

## MINUTES OF CHRISTLETON ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> May 2019 at 7.30 pm

At Christleton Methodist Church Hall

### SIGNED

**Present:** Cllr Luke Henley, Simon Kent, Janet Brown, Kate Sinclair, Mike McGarva, John Beckett, John Eccles & Damian Murphy

**In Attendance:** Sue Thwaite (Clerk) Pauline Pratt, (outgoing Chairman)

#### To Elect Chairman and Vice-Chairman

1. As outgoing Chairman Pauline Pratt asked for nominations for Chairman, Cllr Simon Kent proposed and Cllr Kate Sinclair seconded Cllr Luke Henley for the position of Chairman, which he accepted.
2. Nominations for the position of Vice-Chairman were requested and three names were put forward, Cllr Simon Kent, John Beckett & John Eccles.
3. Following a vote, the result was as follows: Simon Kent 4 votes, John Beckett 3 votes and John Eccles 3 votes.
4. Cllr Kent was duly elected as Vice-Chairman, who had been proposed by Kate Sinclair & seconded by Mike McGarva. Cllr Kent accepted the position of Vice-Chairman.

#### To Receive Declaration of Acceptance of Office

5. Cllr Henley as Chairman completed and signed her declaration of acceptance of office and this was also signed by the Clerk.
6. All Councillors completed and signed their declaration of acceptance of office and this was also signed by the Clerk.

#### Apologies

7. Apologies were received from Cllrs Susan Robson & Elizabeth Inall (both were away from home)
8. Cllr Henley thanked the outgoing Cllrs Pauline Pratt, Peter Tonge & Peter Scullion for their loyal service to the Parish Council and their very valuable contribution to the wider community during their years on the Parish Council
9. He welcomed the new Councillors who were now embarking on quite a steep learning curve and stressed the importance of working together for the benefit of the community as a whole.

#### To receive Chairman's Annual Report

10. The outgoing Chairman presented her report which included the following:

##### **Membership**

The Parish Council is now at full strength.

##### **Planning**

This year the village had another major planning application from Christleton Law College (Christleton Hall), and the Parish Council put in detailed objections to this application which was subsequently refused. The Beechmoor Nurseries application also went to appeal. Cllr Henley attended the appeal hearing and we now await the Inspector's decision. Christleton Hall also appealed the decision by CW&C to refuse planning permission but this appeal was subsequently withdrawn. We await the next planning application for this site.

11. The Parish Council also continued to consider each planning application made in the Village and, where it deemed it appropriate to do so, submitted comments to the planning authority.

## **Traffic & Road Safety**

12. A further survey of the 20mph zone was carried out in November 2017. We received the analysis of the results in September 2018. The speeds recorded were very little different to those before the 20mph zone was installed. The Parish Council subsequently put forward several solutions to a Village meeting which indicated that the majority of the people who attended the meetings were in favour of installing chicanes and speed cushions. However, no consensus was agreed over installing passing bays with yellow lines on the 'S' bends in the village centre. A traffic working group has been set up with Terms of Reference which will be led by the Parish Council to investigate options regarding traffic.
13. Two members of the Parish Council had further meetings with the Bridge Club regarding the problems with parking. It was suggested to them again that they bring forward the time for their sessions on Wednesday afternoons so that their vehicles leave the village before the school finishes. They have asked their members but have decided not to change their times.
14. The very successful campaign against speeding and HGVs during the night on the A41 has been repeated by the Police

### **Allotments**

15. The takeover of the Boughton Heath Allotments continued to run smoothly, and all plots are now occupied. There are a few names on the waiting list.

### **Christleton Schools**

16. The Parish Council continues to have regular meeting with the High School, and these have proved to be mutually beneficial and Cllr Inall is a Governor at the Primary School.

### **Website**

17. Mr Malcolm Pratt (Cllr Pratt's husband) has been kind enough to continue maintaining the Parish Council Website throughout the year

### **Memorial to "The Fallen of World War 1"**

18. The Parish Council has installed a poppy wreath on the village green to commemorate all the fallen from the Village in the First World War.

### **The Pit**

The Pit Group have been very busy this year and have as usual kept the area around the Pit looking neat and tidy

## **THANKS, AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

19. I would like to thank all my fellow councillors for their support and hard work over the last year. In particular I would like to thank;
  - Cllr Luke Henley for the work he put into the planning applications at Beechmoor Nurseries and Christleton Law College.
  - Cllr Simon Kent for the work he has done in relation to the traffic problems in the village.
  - Cllr Janet Brown for her "green fingers" the village always looks attractive.
  - Cllr Elizabeth Inall for her work with the Primary School
  - Cllr Peter Tonge for his work regarding the Allotments
  - Cllr Peter Scullion for his work as Bank Warden
  - Cllr Susan Robson for her work regarding the planters around the Village and the new Wreath on the Village Green
  - Cllr Kate Sinclair for her work on communication with the Village.
20. Cllr Mike McGarva who I am sure will bring a depth of experience to the Parish Council
21. I would also like to thank the Cheshire West and Chester Councillors Stuart and Margaret Parker for their continuing and unflinching support. Above all I would like to thank the Parish Clerk, Susan Thwaite, who has continued her excellent work.

**Resolved:** The Chairman's report was accepted unanimously

**The full report can be viewed on parish council website;** [www.christleton-pc.gov.uk](http://www.christleton-pc.gov.uk)

### **Financial Report**

22. The Financial Report was received and accepted unanimously by all members the report gave a breakdown of income and expenditure for the financial year 2019/2019.
23. **Resolved:** The financial report was accepted unanimously  
*The full report can be viewed on the Parish Council website; [www.christleton-pc.gov.uk](http://www.christleton-pc.gov.uk)*

### **REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES**

#### **Christleton Primary School Governor**

24. There are currently 209 children on roll (January 2019) in seven classes, supported by over 25 staff and a proactive and very supportive Governing Body and PTA.
25. During the last year the school as worked hard to develop its provision and make the most effective use of its finances. The school continues to provide a broad and balanced curriculum, there is a significant programme of ongoing training for staff both within the school and externally.
26. Over the summer break 2018 there were significant alterations were made to the building to improve classroom facilities and not least to improve the staff room.
27. Apart from the curriculum the school in the past year has had themed weeks, many visitors to the school taken part in many outside activities, including residential visits to Beeston, Marie Hall and the Conway Centre.
28. The school continues to develop the awareness of its pupils to the needs of others and supporting charities through the curriculum activities and through participation in fund raising events.

#### Health and Well-being

29. The school has continued with 'Learning Powers' to make the children more aware of themselves as a learner. This has helped the children become more resilient and independent.
30. The school also continues with the daily mile. This made use of the track on the school field to ensure that the children had daily exercise supporting the health of the mind and body.
31. The children's awareness is further enhanced through the health week which occurs during the summer term.

#### Learning through the outdoor environment

32. Forest school teaching has become a fundamental element of the curriculum.

#### Community Links

33. The school has taken several 1<sup>st</sup> year students on placement from Chester University as well as offering work experience to several high school students.
34. The school continues to host the Christleton fete at the end of June each year.
35. Further information can be found on the school's website  
[www.christletonprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.christletonprimaryschool.co.uk)
36. The Primary School report was accepted unanimously.

*The full report can be viewed on the Parish Council website; [www.christleton-pc.gov.uk](http://www.christleton-pc.gov.uk)*

#### **Bank Warden Report**

37. I have only fairly recently taken over the Bank Warden role following on from Mike Steele who stepped down earlier this year. Fishing licence applications have been distributed to the Village Shop and The Ring o Bells. I have not received any applications and am pleased to say I have not witnessed any illegal fishing ahead of the start of season in June.
38. I have also been in contact with the Pit Group and attended their AGM earlier this year. David Cummings and his team continue to do great work around the Pit. They have recently completed further turf work to the Little Heath bank and have listed plans for further works and general maintenance throughout 2019. The work to replace the fence facing Little Heath Road is due to the start on 7<sup>th</sup> May. The fence will be set approximately one metre further back towards the water and create a narrow footpath.
39. The recent sunny Easter weekend saw a lot of visitors to the Pond which continues to bring a great deal of pleasure to villagers and visitors alike.

## **Village Assistant Annual Report**

### 40. **TRAFFIC (A Conundrum I know)**

Over recent years the volume of vehicles both moving and parked has dramatically increased.

### 41. At the same time public transport has diminished.

Speed of early morning traffic is somewhat breath-taking.

### 42. **GRAFFITI**

The 4 bridges over the canal have had varying degrees of this. Same could be said of all canal bridges from here to Chester.

### 43. **STREET LIGHTING**

One close to chicane in Pepper Street not working. More difficult to get such things fixed now including graffiti.

### 44. **VANDALISM**

Apart from the sand digger on play area and what looked to me like a number of attempts to set grass alight on bike track during the exceptional summer nothing else to report.

### 45. **LITTER/PLAYING FIELDS**

Again, I'm pleased to say general litter is nothing like 10years ago. The seat opposite the shop attracts some but Faulkners Lane has had a big increase. It is very difficult to manage due to blind bends and no pavement.

### 46. I try to litter pick on Saturday mornings as traffic is lighter and Friday is "Household collection day".

### 47. By far the biggest problem is the play area/bike track bins. During the last 12 months the bike track bin I think has been emptied twice. Last September being the last. I pick out with my stick what I can reach but the rest has laid there for months.

### 48. Bins on play area this last month have been full to overflowing within days of me removing excess.

### 49. It's obvious children's parties take place with Pizza and all kinds of food packaging crammed into bins. I do my best to bag and remove but these bins are not emptied regularly enough to cope with volume.

### 50. I have mixed feelings re the posts erected to protect the 1st field. In the cricket season this was used as an overflow car park for play area visitors. End of season football finals will attract many vehicles and I can foresee parking problems in Pit Road and grassed areas around and about.

### 51. I have witnessed damage caused by vehicles in past winters, but pity a less dramatic solution could not be found.

**Resolved:** The Village Assistants report was accepted unanimously.

**The full report can be viewed on the Parish Council website; [www.christleton-pc.gov.uk](http://www.christleton-pc.gov.uk)**

## **John Sellers Trust**

### 52. Meetings were held on 24<sup>th</sup> May 7<sup>th</sup> November 2019 and 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019. During the year Rev. DR S Collier was appointed as Chairman and our Clerk is Pauline Pratt. Trustees are Cllr Margaret Parker, Susan Robson, Rev Dr S Collier and Janet Brown. Meetings take place at the Rectory or Little Mere.

### 53. Donations were received his year from Cllr Margaret Parker and the Cheshire Cat, as proposed by Alf Croston.

### 54. It was agreed to donate to King Georges@ Play Area, Chester Scouts, Christleton Primary School, Christleton Pre-School, Christleton Guides and Christleton Brownies.

### 55. **Resolved:** The John Sellers Trust report was accepted unanimously

## **Open Forum**

There were comments brought up at the Public Forum.