

## Welcome to the December edition of The Heron.

We are editing our last edition of The Heron this festive month and handing over the baton to new editors.

If we had not had found them The Heron would have probably stopped being published, and this year's end would have seen 2 more parts of village life close. The Memorial Hall sadly still closes it's doors for use by the village on 31st December.

However, luckily for those of you who look forward to the newsletter every month, be it only a few sheets of black and white print, The Heron will continue for the time being. The information held within holds the details of all crucial village events, from church services, to the various social clubs held in the village every month, from school days, to fun days at the pub, and the news happening around this tiny village.

We hope over the months we have been editing you have enjoyed the stories, articles and information we have brought to your doormat, totally free, and un requested. We hope you continue to appreciate all the hard work and diligence exercised by all who make The Heron possible each and every month.

Have a wonderful December and festive period, and enjoy a Healthy and Happy New Year

Paul and Mandi.

N.B Please look out for the new postal address and telephone contact details in your next Heron for the editors. As from December 1st we can no longer accept your articles by post or telephone. However the Heron e-mail address is still in use

editor@theheron.info or adverts@theheron.info



## **Heron Committee Meeting**

A closed meeting of The Heron Committee members was held on November 18th 2013, where a recent vote by committee members had elected by majority vote Jacky Wincote and Chris Frane as the new editors of The Heron Newsletter.

## "A local statesman - who truly cared"

Mourners packed Wisbech's St Peter and St Paul's Church today for the funeral of one of Fenland's great champions and genuine gentleman Malcolm (Mac) Cotterell, MBE.

Fenland district, town and county councillors joined the almost packed congregation to bid a sad farewell to Mac, who has served the area and its community for over 50 years.

Mac's wife of 55 years Marjorie (Madge) led the mourners and heard tributes from Fenland Council leader Alan Melton, Richard Barnwell former Wisbech Mayor and current Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire, and Lesley Mardle a life-long friend.

Mr Melton opened his tribute by stating: "Mac my friend, my mentor, my big brother a very special person."

He spoke of his many years of working in local government alongside Mac and said:

"He had great perception of people and events, above all he was a man who had great integrity who never deviated from the path he set out. He never had a bad word for anyone."

And he said Mac always looked on the bright side of life, and always lived by the edict of treating others as he would like to be treated.

Mr Barnwell said there were mixed feelings amongst those at the service.

"On the one hand there is a feeling of sorrow and grief because one we loved and admired has sadly passed away, on the other hand there is knowledge Mac lived life well and honestly in the service of our town and district."

Adding: "Our hearts go out to Madge today in her great loss."

Lesley Mardle, a former head teacher who had known Mac since she was a young teenager when he worked alongside her father on the Fenland Advertiser, paid tribute to the man she said had showed patience and understanding and had

given her great support and encouragement over the years.

Mrs Mardle also read a poem chosen by Madge.

Father Paul West, who led the service, said: "Wisbech and Fenland has lost an exceptional man. I saw Mac as a local statesman."

He said after hearing of Mac's death he wanted to go to the local primary school and tell the children about Mac and that he would like them to be like Mac.

"He was a rare human being. He was above politics and was simply a servant of the people, a servant of the local community. He was a rare and special man," said Father Paul.

The service, which included three hymns and a eulogy read by Father Paul, was followed by cremation at Mintlynn crematorium at King's Lynn.

Courtesy of Fenland Citizen



The trustees announce that the dole will be distributed on **Friday Dec 6th**.

Applicants residing in Christchurch to apply at Christchurch Village Hall between 2-3pm.

- The aged and infirm will receive first consideration, no able bodied man or wife under 65 years of age need apply.
- Persons who have not been resident in the Parish for a period of at least 5 years will not be considered.
- Applications to be made in person only (Illness the only exception)

R.W.Stannard, Clerk to the trustees.



## Five candidates stand in Fenland District Council by-election for Elm and Christchurch

Five people will stand in a Fenland District Council by-election called following the death of Mac Cotterell.



The by-election, for the Elm and Christchurch ward, will take place on Thursday, December 19.

Among the candidates is former Conservative councillor Phil Webb, of Friday Bridge, who was deselected prior to the last elections in 2011. He stands as an independent.

The Tory candidate is Wisbech town councillor Michelle Tanfield. Trevor Brookman, of March, stands for the Liberal Democrats and Dean Reeves, of Wisbech, represents Labour.

UKIP also has a candidate in Alan Burbridge, of Elm.

Electors wanting to vote by post or to change existing postal or proxy arrangements for the election must apply by 5pm on December 4.

New applications to vote by proxy must be received by the council by 5pm on December 11.

Courtesy of CambsTimes and Elaine King

## <u>Police identify 29-year-old man killed in</u> <u>collision on Cambs/Norfolk border</u>

A 29-year-old man who died at the scene of a collision which blocked a main road through the Fens for four hours on Saturday has been identified.

Daniel Moden, of Main Street, Welney, received treatment from Magpas air ambulance paramedics but suffered a "traumatic cardiac arrest" and died at the scene.

The collision involved a tractor and two vehicles on the A1101 between Littleport and Welney. A Magpas spokesman said:

"Our team provided advanced life support for the patient, whilst working alongside ambulance and fire and rescue crews. Sadly, despite all their best efforts, the man was pronounced dead at the scene.

"Our thoughts are with his family and friends at this time."

The road was closed in both directions between the A10 at Littleport and the B110 junction near Welney.

The accident happened just before 11.30am on the Cambridgeshire/Norfolk borders and officers from both forces attended.

A spokesman for Cambridgeshire police said:

"We would ask anyone with information about the incident to contact Sgt Gareth Williams at the collision investigation unit on 101."

Courtesy of CambsTimes and Daniel Mansfield

## **Local Voting**

Voter registration forms were delivered throughout October and November 2013 and Fenland District Council urges you to confirm your details as soon as possible.

They require a response from every household, even if your details have not changed. You may not realise that you have to register every year and that you are not automatically registered even if you pay Council Tax. You may also find that not being on the electoral register can affect your credit rating.

Canvassers have now started door knocking non-responding properties to obtain information and they will continue vists until the end of January 2014. All canvassers will carry official ID.

To ensure your details appear on the register, you need to respond by 10<sup>th</sup> February 2014 at the very latest.

If once you have responded your circumstances change, or you do not receive a form, or you have a query about registration, please contact the Electoral Services team.

To contact Electoral Services call 01353 654321 or email: elections@fenland.gov.uk

## Healthwatch Cambridgeshire; your spotlight on health & social care.

Healthwatch Cambridgeshire is the new champion for people using local health & social care services; we launched in July 2013. We work to ensure that people's voices are heard in making important decisions about local NHS, social care and public health services.



We talk to people in the local community about their experience of the care they receive to help us understand how well local care services are working. We make sure we feed this information back where it matters to the people buying, providing and regulating local care services.

<u>Tell us about your health & social care experiences.</u> We want to hear about the good and not so good, as this feedback can help improve care for everyone.

**Join our** Consultation Network, **which will** connect you with organisations that should know about your experiences and opinions of care in Cambridgeshire.

**Get problems resolved... W**e can make sure you know where to go if you need to sort out a problem with a local care provider. We can give you information about how different complaints systems work and who can help you get your complaint resolved.

**Find out about local care.** We are developing a Signposting & Information Service, to help you find out about your choice of health & social care services.

Find out more about Healthwatch Cambridgeshire and get involved by calling us on 01480 420628, emailing enquiries@healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk or visit our website www.healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk

## **Local residents reminded to Choose Well this winter**

Residents in Fenland are being reminded to find the right health service for their illness or injury this winter.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) who commission health services in the area are asking local residents to familiarise themselves with the range of local health services and which illnesses and injuries they can treat. Last year it cost the local NHS over £600,000 treating people in the Fenland area at A&E when they could have used a different service. This could have treated 160 heart attack patients or bought over 100 hip replacements.

Here's a reminder of what local NHS services can treat.

- Pharmacies can help with bugs and viruses, skin conditions, allergies, and help with stopping smoking.
- GPs can help with back ache, ear aches, painful coughs, mental health conditions and any illness or injury that won't go away. There's also an out of hours GP service which can be accessed by calling your usual GP practice number and following the instructions.
- There's Minor Injury Unit at North Cambridgeshire Hospital, The Park, Wisbech, PE13 3AB, Tel: 01945 488068, open Monday-Friday 8.30am-6pm. They can help with minor burns and scalds, bites and strains and sprains but cannot treat babies.
- Or you can look after colds, coughs, sore throats, hangovers, tummy upsets, grazes can all be treated at home with a well-stocked medicine cupboard.
- Dr Tim Webster, GP in Wisbech and from Wisbech Local Commissioning Group said, "Winter brings more
  coughs, colds and flu so it is a good idea to be prepared and to make sure you have a supply of remedies at
  home to help care for you and your family over the holiday period. If you need a regular prescription for a
  long term condition, please check now to make sure that you have enough to last you over the holiday
  season, and go to your GP or pharmacist to collect any prescriptions in good

For more information please visit www.cambridgeshireandpeterboroughccq.nhs.uk/choose-well

#### Facebook posts

Your local NHS has advice on where to get the right treatment for your illness or injury this winter www.cambridgeshireandpeterboroughccg.nhs.uk/choose-well

The local NHS is advising residents to be prepared for winter by getting prescriptions completed in time and having a well-stocked cabinet www.cambridgeshireandpeterboroughccg.nhs.uk/choose-well

There's an out of hours GP service running in Cambridgeshire, if you need to see a GP at the weekends, evenings or holidays then call your usual practice number and follow the instructions.

## **Buying a second hand car? Advice from Trading Standards**



At Trading Standards, the most frequent type of consumer complaint we receive relates to the purchase of secondhand cars. They are one of the most expensive purchases we make and many of us are dependent on them for going about our daily lives. As a result it can be a daunting process to buy a secondhand car. Below we provide some advice to help you.

#### Check before you buy

Check the validity of the MOT on VOSA's website (www.gov.uk/check-mot-status) and check the car's details are correct on the MOT certificate. If it states there were advisory points, make sure you see the details so that you know what work is likely to be needed before the next MOT.

- •Check the VOSA website to check the vehicle has not been recalled.
- •Check it's service history. How often has it been serviced, and has it been serviced in line with the manufacturer's recommendations?

Carry out an HPI (www.hpi.co.uk) check to make sure there is no outstanding finance on the car that could lead to it being repossessed by the finance company. An HPI check will also tell you if the car has been written off or if it is stolen.

In terms of physically checking the car, carry out a walk around check and test drive the car. If you are not mechanically minded we would also strongly recommend you have the car checked by an engineer

More advice can be found on the Citizens Advice website (www.adviceguide.org.uk/consumer).

### Your rights against the seller

If you buy from a private seller, your rights are limited if you find a fault with the car after buying it. The seller must have the right to sell the car and the car must be 'as described', but other than that

you have no recourse if things go wrong with

it.

By comparison, if you purchase the car from trader, again they must have title to the car and it must be 'as described' but in addition it ust be of satisfactory quality, taking into ecount its age, mileage, condition etc. For stance, it would be reasonable to expect a rand new car to be free from wear and tear sues when you buy it. However if you were to any a ten year old car with a mileage of over 20,000 then naturally there will be wear and ar on the vehicle. If faults arise due to wear and tear, it is unlikely you will have any ecourse against the trader. Where a fault eccurs which is not due to wear and tear, you any be able to seek a repair by the trader in the first instance.

The rights explained above are in addition to any rights you may have under a warranty.

You can find more information about your ghts when you buy a secondhand car on the tizens Advice website (above).

If you need advice on any of the above, or any other consumer issue, please contact rading Standard's advice partner, the Citizens divice Consumer Helpline, on 0845 4040506. a trader, again they must have title to the car and it must be 'as described' but in addition it must be of satisfactory quality, taking into account its age, mileage, condition etc. For instance, it would be reasonable to expect a brand new car to be free from wear and tear issues when you buy it. However if you were to buy a ten year old car with a mileage of over 100,000 then naturally there will be wear and tear on the vehicle. If faults arise due to wear and tear, it is unlikely you will have any recourse against the trader. Where a fault occurs which is not due to wear and tear, you may be able to seek a repair by the trader in the first instance.

any rights you may have under a warranty.

rights when you buy a secondhand car on the Citizens Advice website (above).

any other consumer issue, please contact Trading Standard's advice partner, the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline, on 0845 4040506.

As he will not be sending Christmas Cards this year

333333333333333333333333333333333

## WALTER CHAMBERLAIN



Would like to wish all his friends in the village

> A Very Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year

## <u>Plagued by nuisance calls?</u> Trading Standards offers advice



Recent figures released by the Communications Regulator, OFCOM, show that around 10,000 unsolicited marketing calls and 3,000 silent calls are received by UK consumers every month. The majority of these calls are made between 8am and 6pm Monday to Friday.

As well as interrupting whatever you are doing at the time, many such callers use pressure selling to persuade you to agree to something without giving you the chance to consider it properly.

### What can you do to reduce the number of nuisance calls you receive?

Firstly, register with the Telephone Preference Service. The service is free and can reduce the number of unsolicited marketing calls you receive from UK companies. You can register by calling 08450 700707 or by visiting <a href="https://www.tpsonline.org.uk">www.tpsonline.org.uk</a>.

Secondly, speak to your telephone service provider to ask what call blocking technology they would recommend. Three Scottish Trading Standards authorities have recently tested some of the latest call blocking devices and found them to be very effective in reducing such nuisance calls. Some telephone providers also offer their own call blocking facilities. There may be a charge involved for such a device.

Thirdly, if you need to give your phone number to a business, make sure you opt out of receiving promotional information from them and third parties by ticking the relevant box on their website or clearly stating this if you are dealing with them on the telephone.

Fourthly, become ex-directory as some businesses use phone directories to compile marketing call lists.

Finally, many nuisance calls originate from overseas so ask your telephone provider to block international calls to your number (although be aware there

may be a charge for this service).

Never divulge personal details such as your bank details to a cold caller, regardless of who they claim to be (Police, your bank etc) and never agree to any loans or credit over the phone.

#### Dealing with cold callers

When it comes to dealing with pressure selling on the telephone, remember that it is likely they are using this technique because their prices are uncompetitive – they don't want you to have time to compare their prices with other companies. False claims that this is a 'one day only' offer or that the price is hugely discounted are common tactics.

Tell the caller you are not interested and ask them not to contact you again. If they ignore your request, report them to the Information Commissioner (ICO) online at <a href="https://www.ico.org.uk">www.ico.org.uk</a> or by phone 0303 1231113. You can also report automated prerecorded calls to ICO. If possible make a note of the business name, the number they called from, the date and time they called and what they were trying to 'sell' eg. PPI, accident claim, credit. You should also make the ICO aware of any distress, damage or loss you suffered as a result of these calls.

If you need advice on anything you have bought or agreed to as a result of such a cold call, contact





## **CHRISTCHURCH CRAFT CLUB**

November's meeting of the craft club was an enjoyable evening as usual with the girls getting into the festive spirit by making dolly peg angels.

Everyone had a lovely time and a natter whilst creating their individual masterpieces.

December's meet sees us making Christmas crackers, everything will be supplied but if you wish to bring a special gift to go inside to make your cracker that little bit more personal that's up to you. Don't forget to bring a plate of nibbles too as we always enjoy a mini buffet in December to celebrate the season.

Wendy and the committee would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and happy New Year .

Why not come along and join us - everyone is welcome, no matter where your interest in craft lies. Entrance is £1.00 plus 50p for raffle and 20p for refreshments.

For more information ring Wendy Yates on 01354 638448.

N.B Don't forget our January meeting on the 8th will be held at Townley School Hall as the Memorial Hall will no longer be in use.

## Auto Repair Centre

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Whilst on a caravan outing, resident Alan Russell came across this verse that reminded him to 'Christchurch days of old'. Alan says "I believe the few of us left will remember the 'Hill' as it was and the residents of Euximoor always referred to Christchurch as the 'Hill Chapel', 'Shop' or 'up the hill field to work".

Christchurch as it was 50 years ago, how things change - not always for the better!

## **Christchurch People**

I have heard it said so many times, It is a place that time forgot, A village where nothing much goes on, We just accept our lot. But you and I know differently, Not for us the stress and strain, Of a life so full of rush and tear, That no one knows your name. We like to stand and pass the time, And talk of yesteryear, Share news about our families, And people we hold dear. Someone will always raise a hand, And pass the time of day, Give a cheery smile and a merry quip, To help you on your way.

We like the simple pleasures, Of a kindly act or thought, Someone will always lend a hand, These things just can't be bought. And if you want to get things done, Don't wander far and wide, Just ask the local people, We take things in our stride. We won't just stand and scratch our heads, Or throw a stroppy fit, We'll wander off and fetch our tools, And just get on with it. Next time you hear a stranger say, That we lag behind the rest, Just hold your head up high and say, That Christchurch IS THE BEST!

Alan Russell - Life long resident - Aged 75

## **For Sale**

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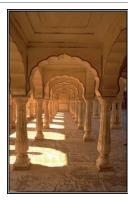
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#### **Care Fees**

Your whole family may be able to benefit by possibly defending against some potentially estate stripping deductions that local authorities can make on your older relatives' assets. Worrying about inheritance tax could be taking your eye off the ball, with average care fees of £482\* per week that is £25,064 per year. This can do far more damage to a potential inheritance over 4 or 5 years than inheritance tax may ever do. Elderly relatives do not choose to go into care, it suddenly happens as the only option available. Then the decision about, who pays, and how, follows straight on. Even if the Local Authority pay initially, they will usually have the right to demand it back. Maybe you, or relatives of yours, can do something to protect the equity in the home.

\*Institute of Public Care report December 2010 "Estimating the number and distribution of self funders of care in England"

## CHRISTCHURCH WOMEN'S INSTITUTE NEWS Minutes of the November 2013 WI Meeting



Peggy welcomed members and one visitor – Peggy's Aunt Jessie. Minutes were signed.

#### Correspondence:

A letter concerning food hygiene.

WI Enterprises were looking for people to become contacts for their WI. Sandra Kay agreed to be the contact for Christchurch WI.

Great Facet sewing bee.

Other Matters: Peggy informed members that the WI/Gardening Club had jointly bought four small square tables. These will be used on certain occasions such as the WI whist drive. Tracy has kindly offered to store them at her house.

Details of next year's programme was read out.

The Whist Drive for 2014 will be on Monday 10th Feb. at Tracy's.

The speaker Sue Stephenson took us back to the swinging sixties. She reminded us of what life was like then. Many members could recall things that she talked about.

Birthdays: Wendy, Margaret H and Doris T Rolfe.

Competition Results:

An article from the sixties. Susan Q (5), Tracy (4), Sue N (4), Margaret S (3), Sandra L (3), Sandra K (3) and Val (3).

Visitors to Warner's Textiles – Margaret S will pick up in Christchurch at 07:05. Coach will leave Hircocks at 07:20.

Next Month: Speaker Ruth Chamberlain on Jewellery. Items will be available to purchase after the meeting. **December meeting starts at 18:30** 

Competition: An attractive brooch.

Raffle Prize Rota: Peggy, Tracy, Sue N and Beryl.

### **Garden Club December 2013**



November the 26th was the Fish & Chips supper night for the garden club. A good evening enjoyed by all as is the usual, Steve serenaded us with his guitar all evening (we did give him a super as well).

This was the last meeting in the memorial hall, we will be meeting again in February 2014 for the AGM, at the Townley School premises, as will the other village clubs.

Look out for our program for next year and we want you to know a welcome always awaits a visit from anybody who would like to see how happy we all are.

#### **NOTE**

## **Christmas Shopping Trip**

This year it will be a **Sunday December 8**<sup>th</sup> and we are going to **Springfields** (AM) and **Baytree** (PM) for the day. Cost will be £7.50, coach pick up at 9.30 am from Christchurch. Non members are very welcome to join us for this happy spree. Contact 01354 638024



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Email: office@townley.cambs.sch.uk

Website: www.townleyschool.org.uk Tel/Fax: 01354 638229



We all came back into school in our PJ's and were told stories by torch light followed by hot chocolate and biscuits!

## Diary Dates

25th - 27th November Year 4/5/6 residential visit to Burwell

9th / 10th December - School Christmas Presentation

17th December - Christingle Service

18th December - whole school visit to see 'Beauty

and the Beast' (Cressett Theatre)

20th December - last day of term

7th January 2014 - Spring term Opens

Thank you to all who collected Morrison Vouchers for our School.



Nov '13

## A. R. CLINGO Funeral Director

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## **KURLING GROUP**

Jean and Margaret would like to thank all who have supported our Kurling afternoons over the last months and pleased everyone who has participated has enjoyed the group.

> The Final session will be held on Mon Dec 9th 1.30 pm - 3.30 pmIn the Memorial Hall £2 per person Tea and Coffee available

Sadly this will be the last time we all meet due to lack of suitable venue arranged in time for the closing of the hall.

Jean Cowles 01354 638328

Margaret Beswick 01354 638758

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\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

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Monday & Tues 5pm—11
Wed & Thurs 12pm—2pm 5pm - 11
Fri & Sat 12pm—12 midnight
Sunday 12pm—10 pm



Darts every Monday



### **Dun Cow Diary**

8th Dec Top Local Vocalist Becky 4.30—7.00 pm

14th Dec FireWalking

Quiz

9.30 pm

8 pm

IZ 9.30

21st Dec Xmas Karaoke Free Buffet

8.30 pm

24th Dec Grand Xmas Draw

9 pm

31st Dec New Years Eve Party Night

**Theme Vicars & Tarts** 

Free Buffet

8 pm



#### Across

- 1. Quantify (7)
- 5. Mindful (5)
- 8. Changed location (5)
- 9. Pyrogenic (7)
- 10. Fundamental (7)
- 11. Languish (5)
- 12. Remit in advance (6)
- 14. Recommendation (6)
- 17. Utter (5)
- 19. Traversed (7)
- 22. Trap (7)
- 23. Precise (5)
- 24. Velocity (5)
- 25. Farm vehicle (7)

### **Down**

- 1. Imitate (5)
- 2. Go forward (7)
- 3. Below (5)
- 4. Comestible (6)
- 5. Irritated (7)
- 6. Fragrance (5)
- 7. Most vital part of an idea (7)
- 12. Own (7)
- 13. Clumsy (7)
- 15. Occurring with no delay (7)
- 16. Dialect (6)

18. Follow or result (5)

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- 20. Greek letter (5)
- 21. Dissuade (5)

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## **Parish Church Services December 2013**



1<sup>st</sup> December 11:00am Revd K. Fitzgibbon All-Age Worship 8<sup>th</sup> December 9:30am Mr S.E. Tooke Holy Communion 15<sup>th</sup> December 3:30pm Revd K. Fitzgibbon Carol Service 22<sup>nd</sup> December 11:00am Revd K. Fitzgibbon Morning Prayer 24<sup>th</sup> December 11:30pm Revd K. Fitzgibbon Christmas Eve Communion 25<sup>th</sup> December 10am Christmas Day service at MANEA 29th December 11:00am Mr S.E. Tooke Morning Prayer

Thank you to the staff and customers of the Little Local who have donated £63.02 towards the church.

The Christmas Fayre on 23<sup>rd</sup> November raised £633 for church funds. Thank you to all those who supported this event and those who ran stalls, it is very much appreciated. The event also included a special presentation to Wolsey and Doris Rolfe for their services to the Memorial Hall committee.

### **Daphne and Andrew.**



## **Christchurch Parish Council News**

Draft agenda for next Council meeting 7:30pm, Monday 8<sup>th</sup> Dec 2013, Memorial Hall, Church Road.

## Public and Press are welcome and can speak to the Councillors during the Public Adjournment.

- 1. Open, welcome and apologies
- 2. Signing of previous meeting's minutes November 2013
- 3. Disclosure or declaration of interests
- 4. Update on actions from previous meeting
- 5. Public Adjournment (time to raise issues affecting you with the Council)
- 6. Police Update
- 7. Correspondence
- 8. Finance
- 9. Review of Planning Applications
- 10. Parish Plan
- 11. Reporting of Village Concerns

#### Your Parish Council and how to contact us

Nigel Russell – phone 638279	Jill Bliss – phone 638343
Wesley Poole – phone 638622	William Beswick – phone 638758
Simon Freeland – phone 638802	Hannah Poole – phone 638622
Roger Gladwin – phone 638538	Stephen Cowell (Clerk) – phone 661374 e-mail <a href="mailto:chirchcambspc@googlemail.com">chirchcambspc@googlemail.com</a>

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## MINUTES OF CHRISTCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY 14TH OCTOBER 2013 - MEMORIAL HALL CHRISTCHURCH AT 7.30PM

Present: Councillors - Nigel Russell (Chair), Jill Bliss, Hannah Poole, Roger Gladwin, William Beswick, Simon Freeland, Fred Yeulett and Will Sutton (FDC).

Stephen Cowell (Retiring Clerk), Susan Allinson (Clerk) and 1 member of the public were also in attendance.

### 1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Wes Poole and Mac Cotterell.

Chair Nigel Russell welcomed Susan Allinson as the new Clerk, advising Stephen Cowell, retiring Clerk would continue during hand over period. Cllr. Russell thanked Stephen on behalf of the whole village; his effort has gone beyond the call of duty, applause by way of thanks.

Cllr. Will Sutton, also wished to thank Stephen personally and felt they had worked well together, seconded by Cllr. Fred Yeulett, saying Stephen had been efficient and carried out a lot of voluntary work for the council.

#### 2. Signing of minutes

Minutes of the 9th September meeting were signed, by the Chair, as a true record of the meeting.

### 3. <u>Disclosure and Declarations of Interests</u>

None.

#### 4. Update on action points from previous meeting

Stephen Cowell reported that:

- Three quotations are required for the Play Park Project and as the Council has now received three it can move forward in deciding the preferred quote.
- Works to the pavement near the Parish Council notice board has now been completed.
- No information has been received regarding the street light in the Norfolk part of Green Lane.
- Letters have been written to two residents one whose "Egg for Sale" sign was obscuring the Scotts Road sign. Another who's overgrown rose bush was also obscuring. Cllr Sutton thinks it has now been tied back.
- The scheme of works for reflective posts at Padgett's Road and Upwell Road junctions, work now completed as agreed by the Council.
- Cllr. Russell felt that the white lines in centre of road in front of Padgett's Road has been done badly. A two foot bend, chicane effect has been painted over in black which is visible at night; Cllr. Russell pointed out it was a waste of rate payers' money

#### 5. Public Adjournment

The following subjects were raised and discussed:

- A resident reported problems in the croft with the sewerage system; it is blocked up as there is no one maintaining the plant. Cllr. Beswick lives nearby and stated that the holding tank had to be emptied twice; he thinks the vacuum pump is backing up as the tank was emptied 2 weeks ago. Cllr. Beswick informed it is in the hands of FCC to empty it. The same resident thinks the houses are losing value as a result. Cllr. Sutton says if it is an environmental issue the District Council must investigate. He questioned do the landlords have a legal responsibility to their tenants? Landlords are reluctant to come on board, the owner occupiers want it resolving. Cllr Beswick thinks that there is a lethargic attitude and we really need to get the District Council to take the job forward.
- Same resident asked if we knew of anyone that drove a Maserati? Cllr. Poole said she had also heard the loud vehicle in question at night. Cllr. Russell questioned if anyone could get the registration number so we could establish the owner.
- Cllr. Sutton questioned if anyone knows if the pavement issues have been rectified outside the school. Cllr. Freeland said that today men were working on the pavement outside the school in addition to which they were asked to put a proper footpath where the bus shelter is sited. Cllr. Russell questioned if it were Highways? Rod is the area officer. Cllr. Russell questioned if that means they will do something with the potholes? Cllr. Sutton hopes to get a meeting with Fred and Matthew to see if something can be taken forward.

#### 6. Police Update

PCSO Russ's report shows no incidents reported. Cllr. Freeland questioned if there had been any feedback regarding the pavilion break in? No other police matters.

#### 7. Correspondence Received

The Clerk brought to the attention of Councillors:

- A letter from the lady with the egg kiosk, already discussed under item 4.
- A letter from Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner regarding activity in your area, did we want to sign up for neighbourhood alert?
- Cllr. Russell passed Fraser Dawbarns LLP letter regarding the sale of Plot 1, Upwell Road, stating the sale has
  not progressed. Cllr Russell, they are asking for a copy of the minutes of the meeting which I was appointed
  Chairman of the Parish Council to confirm I am authorised to sign on behalf of the Parish Council. Cllr.
  Russell stated the sale must proceed at the agreed price as a matter of urgency or there will be no
  alternative but to put it back on the market.

#### 8. Finance

- **8.1** The Clerk reported bank balances of £52,216.58, outstanding payments of £2,000.26.
- **8.2** Cllr Russell questioned if there was any news from the external auditors, Stephen Cowell replied they had been signed off without comment. Stephen also informed that there may be a new law coming in whereby you do not have to have an

external audit.

- **8.3** The following items, listed on the agenda were agreed for payment:
- **8.3.1** Clerk's Salary £183.78
- **8.3.2** The Heron £70.00
- 8.3.3 PKF Little John (External Auditors) £120.00
- **8.3.4** HMRC £137.40

In addition the insurance renewal at £760.80 and the rent payments to Mrs Negus & Mrs Seaton of £206.25 each were authorised

### 9. Planning Applications

The council reviewed planning application:

F/YR13/0713/F resubmitted erection of a 4 bed (originally 5) 2 storey dwelling with detached double garage/store and glasshouse. Plot 2 and 3 land north of bowling green and pavilion, Upwell Road. Stephen Cowell said the new design was available for viewing after the meeting.

#### 10. Parish Plan - Update

Stephen Cowell advised that the Parish Council took over the Parish Plan prior to 2007.

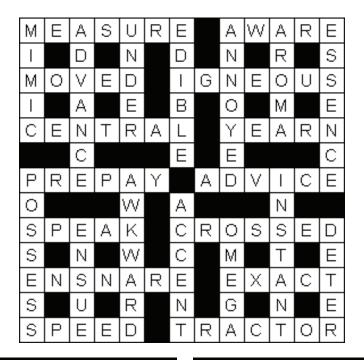
#### 11. Raising of Village Concerns

The following items were reported/discussed:

- Cllr. Yeulett wondered if there may be funding for an update Parish Plan and felt it would be wise to call it a Neighbourhood Plan as the section 106 and the community levy may automatically grant the Council us a share. Cllr Sutton reported that the Council did obtain monies from the section 106 from The Croft development but that was an onerous task. Cllr. Poole confirmed it was hard work. Cllr. Freeland asked if this meant there is a template to work from? As it may not be so difficult a second time. Grants may be available for the parish plan of up to £5,000 as the assessments are costly. Cllr. Yeulett said we may be able to get the money but we need the plan first.
- Cllr. Beswick expressed concern at speeding on Church Road, it is becoming dangerous. Cllr. Russell said to get the registration numbers would be helpful.
- Cllr. Bliss reported parked vehicles away from the pavements were making it difficult for HGV's
  and cars to get round. Cllr. Freeland thought it was Harvest Festival. Cllr. Gladwin said it happened
  as residents were moving. Cllr. Russell pointed out that two residents were moving on the same
  day.
- Cllr. Bliss reports the paper bank is overflowing, clerk to action.
- Cllr. Bliss expressed concern the reflector at the top of The Croft was hard to see.

- Cllr. Bliss reported the bushes in Fenview have not been treated so narrowing of the path. Cllr Yeulett reported that County will keep chasing as there are several who use mobility scooters. The member of the public said it was also narrow by the school.
- Cllr. Beswick reported a lamp post not working at the corner of the Croft, he questioned if FDC could repair. Stephen Cowell did not think it had ever been connected, Cllr.Russell, it may be just the bulb, could we get someone to check the bulb. Heidi Morgan is in charge of street lighting, Cllr. Beswick said they should check the fuse and sensor as well as the bulb. If it were inspected and found to be ok, would the Parish Council adopt the light. Cllr. Russell proposes that Cllr. Sutton should investigate. Stephen Cowell stated we have a budget of £1550 for street lighting should we need to adopt as it will cost the Parish Council money.
- Members of the public asked if the street lights that were due for replacement had been done,
   Stephen Cowell stated that all the lights had now been replaced. Cllr. Poole confirmed that it is much better lighting now.
- Cllr Poole expressed concern to the number of cars parking outside the Dun Cow, it is right by the
  junction and people are parking both sides of the road. The Dun Cow has its own car park but
  people are not using it.
- Cllr. Russell reported that the accident in Russell Morris's hedge and highway took away a stop sign. Cllr. Yeulett will look into it.
- Cllr. Bliss raised the transition from the Memorial Hall to the Pavilion we have an extension until midday on New Year's Day for insurance purposes and cleaning etc. Peter Norman wanted to know who would be responsible for insurance for equipment as it is removed to the Pavilion. Stephen Cowell pointed out that the contents do not belong to the Parish Council. He said he had written to Peter Norman and had no reply. Stephen Cowell asked who is going to remove the items? Cllr. Poole replied that contents belong to individual clubs that use the hall, she expects the demolition to start as soon as possible and contents will have to be put into storage. Cllr. Gladwin responded that it was up to us to decide if we are going to store the equipment. Cllr. Russell said consultation was needed with the hall committee to see what they would like to do with it. Cllr. Bliss pointed out that we would have to pay for storage and it would be better to find out what each club wants to do with their own equipment. Cllr. Gladwin and Cllr. Poole pointed out that when each clubs belongings have been removed there would be very little left in the hall. Cllr. Freeland said the key holders need to have a meeting. The latest on the merger is Mr. Bowser has asked for details of both Charities and it is being passed via Solicitors. It makes sense to merge as the charity commission will let it go through smoothly. Cllr. Bliss said the Memorial Hall Charity have given consent to our Solicitors to go ahead. Stephen Cowell wanted to know if they could come back to him. Cllr. Bliss will respond to Peter Norman and clarify details of the meeting.

The Chair thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 8.45pm



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To contact the newsletter team :-

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Fenland District Council	01354 654321
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<sup>\*</sup> New non-emergency Police phone number - 101\*