

## MINUTES OF CHRISTLETON PARISH COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING

### INCORPORATING KING GEORGE'S TRUST

Held on TUESDAY, 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2019 at 7.30 pm

At Christleton Methodist Church Hall

#### SIGNED

**Present:** Cllrs Luke Henley (Chairman) Susan Robson, Elizabeth Inall, John Eccles, Mike McGarva, Kate Sinclair, John Beckitt & Janet Brown

**In Attendance:** CWAC Cllr Stuart Parker, Malcolm Pratt (Christleton Pit Group) & Sue Thwaite, Clerk

**Apologies:** Cllrs Simon Kent & Damian Murphy (on holiday), PCSO Jack Makin (annual leave)

#### Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests

#### Minutes of the last Meeting

1. The Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting and King George's Fields Trust held on Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> June 2019 were approved and signed as a true and correct record.

#### Public Forum

2. Cllr Stuart Parker informed the meeting that a plan to alter the junction on the A51 at Stamford Bridge and a new 'Toucan' crossing on the A41 by Pearl Lane were being considered.
3. Cllr Parker was requested to look into the charge to Christleton Fete of £650 for road closure by the Parish Hall on the day of the Fete. He reported that closing of roads has now been outsourced by the police to a private company and he was looking into having the charge reversed.

#### Item 10a & 10b was b/fwd

#### To discuss ongoing issues with illegal fishing and litter problems at The Pit

4. A number of reports of unauthorised fishing by adults and litter problems at The Pit have been received, together with anglers fishing on the Alms House side of the Pit and not on the official fishing platforms by Bricky Lane.
5. Following discussion it was agreed that the Pit Group would cut back overhanging tree branches by the fishing platforms to allow easier access for anglers, to consider installing 'Take your litter home' signs and the Pit Group will make enquiries to have the large fish netted and removed from The Pit in early autumn.
6. The position of Bank Warden is now vacant, and until a replacement can be found the current Warden will continue to issue permits and collect fees.

#### To consider revision of Fishing Rules

7. The current fishing rules were deemed to be suitable subject to some small amendments but will continue to be monitored and amended if necessary.  
The Clerk circulated a handbill that had been delivered to all properties in the vicinity of The Pit in 2009 and suggested that this be updated and re-issued to these properties. It contained information of who is allowed to fish at the Pit and the relevant contact details for anyone wishing to report any unauthorised fishing or anti-social behaviour.

**Action** the Clerk will update the handbill with current information when the Bank Warden is appointed and arrange for delivery.

## Planning

### Planning Applications

8. A list of planning application previously circulated to all Councillors was considered. Comments were noted by the Clerk for submission to CWAC Planning Authority. All comments can be viewed on CWAC website.

## Traffic & Road Safety

### Traffic & Road Safety Group

9. Cllr Kent was away on holiday so there was no report for this meeting

### Report from Traffic Working Group

10. Cllr Sinclair presented the report which included confirmation that Stuart Bateman from CWAC Highways would attend the next meeting to provide input and comments on various ideas being proposed. He has also designed a proposal for parking restrictions through the S bends and testing for this will take place towards the end of September when all the schools have returned.
11. The TWG formally requested Stuart Bateman to provide indicative costs to extend and possibly deepen the existing toast rack on village road and to provide costs for toast rack type of parking at 2 locations on Quarry Lane.
12. The group will discuss with the schools on how attitudes can be changed to encourage more pupils to walk or cycle to school.
13. The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> August.

### Report from A51 Group Meeting

14. A comprehensive report circulated by Cllr Kent following the recent A51 Group meeting was considered and accepted by the meeting.

## KING GEORGE'S TRUST ITEMS

### To approve KGF expenditure for July 2019

15. The following expenditure was approved:

Payments	£	Act	<u>Cheque No:</u>
Allan James – Removal of dangerous Horse Chestnut Tree	300.00	Open Spaces Act 1906	147
Rob Pierce – Groundwork Maintenance – JUNE 2018	640.00	Open Spaces Act 1906	148
INCOME – Christleton Sports Club Rent	275.00		
BANK BALANCE @: 25/06/19	<b>1803.67</b>		

### Quarterly Finance Review

16. The quarterly review spreadsheet circulated to the meeting was accepted and approved.

### Report on communications with Sports Club

17. The Clerk informed the members present of an invitation from Christleton Cricket Club for Trustees to attend afternoon tea on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2019 when they will be hosting a 2<sup>nd</sup> eleven game against a visiting team from Wirral Cricket Club.
18. Cllrs Janet Brown, Susan Robson, Mike McGarva & Luke Henley confirmed that they would be pleased to accept the invitation. The Clerk will contact the absent councillors on their return from holiday to see if they are also able to attend.

**Action:** Clerk to confirm acceptance with the secretary of Christleton Cricket Club.

#### Update on improvements to KGF first field

19. The Clerk confirmed that she had written to Littleton & Rowton Parish Councils, the two schools, Rainbows, Brownies & Beavers troupes to enquire if they could use the field for any activities as a way to derive some income for KGF to offset expenditure. There has been no response at the time of this meeting.
20. Cllr Robson confirmed that this matter would be raised with the High School at their Liaison Meeting later this week.
21. The Clerk also suggested that consideration could be given to turn the field into a wildflower meadow, with mowed paths and picnic areas, this could be a very attractive feature and cut down on the annual mowing costs for the field.
22. This idea was well received and further enquires as to the feasibility for such a project will be looked into.

#### To consider setting up a Fundraising Group to raise money for KGF

23. Following discussion, it was agreed to defer any decision on setting up a fundraising group until plans regarding improvements to the First Field were finalised

**Item 10a was b./fwd**

#### Monthly Inspection Report – Little Heath Play Area & Bike Track

24. Items that were highlighted to be monitored over the next few months were:
  - The matting by the play equipment would need attention in the near future.
  - The road leading up to the Sports Club was also in need of attention responsibility of who maintains this road will be checked in the Lease

#### To agree date for ordering Play Bark & Sand and arrange for volunteers to offload and spread

25. It was agreed that when confirmation was received that the replacement wooden frame was completed a date would be set to order the materials and set-up a working party to offload and spread the bark and sand.

**Action:** Clerk to action this matter as soon as replacement frame is in place.

#### To consider request from Cheshire Federation of the WI to plan a tree in celebration of their centenary in 2020

26. Approval was given to this request and Cllr Inall will liaise with contractor for advice on type of tree and suitable site.

#### **Future Project & Groups**

27. A working group document compiled by Cllr Beckitt was circulated to all members with the following being discussed  
Pollution Monitoring
28. Cllr Beckitt is working with volunteers on monitoring the air quality and pollution levels in the village. One of the volunteers has sourced a handheld Pollution Monitoring device and they will trial this device over the next couple of months.
29. Following discussion, it was agreed that this will be a private initiative in the first instance led by Cllr Beckitt who will report back to TWG and the Parish Council in September, when further consideration will be given to bringing this group under the Parish Council's remit.  
Speed Watch
30. Cllr Beckitt confirmed he had two volunteers and will liaise with Cllr Kent on this project.  
Asset Monitoring
31. Infrastructure in the village e.g. roads, footpaths, walls gated etc. regularly need attention and it would be the remit of an Asset Monitoring Group to set up a monitoring mechanism to carry out the task. Cllr Beckitt will investigate the need for such a group and report back to the September meeting.  
Strategy Group - This is a future project for later in the year.

Open Spaces Society

32. Cllr Robson requested that the Parish Council join the Open Spaces Society to be part of the oldest national conservation body which projects open spaces, commons and more than 130,000 miles of public rights of way in England & Wales which are under threat of closure by 2026.

**Resolved:** Approval was granted to join the Open Spaces Society

**Action:** Clerk to complete necessary paperwork and pay subscription with August expenditure

Roles & responsibilities of existing groups

33. The vacancies on the existing PC groups- following the recent election were allocated out between the ten councillors.

Update on ideas for future long-term projects

34. This is a long-term project to look for projects that the PC can control and projects that they can influence, this will be debated further over the following months when ideas from Councillors are put forward.

**Allotments**

35. There was no report this month.

Update on Land Registry

36. This is ongoing

**Finance**

37. The following expenditure was approved.

<b>ORGANISATION</b>			<b>Cheque No:</b>
Sue Thwaite – Clerk Expenses for June 2019	82.39	LGA 1972 – Sec 112	2340
Water Plus – Water charges for BHAC	9.04	Small Holding & Allotments Act 1908	2341
JDH Business Services Ltd – Internal Audit for 2018/2019	253.60	LGA 1972 – Sec 142	2342
<b>No Prior Approval Payments</b>			
Sue Thwaite Clerk – Salary for June 2019 & 44 Additional hrs for May 2019	850.35	LGA 1972 – Sec 111	2343
HMRC – PAYE JUNE 2019	285.26	LGA 1972 – Sec 2	2344
Derek Garner – Village Asst Pay & expenses June 2019	108.98	LGA 1972 – Sec 112	2345
Christleton Methodist Church – Room Hire for July 2019	25.00	LGA 1972 – Sec 111	2346
Rob Piece – Groundworks Maintenance June 2019	404.40	LGA 1972 – Sec 112	2347
<b>INCOME:</b>			
Bank Balances – @ 21/06/19			
H/I Account	91435.91		
Current A/C	100.21		
Dredging A/C	10030.84		

To approve expenditure payments for August as there is no meeting that month

38. Approval to pay August Expenditure was approved, together with the transfer of £3000 to King George's Fields account in August.

#### Quarterly Finance Review

39. The quarterly finance review spreadsheet circulated to the meeting was accepted and approved.

#### To consider request from St James Church for donation towards purchase of a new garden strimmer.

40. Discussion took place on whether the Parish Council should be paying for equipment or maintenance of land owned by the church or donating to something that the church is responsible for.
41. The meeting was assured that the graveyard at the church was **not** owned by the church but was the village burial ground and anyone who lives or dies in the village of any denomination has the right to be buried there. It is managed by the church who pays for its upkeep.
42. The meeting was also informed that the church was approaching other organisations to request donations towards the cost of the strimmer.

**Resolved:** A resolution was put to the meeting to wait to see what money the church raised from other sources and then either to make up any difference in donations or if no other funds were forthcoming then the Parish Council would donate the total cost of £389.70 +VAT. This resolution is in accordance with its powers under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 that the Council should incur this expenditure as it is in the interest of the area or its inhabitants.

A vote on the resolution was carried by 6 for and 2 abstentions.

**Action:** Clerk with action this item as the appropriate time

#### **Christleton Schools**

##### Christleton High School

43. Cllrs Henley & Robson will be attending a Liaison Group meeting at the school on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2019 and issue a report following the meeting.

##### Christleton Primary School

44. Cllr Inall reported that has been incidents of vandalism on the school playing fields and there are vacancies on the Board of Governors for non-parent governors.

#### **Monthly Inspection Report**

##### Capesthorpe Road Community Orchard

45. There were no issues to report this month but confirmed that the three benches have now been sanded and re-varnished.

#### **Action Items**

##### To discuss suggested guidelines for members of the public attending meetings.

46. The guidelines suggested in the document were felt to be too formal and a softer approach would be more appropriate which could encourage more members of the community to engage with the Council.

**Action:** Cllr Sinclair would re-word the document and present it to the member prior to being published on the Parish Council website.

##### Styal Pathway Gates

47. The Styal Pathway gates removed when the new property was built were not required to be replaced by Planning. These were the property of the Parish Council and had been stored by the owner of the new property who had requested their removal.

**Resolution:** The Parish Council had no use for these gates and permission was granted for the property owner to dispose of them as he felt fit. **Action:** The Clerk to action this item.

To consider making regular contributions to St. James Church Magazine

48. **Resolved:** This was felt to be a very useful way for the Parish Council to communicate with the village residents keeping them up to date with current issues.  
**Action:** The Clerk will submit monthly articles to the magazine.

**Information Correspondence**

49. There was no information correspondence this month

**Information only items**

50. Cllr Robson reported that there was enough sandstone left for another small sandstone trough and she and Cllr Brown will look for a suitable site.

Dates of the next meetings: Tuesday 03/09/19 & 01/10/19

Meeting closed at 9.57 pm