

MINUTES OF CHRISTLETON PARISH COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING

INCORPORATING KING GEORGE'S TRUST

Held on Tuesday 11th August 2020

Via ZOOM Virtual Meeting

APPROVED

Present Cllr Luke Henley (Chairman) Susan Robson, John Beckitt, John Eccles, Elizabeth Inall, Kate Sinclair, Damian Murphy & Janet Brown.

In Attendance: CWAC Cllr Stuart Parker, Jan Nowland (TWG) Paul Sinclair (Cycling Group), 8 members of the public & Sue Thwaite (Clerk)

Apologies: There were no apologies for this meeting.

Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests.

Minutes of the last Meeting

1. The Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 14th July 2020 were approved as a true and correct record and will be formally signed by the Chairman following lockdown restrictions being lifted.

Public Forum

2. The members of the public presents were attending the meeting in connection with the item concerning suggested parking provision outside the Primary School on Quarry Lane, which is part of item 7a – Update on Planit-E proposals.
3. Cllr Stuart Parker informed the meeting that CWAC would be resuming meetings in September after the August break.
4. Cllr Parker informed the Council that CWAC were compiling a list of names of volunteers who have performed outstandingly during the COVID pandemic to receive an award for their services

Planning

Planning Applications

5. 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 University of Law Development

6. Cllr Eccles referred to the July exchange of correspondence between the Parish Clerk and Bridgemere, subsequently circulated to all councillors. As the matter of the temporary access route is being dealt with by Will Heath within the Developer's organisation it was agreed that if nothing further was heard on the exact location the Clerk would write directly to him prior to the next meeting.
7. No further correspondence has been received from Littleton Parish Council.
8. Cllr Eccles & Beckitt have also followed up with Bridgemere their willingness to consider potential contributions towards environmental benefits, mentioned to the Parish Council in April alongside forthcoming Planit proposals.

Update on Beechmoor Nursery Development

9. Retirement Villages are carrying out a further consultation on the second stage on their plans for a retirement village on the site of the former Beechmoor Nurseries. Their newsletter outlining the proposals and questionnaire for comments is currently being circulated to Christleton residents.
10. The Parish Council has been invited to participate in a ZOOM meeting with the developers to be updated on the plans in more detail. This was agreed and the date to be confirmed.

Consultation & Engagement

11. Cllr Sinclair confirmed that the recent newsletter circulated to the residents had been very well received and proposed that this should now be built upon with regular newsletters being circulated on a regular basis.
12. Cllr Sinclair proposed a method of consultation to reach as many residents as possible during the Covid situation, where face to face meetings cannot take place. The Parish Council will alert residents to a consultation in the newsletter, directing them to a presentation on the website and a feedback form.
13. Not all residents are able to view online content, and it was proposed that residents would be supplied with a number to call to arrange to speak to a parish councillor about a consultation topic, to ensure that their views were recorded. Residents will also be encouraged to assist their neighbours in providing their views on consultations.
14. Cllr Sinclair suggested the next newsletter be produced at the end of September with updates on University of Law Development, Planit-IE design and Beechmoor Nurseries proposals. This would coincide with an online consultation with all the proposals being able to be viewed on the website and surveyed by the residents. There would be a questionnaire for them to complete to express their opinions and make comments on the proposals to be returned to the Parish council to consider and act upon.
15. Cllr Beckitt raised concerns with the production of a newsletter and online presentations. Cllr Sinclair clarified that the newsletter would introduce the consultation topics and direct residents to the website for the greater detail. She stressed that the Parish Council had to ensure that we encouraged as many residents as possible to respond. Given the comprehensive brief and feedback mechanism online and in newsletter form Cllr Beckitt suggested that a video may not be required.
16. It was unanimously agreed that this method of consultation should be implemented.

Traffic & Road Safety

CWAC Highways Backlog

17. A number of works scheduled by Highways are still outstanding which were listed by Cllr Beckitt, they include the build outs on Birch Heath Lane and Plough Lane, transfer Pepper Street build out to the other side of the road, drain clearance through the village centre, re-engineering Plough Lane/Rake lane junction and more.
18. Some of the items on the list have been outstanding for more than one year, the council requested the assistance from Cllr Stuart Parker to try to expedite these outstanding works.
19. There is to be a trial of installing coloured mastic to the surface on Little Heather Road by the Pit which should encourage motorists to slow down when entering the village from that direction, if this is successful it will be replicated more stretches of this road. This work is the reason for the white lines not being reinstated on Little Heath Road, Pepper Street and Village Road – this was discussed, and it was concluded that Highways should be requested to reinstate the white lines as soon as possible.
20. Surveys of drains on the North and South side of Christleton by residents identified that a large percentage were completely blocked or partially blocked and were a contributory cause of flooding at the Plough Lane/Quarry Lane/Village Road and Rowton Bridge Road junction in

severe weather conditions. Solutions to flooding in this area are being sought which could tie in with the Planit-IE proposal to install a roundel at this junction.

Park & Stride Update

21. The Park & Stride (P & S) initiative remains the Parish Council's way of reducing the large number of parents from driving into the centre of the village to drop off their children at the High School.
22. The P & S initiative would improve cycling and pedestrian safety, lower frequency of gridlocks and pavement mounting, lower pollution levels and improve the long-term health effects for schoolchildren.
23. Originally there were three drop off/pick up locations, (a) The Pit (b) the Cheshire Cat (c) The Plough Inn these are due to be launched in September 2020. Since then there have been a further three possible locations identified which yet have to be assessed, signed off and approved by CWAC's Road Safety, which is scheduled to be completed by early October.
24. Signage for the drop off/pick up points is currently being investigated together with suitable locations for them to be installed.
25. It is hoped that a P & S themed display in the first week of the September term could be held in the reception area of the High School with an enlarged P & S map and posters quoting the relevant information about the benefits of walking/cycling to school.
26. Cllr Parker thanked Jan Nowland for all her hard work in bringing together the P & S project over many months of dedicated time and effort spent on behalf of Christleton Village.
27. Cllr Beckitt reported that the Head of the High School was to have written to all parents advising them of the P & S scheme, but it appears they were only directed to the Schools Website.
28. Cllr Beckitt requested the Council consider offering some financial assistance with the cost of the communication to enable all the parents to be written to, he will discuss this with the Headteacher at their forthcoming meeting.

Resolved: It was agreed to offer financial assistance with communication costs, the money coming from the Traffic Strategy budget.

Action: Cllr Beckitt to action this item.

Update on Planit-IE proposals

29. Cllr Beckitt reported on the current position with the Planit-IE village design proposals and went on to show the potential design changes within Christleton Village which include changes to the Village Green (referred to as The Triangle in their brief), re-working the entrance to the High School off Village Road, the installation of a roundel at the junction of Plough Lane/Village Road/Quarry Lane & Rowton Bridge Road, shared footpath along Rowton Bridge Road, installation of parking outside Primary School on Quarry Lane.
30. The Quarry Lane parking suggestion is one of three potential sites, the other two are at the High School, to have some community parking spaces within their parking area – this has been rejected by the Governors of the High School, but Cllr Beckitt will be raising this possibility again at his forthcoming meeting with the Headteacher). The third option is to extend the existing car park at St James Church.
31. A request to speak by residents of Quarry Lane attending the meeting was granted by the Chairman to raise their grave safety concerns and objections to the proposal to install carparking outside the Primary School which would see parked cars reversing into traffic flow, increase the danger to pedestrians, cyclists, school children (this was particularly brought to the attention for the Parish Council to be aware of the very real danger of a serious accident to a child), other road users and potential increase vehicle collisions by reversing cars.
32. There would also be an increase in pollution outside the primary school, noise pollution as the parking would be directly opposite properties on Quarry Lane, disturbance late at night from

Bridge Club members who have been consulted and are being encouraged to use this parking area.

33. Potential loss of green space with wildlife using the grass verge for feeding, this would be an intrusive development should it go ahead against the wishes of the residents who also made the point that the village should be discouraging any increase in vehicle use in line with current government policy to get people out of their cars onto bikes and walking.
34. Cllr Beckitt then showed the designs to all members, briefly explaining the proposals for each one; these will now be forwarded to all members for their consideration and opportunity to give feedback on the proposals at the September meeting.
35. When all the feedback is agreed this will then be relayed back to Planit-IE to be taken into account in the designs to be presented to CWAC for their suggestions on the final versions of the designs and ensure when presented to the Parish Council and the Village they will not be rejected.
36. There will then be a special meeting between Planit- IE and the Parish Council in September when that is complete and agreed there will be a consultation arranged with the residents of Christleton to put the project designs to them with a period for them to consider the proposals and feedback their comments to the Parish Council.
37. None of the proposed design changes will be implemented before the resident consultation and only when all the comments have been analysed, agreed, and funding confirmed.

Cycling Working Group Update

38. The Parish Councils of Christleton, Gt. Boughton, Huntington, Littleton & Waverton have joined together with a view to reducing the dependence on car travel in their region of Chester. The objective is for an improvement in public transport in conjunction with an increase in active travel i.e. walking and cycling. Each of the Parish Council have produced very comprehensive preliminary plans covering their own areas
39. The plans cover short trips to access places of education, shops, workplaces, worship, recreation etc. It also considers longer routes from the community to the city centre and railway station.
40. Consideration has been given to connectivity with established routes, rather than those just for leisure purposes. Parking provision for cycles is essential to provide security and ideally covered shelters, check existing provision, maintenance requirements of existing routes, establish existing cycle parking provision, the plan has been developed to cater for the increased use of electric bikes sales of which has significantly increased in Chester in the last year. There are many other requirements detailed in the reports.
41. The Christleton draft cycling plan was presented by Paul Sinclair, who is the representative for Christleton on the Joint Cycling Group, highlighting all the areas that are being recommended which include the A41 cycle path, Canal towpath maintenance, A41 to Caldley Valley shared user path, Little Heath Road improvements, shared user path route from Christleton to Saighton Camp and improving cycle parking provision within the village.
42. The individual Parish plans give detailed analysis of the improvements which can be made with reference to maintenance, cycle parking etc and would significantly enhance the cycling network in the area most of which involve the construction of new infrastructure.
43. The proposal, in the Littleton cycle plan, to make Pearl Lane one-way or a SUP for pedestrians or cyclists alone was discussed – this was not favoured by Christleton PC as the road is an important route into and out of Christleton, Councillor Beckitt will raise this issue with Littleton.
44. There will be a further meeting of the Cycling Working Group and representatives of the Parish Councils to finalise the recommendations prior to the Parish Councils presenting them to CWAC for their approval and to investigate what funding grants are available from the Council, in addition to potential Saighton Camp Section 106 money, they will report back to their Parish Councils next month.

45. Christleton Parish Council confirmed their support for cycling plans, subject to the inclusion of the relevant elements of the Planit-IE proposals in a revision of the plan and the assurance that none of the funding would come out of the Parish Precept.

KING GEORGE'S TRUST ITEMS

To approve retrospectively Expenditure for August 2020

46. The following expenditure was approved:

Payments	£	Act	Cheque No:
Stewart M Sim – Mowing woodland strip at KGF	80.00	Open Spaces Act 1906	166
Rob Pierce – Groundwork Maintenance – JULY 2020	815.00	Open Spaces Act 1906	167
INCOME –			
BANK BALANCE @: 20/07/2020	6237.57		

To discuss Agronomists' Report or First Field

47. The Agronomist's report commissioned to assess the suitability to use the field as a multi-purpose facility for sports confirmed that the condition was better than expected with many species of grasses and the soil was in good condition, but there was a drainage issue. Drainage options vary according to the final choice of surface required and entail potentially large expenditure.
48. A number of options for the use of the field were discussed, but prior to any decision being reached it was suggested that the Trustee should engage with the community and the village schools to see what their requirements would be and what level of usage we could expect. This could be included in the next village newsletter on the Parish Council Website and via Social Media.
49. There are many issues to consider, including development costs, future maintenance of the field, sustainability, and a return on any investment for the benefit of the Trust.
50. Cllr Murphy reported that he had been informed by CWAC there are grants available and they are keen to assist in putting together a bid for funding should the Parish Council as the Trustee go down that route.

Resolved: To canvass the community to assess what their requirements for the field would be and how much they would be prepared to use the improved facility.

Action: Cllr Murphy to work with Cllr Sinclair in preparing draft to be included in the next Newsletter.

Monthly Inspection Report for Little Heath Play Area & Bike Track

51. There were no issues to report this month. The Clerk confirmed that an order for play sand had been placed and would be delivered at 5.0 pm on Friday 21st August 2020. Cllr Sinclair is organising a group of volunteers to move the sand to the sand pit. Any Councillors available to assist would be gratefully received.
52. We are still awaiting confirmation of when the play bark will be available – this has been in noticeably short supply.

To discuss parking issues at LHPA/Sports Club/installing additional parking space opposite existing car park at play area.

53. Over the recent weeks there has been a noticeable increase in the number of cars parking by the play area and on a number of occasions restricting access to residents of Little Mere, the Alms Houses and the entrance to the Sports Club.

54. Ways to alleviate this situation were discussed and it was:
Resolved: To liaise with Christleton Sports Club to investigate the feasibility of installing additional parking spaces on the scrubland opposite the existing LHPA car park.
Action: Cllr Murphy to arrange a meeting between the Sports Club and the PC Sports Club Liaison Group to take the matter forward and report to the next meeting.

To consider request from the Pit Group to plant a shrub by the picnic table at LHPA

55. A request to plant a Dogwood Shrub by the picnic table at the play area was considered and approved.

Future Projects & Groups

Update from Air Quality Working Group

56. The Working Group continued to focus on identifying reliable accurate low-cost monitoring to support the current plume measurements.

Update from Asset Working Group

57. A Ward Walk with CWAC Highways has been requested to identify essential maintenance and repairs on cycle ways and footpaths in the area.

Allotments

Update from the Allotment Working Group

58. There were no issues to report at this meeting.

Finance:

To approve retrospectively expenditure for August 2020

59. The following expenditure was approved.

Payments	£	Act
Sue Thwaite – Clerk Expenses July 2020	73.83	LGA 1972 – Sec 112
Krystal Hosting – Upgrade Website extra space (Sue Thwaite)	20.33	LGA 1972 – Sec 112
Cheshire Community Action – Annual Subscription	50.00	LGA 1972 Sec 143
Hawk Publications – Printing and distributions Village Newsletter	221.00	LGA 1972 Sec 143
Countrywide Grounds Maintenance Ltd – Birch Heath Common – Grass Cutting/strimming bollards July 2020	288.00	Open Spaces Act 1906
CommuniCorp – Annual Subscription to Local Councils Update	100.00	LGA 1972 Sec 143
Cllr John Beckitt -ZOOM subscription	7.20	LGA 1972 – Sec 112
Rob Pierce – Groundworks for June 2020	350.40	Open Spaces Act 1906
No Prior Approval Payments		
Sue Thwaite Clerk – Salary for July 2020 & Additional hrs for June 2020	729.32	LGA 1972 – Sec 111
Derek Garner – Village Asst Pay & expenses JULY 2020	105.13	LGA 1972 – Sec 112
HMRC – PAYE JULY 2020	232.40	LGA 1972 – Sec 2

INCOME:	
Bank Balances – @ 20/07/2020	
H/I Account	116950.60
Current A/C	100.67
Dredging A/C	12052.98

To approve purchase of new paper shredder

60. The Clerk requested to purchase a replacement paper shredder at the current one has broken.

Resolved: To approve purchase

Action: Clerk to action this item.

Christleton Schools

Update from Christleton High School

61. The High School will resume in the September term with staggered starts – there is no commitment on how long these measures will continue for.

Update from Christleton Primary School

62. The Primary School are currently preparing for pupils to return in September.

Monthly Inspection Report

Capesthorpe Road Community Orchard

63. Cllr Brown reported there were no issues to report this month and that all the fruit trees were in a healthy condition.

Community Safety Matters

Report on Police & Crime Commissioners meeting with Town & Parish Councils

64. Cllr Sinclair represented the Parish Council at this meeting and was updated on the work of the Police during the COVID-19 crisis. It was also confirmed that currently there is only one police officer and one Police Community Support Officer to cover the Cheshire Villages area at present.

Anti-Social behaviour at Little Heath Play Area/KGF First Field

65. An increase of anti-social behaviour has been prevalent during the lockdown period, which is reflected in many other local areas.
66. A meeting is being arranged for Cllr Sinclair, PCSO Linda Bailey and a Crime Prevention Officer by the Pit to look at different options in tackling this matter and she will report back following this meeting.

Action Items

Vacancies on the Parish Council

67. There are currently three applications to be considered for the two vacancies on the Council, these will be considered along with any other application at the September meeting of the Council.
68. Enquires will be made to see if it is possible to increase the number of councillors on the council from 10 members to 11.

Action: The Clerk will make enquires and report back with the outcome.

Update on Little Mere Management proposals

69. Enquires are progressing to ascertain whether the current Road Maintenance Agreement with Little Mere Management Company can be amended, and further information will be forthcoming in due course.

Report on updating the Village Directory/Guide

70. This is ongoing with a number of areas still outstanding.

Report on flooding at Plough Lane/Village Road junction

71. This matter was dealt with under Traffic & Road Safety.

Devolution White Paper (NALC Consultation)

72. A Government White Paper is expected to be issued in the Autumn which include devolving more responsibilities to Town and Parish Councils, the members voiced concerns it would mean volunteer councillors taking on more responsibilities and what, if any, level of funding that would be available.

Dates of the next meetings: **THURSDAY 3rd September 2020 at 7.0 pm via ZOOM.**

Meeting closed at 9.55 pm

CPC - 11/08/20