

MINUTES OF CHRISTLETON PARISH COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING

INCORPORATING KING GEORGE'S TRUST

Held on Tuesday 20th July at 7.30 pm

At Christleton Sports Club

SIGNED

Present Cllr Luke Henley (Chairman) Susan Robson, John Beckitt, Elizabeth Inall, Damian Murphy Peter Tonge, Graham Ranger & Lauren Buckley

In Attendance: Sue Thwaite (Clerk) 3 members of the public and PCSOs Linda Bailey & Colleague

Apologies: Cllrs Kate Sinclair (away), Janet Brown & CWC Cllr Stuart Parker (Prior meeting)

Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

1. Cllr Ranger declared an interest in planning item being neighbouring property

Minutes of the last Meeting

2. The Minutes of the Annual Parish Council and Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 1st June 2021 were approved as a true and correct record.

Public Forum

Village Green proposals

3. Two residents of the village passed round a document showing research results from their local survey of parking in the village and hoped it would form part of the Council's decision making with the proposed re-design of the Village Green.
4. A prepared statement was then read out highlighting their strong objections, concerns and fears for the future of Christleton Village and the impact of unregulated parking around the village green and the under use of the parking at the Toast Rack. More seating and cycle racks to could be a way forward to reduce car use.
5. The Chairman noted their concerns and confirmed that the work is ongoing and will make sure we continue to consult widely before anything is put forward, the final decision will lie with CWAC
6. A number of questions ensued but it was decided that this was not the time or forum for a full debate on the matter.

Planning issue

7. A resident of Birch Heath Lane raised the matter of planning issue with a property on Birch Heath Lane, he has been in dialogue with CWAC Planning Authority in connection with potential undischarged planning conditions which formed part of the original planning submission and additional potential unauthorised development at the property, the residence is now up for sale and had never been lived in during the 9 years of redevelopment.
8. A request to the Council to see if they could approach CWAC Planning to ascertain whether all necessary conditions have been met and a completion certificate has been issued.

Action: Cllr Henley will action this item

IT Improvements

9. Office 365 has now been set up and we are now looking at ways to allow all councillors access to the system, further investigations are ongoing.

Planning

Planning Applications

10. A list of planning applications previously circulated to all councillors was considered, comments noted by the Clerk for submission to CWAC Planning Authority, all comments can be viewed on CWAC website

To discuss planning application 21/09145/LDC – Land at Woodbank, Whitchurch Road

11. A number of issues were raised with this application and following discussion the following objections would be lodged with CWAC Planning Authority.
12. There are a substantial number of witnesses to the fact that it has not been run as a business in excess of 15 years.
13. A large number of members of the public have used the footpath from the canal to the A41 for over 20 years and therefore should be maintained.
14. There are a number of inaccuracies and factual errors on the application form.

Update from University of Law Working Group

15. Following a meeting between the UOL Working Group and the Developer it was reported that after discussions with CWAC Planning Authority the affordable housing would now be on site converting one of the existing UOL buildings into 3/4 affordable units. The overall development now being looked at would be 24 houses, 14 apartments and 3/4 affordable units.
16. The developer has yet to agree the detailed location of the rear access haul route with the farmer concerned.
17. The Developer has granted permission for Cllr Tonge access to the orchard after 31st July to carry out DNA sampling of the fruit trees.
18. A further meeting will be held on submission of the planning application.

Traffic & Road Safety

CWAC Highways Backlog

19. Proposals to move the build out on Pepper Street to the opposite side of the highway were confirmed by Highways and the build out on Birch Heath Lane proposals has been considered for two alternative sites but following further investigations by CWAC Highways it was agreed that the original site would be the most suitable location, residents by the proposed site would be consulted.
20. The proposed build out on Plough Lane was still under investigation and would be considered further with residents consulted on alternative locations.
21. Discussion followed and it was proposed that the change on Pepper Street and new build out on Birch Lane be agreed with Highways, who would then supply detailed work for both the proposals and up-to-date quotation for the works to the Parish Council.
Resolved: Cllr Murphy proposed and Cllr Robson seconded the proposal which was passed unanimously.
Action: Cllr Beckitt to action this matter.
22. The proposed narrowing out on Little Heath Road will be brought back to the Council at a later date.

Update on Sustainability Transport Taskforce Plans/South East Chester Pilot

23. South East Chester Pilot proposal was submitted to CWAC April 2021 for Planit (cost £9000) to further develop, the SE Chester Cycle Plan including proposals for Christleton, a 2-way cycle route from the Hamburger roundabout to the Bars in Chester and the regeneration of

Boughton. This proposal could be chosen by CWAC as a Mini-Holland bid – to date there has been no response from CWAC.

24. The Government has subsequently invited Local Authorities to bid for capital funding for the current 2021/2022 year to support delivery of ambitious new cycling and walking infrastructure schemes. They have offered £239 million to 12/14 County Councils for a mini-Holland proposal. The South East Chester Pilot has submitted their plan again for consideration.
25. Feedback from CWAC states that the more deprived areas of the County would be favoured but to date the two areas under consideration have not got any plans to put in a bid.
26. A submission by CWAC has to be submitted by 9th August to bid for funding.

Update on A41 Proposals

27. The proposal to resurface the canal towpath (at a cost of half million from the Community Renewal fund) did not happen as CWAC missed the application deadline for the funding.

Update from Air Quality Working Group

28. The AQ Working Group met with CWAC who confirmed, the monitor on the A51 by the Littleton sign is measuring PM 2.5 and showing levels at around 5 to 10 micrograms per metre cubed, with the WHO limit of 10. Traffic flows were low as most of it was when we were coming out of lockdown. There will be a further meeting in October to assess air quality at normal traffic flows.
29. The traffic light at the end of the A51 were switched off and it was thought this was part of a trial that has been promised some time ago, but it was in fact the result of a road traffic accident.
30. The traffic flow on the A51 when the lights were not in operation was significantly better and a request to carry out the proposed trial was made to Highways England, but the light were turned back on again with the resulting traffic queues and congestion.
31. Cllr Beckitt is seeking support to write to CWAC Head of Highways stating we do not want to wait for Highway England to do their own study we would like an independent study to look at ways to make the A51/A55 junction work properly, so as to avoid tailbacks on the A51 at peak times, which include switching off or rephasing of the lights.
32. This initiative also has the backing of Littleton Parish Council. The Hamburger will be included in this request (also previously promised)

Resolved: It was agreed unanimously to support Cllr Beckitt to write the CWAC Head of Highways requesting an independent study of this junction.

Action: Cllr Beckitt with action this matter

Update on Speedwatch Initiative

33. The Speedwatch Initiative has been suspended whilst Cheshire Police were rewriting their policies. This has now been completed and Speedwatch groups can now resume to monitor speeding vehicles.
34. Training sessions have been held for Speedwatch volunteers by the Police.
35. PCSO also reported ongoing problems with HGV drivers on A41 exceeding the speed limit and surveillance is being deployed to monitor this.

KING GEORGE'S TRUST ITEMS

To approve expenditure for July 2021

36. The following expenditure was pre-approved:

Payments	£	Act	Cheque No:
Rob Pierce – Groundworks for June 2021	635.00	Open Spaces Act 1906	182
Stewart Sim – Mowing woodland at KGF	85.00	Open Spaces Act 1906	183
INCOME			
BANK BALANCE @: 25/06/21	7738.07		

Update from LHPA Working Group on progress with repairs/improvements to Play Area

37. The Working Group are currently trying to get like for like quotes from playground specialists to replace the two rotten swing frames, three companies have been approached, one of which declined to quote and the other two are very different in terms of products they supply and breakdown of costs, they have been approached again to submit like for like quotes, these are still awaited.
38. Another option to explore is to find independent installers and for the Council to purchase the swings independently, thereby not having to rely on playground specialist firms who are reluctant to meet our requirements.
39. The Group is meeting the CWAC Landscape Officer again who has offered to assist with this option and discuss further ideas for the play area and to get to work on some drawings.

Report from CSC Liaison Group Meeting

40. There had been a very productive meeting with the Sports Club and it was noted the great improvement with the surface of the first field due to the effort the Club has put in since they have been cutting and rolling the grass, it is now looking excellent also a set of goalposts has been installed and are being regularly used by youngsters.
41. A request to assist with the cost of diesel for the tractor and for a new roller for the mower by the Club was considered and it was agreed that a sum of £200 would be made available to the club to assist in covering these costs.
- Action:** Clerk to action this matter.
42. Future use of the field is still under discussion, with a number of options being considered.
43. Parking issues was discussed and two main problems with access for visiting teams being able to get to the cricket or football sometime due to visitors to the play area blocking access to the club, which is dangerous when considering emergency vehicles could need to get to the Club.
44. The access is not very visible and ideas to improve this were discussed, this will be looked into further, the second issue is whether or not to do something with the posts along the edge of the first field, possibly to take them out and move them further into the field to create parking spaces, or take a couple of posts out at the bike track end of the field to allow some parking when the club have important events about 8 to 10 days per year. A chain would be in place at all other times to avoid it being used a permanent parking, it would also allow access for tractor etc to the field for cutting which is very difficult at present.
45. It was agreed to continue with further discussion with the Sports Club to try to come to a decision on how to improve the parking issues.
- Action:** Cllr Murphy will contact the Sports Club to set up a further meeting as soon as possible.

Monthly Play Area Inspection Report

46. There were no issues at the play area to report, there has been incidents of litter being left by the new goalposts on the first field.

Allotments

To receive report from the Allotment Group

47. A report and the minutes of the Boughton Heath Allotment Association were circulated to the meeting. All rents have now been received and an inspection of the colony was carried out by Cllr Tonge and the Clerk recently. A number of plot holders have been written to about the non-cultivation of their plots. There are currently no vacant plots available and we have two people on the waiting list.

Finance

To approve expenditure for JULY 2021

48. Finance The following expenditure was approved:

Organisation	£	Act
Sue Thwaite – Clerk Expenses JUNE 2021	97.66	LGA 1972 – Sec 112
Countrywide Grounds Maintenance Ltd – Strim bollards at Birch Heath Common	25.68	Open Spaces Act 1906
Water Plus Payments – Water charges for Allotments	10.14	Small Holding & Allotment Act 1908
Cheshire Community Action – Annual Subscription	20.00	LGA 1972 – Sec 112
Kerry Christmas – overpayment of allotment rent	5.00	Small Holding & Allotment Act 1908
Rob Pierce – Groundworks for June 2021	350.40	Open Spaces Act 1906
No Prior Approval Payments		
Sue Thwaite Clerk – Salary and add hours for June 2021	700.69	LGA 1972 – Sec 111
Derek Garner – Village Asst Pay & expenses June 2021	181.66	LGA 1972 – Sec 112
HMRC – PAYE & NICS for June 2021	238.77	LGA 1972 – Sec 2
INCOME:		
Bank Balances – @ 22/06/21		
H/I Account	129,309.91	
Current A/C	100.27	
Dredging A/C	13,054.07	

Quarterly Financial Review

49. The spreadsheets were circulated to all member and the review was accepted.

Action Items

Update on footpaths PROW registration

50. There was nothing to report at this meeting.

To approve Risk Assessment for Village Assistant

51. The risk assessment for the Village Assistant was circulated to all members and approved and will be discussed with the Village Assistant to confirm all the necessary equipment is purchased for his use.

Action – Cllr Tonge will action this item.

To confirm date of September Meeting

52. The date of the September meeting has been set for Tuesday, 7th September 2021 and will be held at Christleton Sports Club

To discuss Local Plan Updating Consultation

53. Following discussion on the details of whether the CWAC Local Plan need updating to reflect changing national and local priorities it was agreed that Christleton Parish Council should submit a response to the consultation by the deadline of 15th September 2021
54. Cllrs Henley & Ranger will review the document and bring a draft response to the September meeting for approval by full Council

To consider CWAC plans for Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

55. Christleton do not have a beacon, it was agreed that all Councillors give some thought to how to celebrate this occasion and bring it back to a future meeting. In the meantime, enquires with other organisations in the village will be made to see if there are any community celebrations being considered which the Parish Council would support.

Monthly Inspection Report

Capesthorpe Road Community Orchard

56. There was nothing to report at this meeting.

Planit Update

Update on Village Design proposals

57. Following the appointment of an interim Head of Highways who asked us to consider a School Streets Scheme alongside the Planit Proposals.
58. Having investigated this thoroughly with other authorities who have implemented such a scheme it was found it would not work in Christleton.
59. However, Rowton Bridge Road as Planit designed could operate like a school street either as a 'cycle street' or 'pedestrian and cycle zone'
60. Having studied various options it was agreed that we should write to Head of Highways stating that a full School Street Scheme would not work in Christleton, as the only possible layout would damage the businesses in the village irreversibly and that Christleton would continue to support one of the two Planit proposals.

Action: Cllr Beckitt will draft a letter to Head of Highways confirming our preferred options.

61. Funding of the Planit Proposals remains on Saughton Camp S106 funding for Rowton Bridge Road/Plough Lane junction, CWAC have requested supporting information,

Christleton Schools

Update from Christleton High School

62. High School Travel Plan – Cllr Beckitt will circulate the document separately to councillors for the next meeting
63. High School Parking proposal – The quotation for the cost of extending the car parking at the High School was circulated and each of the four parties would consult with their organisations. It was felt that it is too early to make any decisions as it is not known what

proportion of the Bridge Club members will return to in person meetings and we should wait and see what is happening with the Bridge Club, this item will be deferred to a later meeting.

Update from Christleton Primary School

64. There is nothing to report at this meeting.

Information Correspondence

65. A full list of correspondence received as per attachment with the agenda was distributed to the Councillors prior to this meeting.

Information Only Items

Cheshire Wildlife Trust -Cllr Buckley is investigating this request.

SCLL Conference 29/9 – Planning/PROW/Registering Land - Cllr Peter Tonge is attending event

Christleton Broadband Status – A submission for Christleton to be included in the DCMS Voucher Scheme has been lodged.

Dates of the next meeting: Tuesday 7th September 2021

Meeting closed at: 9.54 p.m.

CPC – 20th July 2021