

MINUTES OF CHRISTLETON PARISH COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING

INCORPORATING KING GEORGE'S TRUST

Held on Tuesday 5TH October 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, Janet Brown & Lauren Buckley

In Attendance: Sue Thwaite (Clerk) 5 members of the public

Apologies: Cllr Kate Sinclair (Work commitments)

Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were no declarations of interests

Minutes of the last Meeting

The Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 7th September 2021 and Extra Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday, 16th September, 2021 were approved and signed as a true and correct record.

Public Forum

Item 12(a) was bt/fwd

1. A resident who lives close to King George's Field voiced his grave concerns with the possible use of the KGF field to build a new pre-school building which could potentially be built two metres from his boundary.
2. He made a number of points he wanted to bring to the attention of the Parish Council regarding the governances laid down, operational responsibility for the playing fields to be kept as open space for the use of outdoor games and sport.
3. Information that there had been other instances where KGF field had been used for similar purposes needed to be verified and under what special circumstances this had occurred.
4. Have other options been explored, looking at brown field sites, existing premises in village that could be considered, modifying the existing building, exploring future developments in the village and engaging with the Primary School, with the KGF field being the last resort.
5. The final point was that as KGF Trustees need to act within the scope of their charitable remit to promote the establishment of playing field for the use of children and it should be the best use of the land to achieve the charitable objects The development would reduce the amenity value in other respects and not meet the standard laid down by Fields in Trust of 6 acres of land per 1000 residents, this should be explored and there are a number of significant other issues that have not been addressed with this proposal.
6. Following the resident's submission, it was pointed out that the pre-school building site was not against his boundary but further down the drive. The last time this idea was presented to the Trustee approximately two years ago Fields in Trust were contacted and they refused, which was reflected back to the pre-school. They have now indicated that rules had changed. The Council will contact Fields in Trust investigate this claim.
7. The pre-school gave a presentation at the last full PC meeting and, the proposal on tonight's agenda, which we expect to be adopted, is to appoint a working group to examine this further. Having heard the objections by the resident it was reiterated that clearly the Council would not want to do anything that does not have the approval of Fields in Trust or the

Charity Commission, planning issues and Green Belt are matters for CWAC, which in time we may need to take a stand on those.

8. The resident's objections were acknowledged, and it was confirmed that the Trustee is at a very exploratory stage and, all we have decided so far that we are not going to rule it out immediately.
9. Two other residents who have recently moved into the village have looked at the efforts the Council have made with traffic issues throughout the village and would like to offer their support in assisting in anyway having experienced in the last six week the various roadworks taking place in the vicinity and the daily impact that has. They acknowledged the efforts the Council have put in with traffic issues and reiterated their willingness to help in anyway. They agreed to leave their contact details.
10. The other residents were interested in the University of Law planning application which would be discussed later in the meeting.
11. Cllr Parker had nothing to report to this meeting and confirmed that there was still money in his member's budget should a suitable project be submitted.
12. Cllr Parker was asked about the new green waste charge to be levied, which has only had 15% public support following the consultation results but was still going ahead, this had been challenged with the current administration but continued to implement it.

Item Action Item 12 (a) was bt/fwd

PROW Update

13. The four applications for consideration to grant PROW status was submitted to CWAC on 17th December 2020 with still no outcome.
14. It has been discovered recently looking at previous applications that the oldest application that still has not been dealt with dates back to July 2002, all applications will be closed by 2026, therefore it would not be possible for CWAC deal with the outstanding backlog of the many applications in the pipeline.
15. Cllr Parker was asked if there was anything he could do to put pressure on the appropriate department to consider the applications. Cllr Parker confirmed he would resurrect the matter again.
16. A request of how to contact the Secretary of State for the Environment has been made to CWAC and, if there has been no response on anniversary date of submission, 17th December 2021 then a request to the Secretary of State for the Environment will be made to take the matter up on our behalf.

Planning

17. 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.

Update on PC consultation, responses to UOL planning applications and other related matters

18. The developer has not engaged adequately with the Farmer to agree the temporary rear haul road to Little Heath Road. The Planning Consultant (on behalf of the Church and Farmer) is still obstructing any agreement by taking the position that the temporary haul road must be permanent. The Consultant is trying to leverage the support of the Parish Council for another Community centre, car park and, housing development behind the Church in exchange for the haul road being temporary.

Resolved: that the Council should write and arrange high level meetings with Bridgemere and the Planning Consultant representing the farmer and church to emphasise the importance of early agreement of a temporary rear haul road to Little Heath Road.

Action: Cllr Beckitt to action this item

19. A letter will be written the Highways and a high-level meeting will be arranged to ensure that CWAC understands why it is unacceptable for Highways to continue informing the UOL developer that 32 and 40 tonne construction vehicles can access the UOL construction site via Pepper Street, the Village Green and Little Heath Road for a period of three years.

Village consultation

20. Work is continuing to compile a flyer to circulate to residents highlighting the work the UOL Working Group have achieved and outlining matters that residents might want to comment on and for them to understand the nature of the development, sustainability and consequences of this development could have on the infrastructure of the community, and to bring to their attention the plans for the temporary haul road via traffic potentially accessing the site through the centre of the village.
21. The flyer would direct residents to CWAC Planning Portal to make comments, write to the Clerk of PC with their thoughts to assist the Council when submitting their comments on the planning applications and requesting further briefing as required.
22. **Action:** Cllr Beckitt will consult with Cllr Sinclair on finalising flyer content and distribution.

Traffic & Road Safety

CWAC Backlog

23. A spreadsheet was circulated to all members outlining the backlog of works still requiring action, with the most important jobs being on the A41 the marking of the shared user pathway widening of the footpath on the A41 railway bridge and resurfacing of the canal footpath would be of great benefit for pupils attending the High School.
24. The plans for the A41 shared user pathway need to be seen by the Parish Council before its implementation so as to ensure it adequately protects school children and does not prevent residents parking their cars in front of the houses on the A41. Two request to view the plans have not produced a response to date – this will now be escalated by Cllr Parker.

Birch Heath Build-out

25. We are still waiting for quotations for this work prior to approval

Cycling/Pedestrian on Rowton Bridge Road

26. CWAC recommended that this road should be closed for 24 hours per day, but our recommendation is that it should be closed to vehicular traffic only for one hours in the morning and two hours in the afternoon. A recent vehicle count showed that there were 600 vehicles going along that road in 30 minutes potentially causing danger to pupils using a key Park & Stride rout to the High School.

Rake Lane/Plough Lane signage

27. The design is nearing completion

Update on STTF/South East Chester Pilot

28. Following discussion regarding the effort Gt. Boughton PC, Christleton PC and other parishes in SE Chester put into proposing the content of the Mini-Holland bid. CWAC chose the re-generation of the Boughton corridor we recommended and, have used all the design information, destination and source data, traffic data and many other suggestions when submitting the bid by CWAC's Consultant.

Resolved: It was agreed that the Parish Council would formally write to CWAC requesting a copy of the Mini-Holland submission indicating the only remaining option would be to make a FOI request proposed by Cllr Beckitt, seconded by Cllr Tonge a vote was passed unanimously.

Action: Cllr Beckitt to action this item.

To consider correspondence re: Flood operations

29. A Christleton Parish Council March submission to CWAC suggesting a system of flood management has been adopted for the entire CWAC area. This would consist of a team of volunteers to walk ditches to make sure they stay clear, check gullies were kept clear. This process used in Nottinghamshire has almost eliminated a lot of the major flooding.
30. Some clarification from CWAC would be sought, the Village would be segmented and an advertisement placed for volunteers for a flood management team – the Flood Warden lead would be drawn from these volunteers

Action: Cllr Beckitt will action this item.

Update from Air Quality Group

31. A number of documents and press releases were forwarded to all Councillors prior to the meeting, which highlighted WHO guidelines have been amended to advise that concentrations of PM2.5 and NO2 should not exceed an annual mean of 5 and 10mcg/m3 respectively. Levels of PM 2.5 and NO2 are at well above those guideline levels at the Hamburger junction, along the A41 SUP, in the centre of the Village on Littleton Lane and along the A51 and, have been proven to be detrimental to health.
32. These issues will be reviewed by CWAC at the next meeting of the AQ Working Group as well as the high-level meeting with the new Head of Highways.

KING GEORGE'S TRUST ITEMS

To approve expenditure for October 2021

33. The expenditure set out in Appendix 1 was approved.

Quarterly financial check

34. The quarterly financial check was considered and approved.

To set up a Working Group to work on proposal by Pre-School to build a Pre-School building on KGF field.

35. A meeting with representative of the Pre-School has been arranged for Saturday 9th October, which is an exploratory meeting to discuss more fully their proposal.
36. A suggestion that the group be expanded to include a local representative and a Sports Club representative was considered but it was agreed that initially the working group would be from the Parish Council with agreement that it could expand and co-opt other members as necessary, also to contact Fields in Trust for their guidance.

Action: Cllr Inall will contact Fields in Trust

37. After discussion it was agreed that the current Little Heath Play Area Group and the proposed Pre-School working group would be amalgamated to form one group called the King George's Fields Development Group.

Resolved: To approve the above two proposals, this was agreed unanimously.

Update from LPHA working group

38. The swings have now been ordered and will hopefully be installed in November. The initial master plan for the improvements to the LPHA have been received, the group will arrange to meet with the designer to take the matter further before commenting to the Council and they will contact CWAC and various sources for funding.

Resolved: It was agreed unanimously that the improvements and expansion of the play area will take precedence over any other proposals for the field.

Update from CSC Liaison Group

39. A recent meeting between the Group and the Sport Club was very successful, which covered various things, the wooden posts have now been moved further into the field, it was agreed to leave the gate open and the post down at the entrance to the drive on a trial basis which will be monitored, there would be no parking on the main field. The Club were notified of the discussion with the Pre-School proposal and assured that they would be kept informed on this matter. Suggestions for putting more equipment on the field is part of the current proposals for the KGF development.
40. The Club continue to cut the grass on the first field, less regularly through the winter. An alternative area to put up their Honours Board is being sought and would appreciate any suggestions.
41. The Club also stressed the need for toilet facilities on the field, this could be considered at the same time as the KGF development, this will be further explored.

Progress with re-siting post on First Field

42. This work has now been satisfactorily completed, the use of the verge for parking will be monitored to see if any issues arise over the next few months.

To consider request from Soroptimist's to fix a commemorative plaque to gate at LHPA

43. The request to install a commemorative plaque for the Soroptimist Organisation was approved.
44. It was reported that some of the trees donated by them earlier in the year have been vandalised and a request to see if there are any spare to replace them will be made.

Action: The Clerk to action this item.

Allotments

To receive report form Allotment Group

45. The report from the Group was circulated to all Councillors and approved.

Finance

To approve expenditure for October 2021

46. The expenditure set out in Appendix 2 was approved:

Quarterly Financial Review

47. The quarterly financial check was considered and approved.

External Auditors Report

48. The Clerk confirmed there were no outstanding issues and the External Auditors certificate was approved and accepted

Christleton Schools

Update from Christleton High School

49. The results of the High School travel survey were circulated to the Parish Council
50. It was noted that children travel to and from the High School from all around Chester every day
51. Great Boughton (434), Christleton (139), Boughton (98), Waverton (92), Saughton (71) Huntingdon (66), Hoole (47), Littleton (36), Rowton (32) in rank order which is why 400 and 200 children approach the school on the A41 and the canal over a period of 25minutes. There are over half a million movements in and from the High school every year and the

Village Road flow of 1000 students in 25 minutes represents a flow greater than the population of Chester over a 24-hour period.

52. It is understood that CWAC have started a dialogue with the High School about the future pupil intake to the High School.
53. It was agreed that we should write to CWAC and the High School stating that pupil intake should not increase without adequate funding for the
 - Closure of the Plough Lane junction and Rowton Bridge Road (RBR) to cut through traffic at school arrival and departure time (pedestrian and cyclist priority)
 - Resurfacing of the Great Boughton to RBR canal footpath
 - the provision of additional car parking on the school site to avoid overspill into Village Road and at least 15 spaces for designated bridge club members to avoid congestion on Village Road
 - staggered school start and finish times if the above issues are not fully addressed
54. It was agreed that the Parish Council would consider objecting to any planning application to increase pupil intake that does not address these issues adequately

To confirm make-up of CHS Liaison Group

55. Due to COVID the regular liaison meeting with the High School lapsed, it was agreed that these should now be re-established to discuss all matters of mutual interest.
56. It was agreed that Cllrs Henley, Robson & Beckitt should make-up the group and the Clerk will contact the school to arrange a meeting.

Update from Christleton Primary School

57. There was nothing to report at this meeting, but the Head was grateful for the work done on the blocked drains.

Monthly Inspection Report

Capesthorpe Road Community Orchard

58. It was reported that one of the fruit trees needed some attention.

Action Items

To consider Groundwork Schedules for 2022

59. The groundwork schedules were presented to the council and agreed with some minor changes.

Progress with CWAC & Little Mere Management on amendment to road maintenance agreement

60. This matter has been outstanding since September 2020 and correspondence from LM Management's legal representative will be forward to Cllr Parker to help expedite the matter.

Website Updating

61. Information from the Webmaster that there are a number of out-of-date items on the site and requested the council review the site.

Action: Cllr Tonge and the Clerk will meet with the Webmaster to action this matter.

Update on Broadband issues

62. Following the government stopping issuing vouchers and with lobbying by Openreach, they have now announced a plan to roll out Gigabyte Broadband and from April 2022 which will include Christleton area.

Planit

Progress Update

63. It was agreed that Cllr Parker would be asked to arrange a meeting with the Highways Officer and new Head of Highways to brief her on the numerous Highways issues surrounding Christleton and in particular to deal with the lack of response of the transport section of Highways to the S106 funding request for the centre of the Village as well as the pause of A41 average speed cameras, the delayed widening of the A41 railway bridge, lack of funding for resurfacing of the canal footpath, the CWAC response to the lower WHO PM2.5 and NO2 guideline levels and finally the lack of response to footpath registrations.

Information Correspondence

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

Information Only Items

65. The bench around tree on village green in need of repair and notice boards need rubbing down
66. Bank signing mandate is ongoing
67. GDPR update meeting with Data Protection Officer to be arranged.
68. ChALC scheme for average speed monitoring in villages information will be collect to ascertain if the Parish Council would be interested in this scheme.
69. Local Nature Recovery Strategy consultation.

Date of the next meeting: Tuesday 02/11/21

Meeting closed at 10.02 pm

APPENDIX 1 KING GEORGES FIELD TRUST PAYMENTS

PAYMENTS	£	Act
Rob Pierce – Groundworks for August 2021	635.00	Open Spaces Act 1906
Ben Lloyd – Removal and re-setting posts on first field	1476.00	Open Spaces Act 1906
INCOME		
BANK BALANCE @ DATE SEPTEMBER 2021	5890.51	

APPENDIX 2 FINANCE

ORGANISATION	£	Act
Sue Thwaite – Clerk Expenses SEPTEMBER 2021	91.91	LGA 1972 – Sec 112
PKF Littlejohn LLP – Annual Governance & Accountability Return 31/3/21	360.00	LGA 1972 – Sec 142
Mr Andy Buckley – Gate key for allotments	7.00	Small Holding & Allotment Act 1908
Countrywide Grounds Maintenance Ltd – Cutting and grass collection on Legion Meadow & Birch Heath Common	1534.38	Open Spaces Act 1906
CWAC – Annual Pest Control Renewal	266.86	Open Spaces Act 1906
WaterPlus – Water charges for Allotments	16.52	Small Holding & Allotment Act 1908
Nick Brookes Recycling Ltd – Skip Hire for Allotment	383.69	Small Holding & Allotment Act 1908
Rob Pierce – Groundworks for SEPTEMBER 2021	350.40	Open Spaces Act 1906
No Prior Approval Payments		
Sue Thwaite Clerk – Salary and add hours for SEPTEMBER 2021	808.79	LGA 1972 – Sec 111
Derek Garner – Village Asst Pay & expenses SEPTEMBER 2021	116.20	LGA 1972 – Sec 112
HMRC – PAYE & NICS for SEPTEMBER 2021	267.81	LGA 1972 – Sec 2
Bank Balances – @ 22/08/21		
Current Account	100.92	
H/I A/C	121190.72	
Dredging A/C	13054.40	