

MINUTES OF CHRISTLETON ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

INCORPORATING KING GEORGE'S TRUST

Held on Tuesday 3rd May 2022 at 7.0 pm

Held at Christleton Methodist Church Hall

UNSIGNED

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

In Attendance: Sue Thwaite (Clerk)

Apologies: Cllrs Elizabeth Inall (Holiday) & Kate Sinclair (bereavement)

To Elect Chairman & Vice Chairman

1. Nominations for the position of Chairman and Vice-Chairman were called for. - Cllr Beckitt nominated Cllr Luke Henley for the position of Chairman, this was seconded by Cllr Susan Robson. Cllr Henley accepted the position to serve for a further year.
2. Cllr Susan Robson nominated Cllr John Beckitt for the position of Vice-Chairman and this was seconded by Cllr Murphy. Cllr Beckitt accepted the position of Vice-Chairman.
3. Cllr Henley duly signed his acceptance of office and the meeting began.

Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

4. There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests

Reports

To receive Chairman's Annual

5. The Chairman's introduction reflected on the past year and the chaos that Covid-19 had caused, which we seem, at last, to be slowly slipping behind us. He also reflected that after the changes from the 2019 election, the Parish Council's membership has been reassuringly stable this year.
6. The Council in 2021-2022 – Normal service has nearly been resumed and face-to-face meetings were once again following the Government's decision not to renew the permission for local and parish councils to meet remotely.
7. We resumed face-to-face meetings courtesy of Christleton Sports Club, who kindly provided us with accommodation at a time when our usual venue at the Methodist Church was still not available. The Parish Council was very appreciative of the Sports Club hospitality, but in view of the club becoming much busier with members and visitors returning to the sporting activities it was decided to return to the Methodist Church Hall which had re-opened.
8. Achievements: The greatest achievement has been to keep things going for another year; it is easy to forget how much everything was still locked down as the time of our last Annual meeting. The downside is that many projects that we have been working on made little progress this year.
9. Significantly one area to suffer was that of improving the traffic situation in the village - a number of traffic related projects, despite the best efforts of Cllr John Beckitt, have not made much progress, partly due to the pandemic, partly because of personnel changes in the management of CWAC Highways, and partly due to the competition from new initiatives.
10. Air Quality: Monitoring continues, with high levels of NO₂ and PM_{2.5} on routes to school remain a concern – we continue to press the issue with CWAC – a major reduction in WHO guideline levels will provoke nationwide consultation and major action will be forced on CWAC.
11. Major planning matter was the University of Law development – despite the efforts of a team of Parish Councillors to negotiate with the developers to make the development more acceptable, get some collateral benefits for the community and to ensure that construction vehicles which

are too heavy for the Trooper Bridge did not come through the centre of the village, the final plans submitted in August were more damaging than we had hoped – despite our best efforts and strong opposition and against the view of the vast majority of the residents who submitted comments, the Planning Committee saw fit to pass the scheme.

12. Boughton Heath Allotment Colony: Everything is working well and the allotment association carries out most of the day today management for the Council.
13. Trustee of King George's Fields: the main problem this year has been with the play area, this has, unfortunately, been deteriorating faster than hoped – the equipment was hoped to last between 15-20 years but has started to present problems after only 10 years. The swings were declared unsafe by our professional inspector and had to be taken out of service – these have now been replaced but the rest of the equipment is likely to need replacing sooner rather than later, and plans for this are underway.
14. The project to move to electronic working is processing, we now are working on cloud storage for documents and secure email.
15. As a result of the inability to make progress on projects, particularly those relating to traffic, the money that has been set aside for these has not been spent, so the Parish Council is in better financial health than it has been for a long time.
16. Ongoing Matters: Website – Mr Malcolm Pratt has continued to be kind enough to continue maintaining the Parish Council's website on a voluntary basis, for which we are very grateful.
17. The Pit: The Pit Group continue to amaze by their sheer dedication and excellence.
18. Thanks, and Acknowledgments: The Chairman expressed his thanks and acknowledgments to his fellow Councillors for carrying on regardless, CWAC Cllr Stuart Parker, for opening doors and as usual generous grant from his Member's Budget and above all to Parish Clerk Susan Thwaite, who held everything together.
19. The full report was accepted and can be found on the [Parish Council's website](#).

To receive the Annual Financial Report

20. The Report contained up-to-date bank balances and information on income received and expenditure for the financial year 2021-2022.
21. Income included the Precept, grants from Ward Councillors members budget, VAT refunds, rent income from Boughton Heath Allotment Colony.
22. Expenditure: the largest single expenditure was replacing the rotten swings at the play area. General expenditure included upkeep of lands that the Parish Council are responsible for, Boughton Heath Allotment Colony (all expenditure for the allotments was met from their rents). Support for King George's Fields, salaries, Insurance premiums, PAYE, annual subscriptions to various bodies, auditing, accounting and training.

Coming Year

23. The plans for the coming year include going forward with a masterplan to improve and extend the play area, which will need external funding opportunities being investigated, support for King George's Fields, and the ongoing traffic and road safety plans for build-out on Birch Heath Lane, Plough Lane, VAS sign on Rowton Bridge Road and alteration of chicane on Pepper Street.
24. The Village Design project going forward will depend on the final outcome from Village consultation should this go forward then funding streams will be investigated.

KING GEORGE'S FIELDS

25. Income: Income derived from rents from Christleton Sports Club, support from Christleton Parish Council and a small VAT refund.
 26. Expenditure - The main expenditure was for groundworks at LHPA, Little Heath Common and the bike track and general maintenance and insurance premium.
- The full report was accepted and can be found at the [Parish Council's website](#).

Reports from Representatives

To receive report from Christleton Primary School Governor

27. The school has worked hard to provide as near a normal environment as possible for learning during the pandemic, last year Covid was very much in evidence and measure were in place to keep pupils and safe as possible.
28. There were no residential trips last year in line with government advice, but have now resumed along with day trips.
29. Music lessons have resumed again and a new reading shed in key Stage 2 playground has been erected with a donation. Christmas concerts were held outside as well as the Christmas Fair.
30. The school continues to take part in sporting and athletic activities in competition with other schools, cross country running, netball and both boys and girl's football.
31. There have been a number of 'themed weeks and days' again this year, there has been a change around of the teachers and the year groups they teach. A non-teaching SENCO has been appointed and they have launched a new [Christleton Primary School website](#).
32. Two members of the Parish Council visited year 6 to canvass their opinion on new equipment for Little Heath Play Area, the children were very responsive and enthusiastically made suggestions. The school were also asked by their teachers what they would like as a souvenir of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee to be presented by the Parish Council. The popular vote was for a commemorative teddy bear.
The full report was accepted and can be found at the [Parish Council's website](#).

Report from Bank Warden

33. The Bank Warden reported that there no fishing permits issued in the past year and there had been little fishing activity, apart from a couple of occasions when adults fishing who resided outside the village
34. There are a number of children who previously fished at the Pit who are over 16 so are no longer eligible, the Bank Warden suggested the Council consider amending the eligibility
35. T allow anyone from the Village to fish. This would allow 16–18-year-olds and returning students to fish. This would be good from a fish welfare perspective, as older anglers are more experienced and have the correct equipment, it would also be an opportunity to increase the fishing permit price.
36. The possibility of extending eligibility for adults to fish at the Pit will be explored and will be an item on the June agenda.

Report from Village Assistant

37. The Village Assistant presented his report with a number of observations including that the benches in the play area were in need of attention, the goal posts on the First Field and the mowing of the grass by the Sports Club has resulted in an improvement in the area.
38. Since restrictions have been lifted there are fewer masks being discarded in all areas around the village. Nitrous Oxide capsules have been strewn around the play area on occasions, with cigarette ends outside the Plough Lane entrance to the High School.
39. Overall, in general things have improved in recent years.

John Sellers Trust Annual Report

40. A brief report from the John Sellers Trust, which was founded on 23rd December 1799 for the education of poor children in Christleton and Littleton to provide them with instructions on reading, English, writing, arithmetic and for spinning, sewing and knitting.
41. There have been no requests for donations this year, but posters have been displayed on all the notice boards in the village to highlight the existence of the Trust.
42. Primary source of income is from rent on Whicway Croft on Plough Lane, but in recent years donations from other bodies have been gratefully received.

The meeting closed at 7.40 p.m.

CPC 03/05/22