

MINUTES OF CHRISTLETON ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

INCORPORATING KING GEORGE'S TRUST

Held on Wednesday 17th May 2023 at 7.30 pm

Held at Christleton Methodist Church Hall

SIGNED

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

In Attendance: Sue Thwaite (Clerk)

Apologies: CWAC Cllr Stuart Parker (Prior commitments) Cllrs Graham Ranger (Holiday) Kate Sinclair (Work commitments) & Janet Brown (Medical matters),

To Elect Chairman & Vice Chairman

1. Following the Local Council Elections held on 4th May, 2023 all current councillor were returned uncontested and duly signed their Declaration of Acceptance of Office and the Notification of Members' Interest forms.
2. 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 Elizabeth Inall Cllr Henley accepted the position to serve for a further year.
3. Cllr Susan Robson nominated Cllr John Beckitt for the position of Vice-Chairman and this was seconded by Cllr Lauren Buckley, Cllr Beckitt accepted the position of Vice-Chairman.
4. Cllr Henley duly signed his acceptance of office of Chairman and the meeting began.

Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

5. There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests

Reports

To receive Chairman's Annual

Introduction

6. From the Chairman's perspective, at least, 2022-2023 started normally and moved to a situation where there are what might be described as existential challenges to the future of our community.

Membership

7. Councillor Damian Murphy resigned due to pressure of work. There was no time to replace him before the May 2023 elections. The remaining nine councillors all stood for election and were unopposed. Seeking to co-opt someone to fill the vacancy is going to be an early priority.

Council in 2022-2023

8. Post-Covid recovery was effectively completed when we were able to hold an Open Morning in October 2022. Although in the autumn rather than the spring, it was well attended and provided a useful opportunity to showcase the work of the Parish Council and various community groups.

Achievements

9. A summary of all the achievements contained in the Chairman's Report can be view in full on the Parish Council's website – <https://christleton-pc.gov.uk>

Ongoing Matters

Website

10. Mr Malcolm Pratt has again continued to be kind enough to continue maintaining the Parish Council's website on a voluntary basis, for which we are very grateful.

The Pit

11. The Pit Group continue to amaze by their sheer dedication and excellence.

In Memoriam

12. Sadly, Eric Kenyon, who was a Parish Councillor for many years and chaired the Pit Group for many more, and whose other contributions to the village are too numerous to record here, died at the end of November 2022.

Thanks, and Acknowledgments

13. I would like to thank and acknowledge the contributions of:
14. My fellow Councillors, for always rising to the challenges. It isn't said nearly enough that they all work strenuously on an entirely voluntary basis.
15. Cheshire West and Chester Councillor Stuart Parker for supporting us in our endeavours big and small and, as usual, making generous grants from his Member's Budget; and
16. Above all the Parish Clerk, Susan Thwaite, without whom all would be chaos.
17. The Chairman's Report was accepted and approved unanimously

To received Annual financial Report 2022/2023

18. The Clerk presented the Annual Financial Report for the 2022/2023 year:

BALANCE FROM previous year carried forward was £139,597.52

INCOME

19. The Precept demand was £65,130, a grant was received from Cllr Stuart Parker from his member's budget of £4400 for installation of bike stands at the Parish Hall and various locations in the village and VAT refunds totalling £2144.20.
20. £4,077 was received in Allotment rents, bank interest 642.96 and a miscellaneous amount of £22 for overpayment of invoice and 1 fishing permit, makes up to total amount of income in this financial year.

EXPENDITURE:

21. The Council's total expenditure for this financial year is £40,560
22. Expenditure included core expenditure of £23,750 for salaries, subscriptions HMRC, Insurances, audit and accounting, room hire. Asset expenditure of £16,810 for the upkeep and maintenance of Little Heath Common, Village Green, Birch Heath common, Legion Meadow, Boughton Heath Allotment Colony, all expenditure for the allotments was paid out of their rental income. The council did not transfer any financial support to KGF Trust in this financial year.

KING GEORGE'S FIELDS

23. Income: Income derived from rents from Christleton Sports Club, no support from Christleton Parish Council was requested in this financial year.

24. Expenditure - The main expenditure was for groundworks at LHPA, Little Heath Common and the bike track and general maintenance and insurance premium.
25. The full financial report can be view on the Parish Councils Website:
<https://christleton-pc.gov.uk>

Reports from Representatives

To receive report from Christleton Primary School Governor

26. The Report from Christleton Primary School Governor was approved and accepted the full report can be view on the Parish Councils Website: <https://christleton-pc.gov.uk>

To receive Bank Warden Annual Report

27. There was nothing to report for last year. No permits were requested or issued. Fishing activity was very low, only on a few occasions were people found to be fishing and were asked to leave. Many of the boys who used to fish regularly are now in the upper sixth so above the permitted age.
28. I will be fishing together with Steve Jones (the sub warden) once the season opens on June 16th. Our intention is to assess what the stock of fish is now in the pit and report back to the PC.
29. Our feeling is that the Carp are now reaching a size where they are too big for under 16s to fish safely for as they possess inadequate tackle and lack the experience to land and care for the Carp properly.
30. The report was accepted and approved with the following action to be taken
Action: To request the Bank Warden to assess the situation with the large fish and the best action to take in removing them from the Pit.

To receive Village Assistants Annual Report

31. The Village Assistant submitted the following observations
32. Introduction of additional wheelie bins from caddies has made a substantial difference to the amount of litter blown around.
33. There is still a minority of dog owners who don't clean up after their dogs.
34. Increased litter in the form of silver wrappers and small cardboard boxes from disposable vapes.
35. There was a noticeable decrease in nitrous oxide cartridges
36. Increased amount of school uniform and coats left at the play area.

John Sellers Trust Annual Report

The John Sellers Trust Annual Report was approved and accepted; it can be viewed in full on the Parish Council Website <https://christleton-pc.gov.uk>

Open Forum – Questions from Electors

37. There were no electors present at this meeting.

The meeting closed at 7.46 pm

CPC 17/05/2023