147.47	
Current A/C	101.83	
Dredging A/C	11041.81	

To agree budget and precept for financial year 2020/2021

30. The budget forecast for the next financial year was circulated and discussed at length and considered the ongoing cost of taking forward the traffic strategy – the expected cost of agreed proposals to date will be in the region of £18,000 at the time of this meeting.
Resolved: Two scenarios were put forward to the Council and it was agreed unanimously that the lower figure of £63,000 would be submitted to CWAC as the precept for 2020/2021 financial year.
Acton: Clerk to action this item.

To consider request from St. James Church for financial support for tree works in graveyard

31. A request from St. James Church for financial assistance toward the cost of tree works in the churchyard of over £3000 was discussed with two amounts being considered of £1000 or £500 to donate towards the costs.
Resolved: To either donate the sum of £1000 or £500 towards these costs was put to the meeting and a vote on the amount was taken with 3 voting to donate £1000 and 3 voting to donate £500, as the vote was split between the eligible members the Chairman used his

casting vote and the amount of £500 was passed. . This resolution is in accordance with its powers under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 that the Council should incur this expenditure as it is in the interest of the area or its inhabitants.

Action: Clerk to action this item

Christleton Schools

Update from Christleton High School

32. There was nothing to report at this meeting, but it was agreed to try to arrange a Liaison Meeting with the school in February 2020.

Update from Christleton Primary School

33. There was nothing to report at this meeting.

Monthly Inspection Report

Capesthorpe Road Community Orchard

34. There were not issues to report to this meeting.

Action Items

Before these items were discussed the Chairman informed the meeting the he had received a letter of resignation from the Clerk to the Council, following 17 years in the position she has decided to retire. The Clerk confirmed that April will be her last meeting to give enough time for her replacement to be found and give them time to work together for a smooth transition and continuity in the administration of the Council.

Update on Little Mere Management Co Ltd with traffic concerns on Little Heath

35. The Chairman confirmed the terms contained within Road Management Agreement for Little Mere and the Parish Council and he would be liaising with the Chairman of Little Mere Management to discuss the matter further.

To discuss repair/replacement of sandstone post for gate by St James footpath

36. The Council's general contractor has looked at the state of the damaged sandstone post and advised that a qualified stonemason inspect the damage and advise whether it can be repaired or to replace with a new post.
37. It was also queried whether this footpath came under the remit of the Parish Council or CWAC, the Clerk will contact Public Rights of Way department to ascertain whose responsibility it is.
38. In the meantime, a Stonemason will be contact to assess the best way forward.

Action: - The Clerk and Cllr Beckitt to action this item.

To consider Waverton/Rowton Parish Council's enquire about hosting VE Day celebration event.

39. At the time of this meeting the Parish Council has not considered any plans to hold an event for VE Day.

To discuss request to support Local Electricity Bill

40. It was agreed not to support this matter

To discuss project to submit to CWAC member budget grant

41. CWAC Cllr Parker confirmed that the deadline for submissions for this financial year has closed, but a further submission would be considered in the next financial year.

Information Correspondence

- 41 Information correspondence: a list of items received has been circulated to member prior to the meeting

Information only items

- 42 Update on placing a defibrillator in the telephone box was given to the meeting by the Clerk, this is still ongoing and further updates will be available at the February meeting. A query from the Bridge Club to install a defibrillator on the outside of their premises had been received.
- 43 A Meeting with Parish & Town Council Representatives has been arranged for Tuesday 28th January 2020 at 6.30 pm at Cheshire Constabulary Headquarters to meet with Police & Crime Commissioner David Keane.

Dates of the next meetings: Tuesday 04/02/2020 & 03/03/2020

Meeting closed at 9.37 pm.