

equipment has been obtained by the Trustees and the Council has given a grant for its installation.

The Parish Council has contributed towards the maintenance of St. Helen's graveyard. A donation was also made to Churchtown & District Children's Festival.

The Parish Council has added to the number of bulbs planted along The Avenue at the west end of the village but personal thanks must also go to Mr and Mrs Myerscough who have also been planting bulbs as well as filling the tubs sited at various points around the village. The parish lengthsman has continued to help maintain the verges and tidiness in the village and surrounding areas.

The telephone box which was previously purchased by the Parish Council had a defibrillator installed last summer. Thanks go to the Rotary for funding the equipment and to local residents who helped refurbish the telephone box.

The Parish Council continues to be vigilant with regard to any planning applications which may have an impact on the amount of water draining into Ainspool Brook and the River Wyre. We continue to respond to potential flooding issues in applications and support the work of Churchtown Flood Action Group in this area as well.

We have continued to press Lancashire County Council, through County Cllr Shaun Turner, about the lack of clear road markings at the junction of the A6 and A586 following the redevelopment of Churchtown garage.

Parish Council Vacancy

We continue to have a vacancy for parish councillor. We are a small council and meet every two months. You are not employed by the council but represent the local community by being aware of local issues and campaigning on behalf of the Parish Council and residents.

The Parish Council has a healthy budget going forward and we are keen to find new projects that will benefit the residents of Kirkland Parish. If you are interested in becoming a Councillor or have ideas that you would like the Parish Council to consider then please contact any Councillor or the Clerk.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow councillors for their work and support during the last year – Siriol Hogg, Colin Lambert and Sam Gilling, who has now resigned from the Council. I would also like to welcome Karen Davies, our newest Parish Councillor and wish her well.

I am also sure my fellow councillors would like to join me in thanking our Clerk for all her hard work during the past year.

Resolved: The Chairman's report was accepted

5. FINANCIAL REPORT FROM THE RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER **Responsible Financial Officer Report 2018**

The Parish Council began the year with funds of £9,571.06 an increase due to frugal spending as a result the precept was increased by £2,000 to ensure service standards are maintained.

Income

Devolution services from Lancashire County Council continued at the same rate of income, but due to work undertaken by the Parish Lengthsman to the benefit of the parish; the VAT claimed was greatly increased.

Donations were down on the previous year as was the transparency fund claim; which has now finished. Kirkland Parish Council also holds the grants for the village's Churchtown Flood Action Group, for which the committee works hard to source.

Expenditure

The parish grounds maintenance contract continues with Catterall Parish Council and offers a continuation of service, well received by residents, who can see where their precept is spent. Staff costs have increased slightly from the previous year.

Due to negotiations the cost of insurance decreased although subscriptions remain static. Kirkland Newsletter was only published once last year and administration costs fell. Audit costs doubled as new regulations were introduced. Kirkland is denoted as a smaller Parish Council, having an income of less than £25,000, is to apply for an exemption certificate from the external auditors this year.

Donations include Churchtown and District Children's Whitsun Festival, St. Helen's Church Parochial Church Council for the upkeep of the graveyard and Kirkland Memorial Hall towards grass cutting and the full instillation of the play equipment on the playing field.

The Churchtown Flood Action Group purchased a number of beneficial items for the protection of the village including sand bags and torches and waders for the flood wardens.

Balance to date to carry forward

£10,333.01, but £1,006.73 is held on behalf of the Churchtown Flood Action Group.

Therefore Kirkland Parish Council is carrying forward **£9,323.28**.

Resolved: The Responsible Financial Officer's report was accepted

ANNUAL REPORTS:

6. Lancashire County Councillor

Cllr. Turner reported that, despite his efforts, there had been no response from County as to the road markings outside the garage. The 30MPH roundels are still in the programme and will be painted on the surface of The Avenue. There were discussions about possible traffic lights at the junction of the A6 and The Avenue, which may happen, but are dependent on residential developments' contributions. Lancashire County Council has passed £300,000 for the road drains in Churchtown, but ratification is necessary before work can commence.

7. Wyre Area Lancashire Association of Local Councils

The Chairman reported on a visit by Tony Naughton, chief executive of Fylde and Wyre Clinical Commissioning Group, which has £300m to spend providing health services. He'd given an overview of the group's work and they are nationally well thought of through residents engagement. Housing developments was raised with a local one applying for a medical centre, however, developers have no influence or

benefit to health services. Funding follows people as the Government has no forward planning. The CCG had been mainly urban, but now include the Garstang and Great Ecclestone practices.

Cllr. Turner added that Lancashire County Council are involved with the health services providing neighbourhood planning with joint commissioning for specialist care and are looking to appoint Community Champions. WREN is a locally based care service whereby district nurses are given a budget to use in supporting patients by calling on skill sets; looking at prevention, early intervention and secondary prevention.

**8. Voluntary Organisations:
School House Trust**

Cllr. Mrs. S. Hogg gave the background to the trust, in that the school house's sale gave a capital sum which is invested to be used for the benefit of Kirkland and Catterall St. Helen's Church of England Primary School. Recently the trustees gave £18,000 towards new classrooms.

Representative on Kirkland and Catterall Memorial Hall

Cllr. C. Lambert reported that the Memorial Hall now had a full fire risk assessment approved by the fire service and the play equipment gleaned locally was in the process on being installed. However, the outside skin has not been touched since the flooding, he has sourced a local decorator, but the hall can't meet the cost. Cllr. Mrs. S. Hogg said that the trustees are to apply for funding from the Community Foundation. A number of fundraising activities are planned for this year.

Churchtown Flood Action Group

Cllr. Mrs. S. Hogg revealed the Community Leadership Award presented to Churchtown Flood Action Group by the chairman of the Environment Agency for work locally and nominated by the Parish Council. She attended the North West Coastal Flood Community meeting where a 5 year forecast was set and will be speaking in Kendal, due to the successful £50K grant, at the Reducing Flood Risks Conference. This includes ways of slowing water down through leaky dams on the Ainspool and River Wyre; Tom Myerscough from the Wyre Rivers Trust is also talking. The group has reached stage 2 for a £37,000 grant to provide two powerful pumps to remove water and have received £25,000 for two smaller pumps, insured and maintained by Wyre Council for use on Churchtown. A bid submission for £70,000 has been made to provide an embankment on the River Wyre to protect the village. The Environment Agency is investigating the Ainspool for sand lanes; which can potentially damage banks.

9. MATTERS RAISED BY RESIDENTS

There were no matters raised by residents.

There being no further business the meeting finished at 9.00pm.

Date

Chairman.....