

KIRKLAND PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD ON 5th MAY, 2021 AT 7.30 PM

HELD VIRTUALLY, UNDER COVID RESTRICTIONS

Present;

*Councillors: Mrs. M. McLeod, Chairman,
Mrs. K. Davies,
Mrs. I. Cutler,
C. Lambert,
Gillian Benson, Clerk to the Council*

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received for this meeting from both Wyre Councillors.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

It was resolved that the minutes of the last meeting, held on 20th May, 2019, having been previously circulated were signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

4. REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN

I did not think that when I wrote last year's annual report that we would still be in the midst of Covid restrictions which have yet again impacted on the social life of the community. There was no Churchtown Children's Festival in 2020 and sadly because of the 2021 lockdown a decision was taken for it not to take place this year either sadly. Churchtown in Bloom were unable to carry out any of their 2020 plans but things are looking up for 2021 and the Bloomers have already been busy this Spring making the village look brighter.

Due to Covid things have moved much more slowly this past year but we have finally got in place six new trees along The Avenue. Lancashire County Council Highways have also decided to put double yellow lines on The Green at the entrance to the village in order to deal with the issue of parking which has been causing concern. With so many restrictions on indoor and outdoor activities in the last year the village found other ways to celebrate and support. An outdoor tea party took place outside many homes to remember VE Day. There was socially distanced carol singing, and a take away was held to support Macmillan instead of the usual coffee morning.

We have new residents in the village and said goodbye to others. In particular I would like to mention Siriol Hogg without whose drive and commitment we would not have the Flood Action Group or the flood defences that are now in place. Roger Weatherell continues as chair. Following three heavy rain events when the bund has proved its worth; the group has been focussed on mapping and finding solutions for 'hot spots' where water gathers in different parts of Churchtown. The CFLAG does require new volunteers.

The Memorial Hall has been badly hit for over eighteen months now with two lots of permanent closures due to Covid and although it has qualified for some government grants it has still had to use reserves to pay for ongoing maintenance to what is now a 98 year old building with a 40 year old addition.

Life is full of changes, even though Covid has made many of us feel we have been at a standstill. As mentioned above, Siriol Hogg, who for many years was a parish councillor, has now moved to be nearer family. We do however welcome Ivy Cutler as our newest parish councillor. We still have a vacancy for another councillor and any new residents to the Parish would be more than welcome to apply for the role.

Finally, we will be saying goodbye to our very longstanding Parish Clerk, Gillian Benson, after many years' service to Kirkland Parish Council. She has been a great source of knowledge and advice and we will miss her. I would like to thank her for all her hard work and also my fellow councillors for their support and contribution during this last year.

Margaret McLeod, Chairman of Kirkland Parish Council

Resolved: The Chairman's report was accepted

5. FINANCIAL REPORT FROM THE RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER

Responsible Financial Officer Report 2021

The Parish Council began the year with funds of £17,969.48; an increase due to the impact of Covid 19 postponing projects in the Parish. Services and standards were maintained and completing the year with a balance of £16,336.29. Importantly the Parish Council holds the Churchtown Flood Action Group and Churchtown in Bloom Committee funds as the Parish's public body. Councillors did not increase the precept; it remains at £10,500.

Income

Amenity grass cutting payments, devolved from Lancashire County Council, continue as does the Parish Lengthsman Scheme payments; which was doubled. VAT income reflects a mistake by the clerk, this was refunded, the VAT claim increased on the previous year.

There was no change to Churchtown Flood Action Group as no work took place, but there was an outstanding payment brought back to bank as the work was not completed. Churchtown in Bloom was begun in 2019 with great sponsorship.

Payments

Kirkland Parish Council resolved to employ a Parish Lengthsman and interviewed a number of contractors. JRobb was contracted in June, 2019 for 6 months and this has been extended to December, 2021. The service was well received by residents, who can see where their precept is spent, which was less than last year. Staff costs have increased slightly due to an increase in the clerk's working hours. VAT claim increased with contracting the Parish Lengthsman.

Insurance costs remain level; as does the audit's. Subscriptions increased, parish maintenance increase includes replacement of the stone flags in Church Square, which were stolen. Administration increased with the new web site and training on

web site accessibility, Zoom licences required to conduct meetings and telephone and broadband charges; not previously paid directly.

Donations were given to Kirkland Memorial Hall, Garstang Festival Lights and the Royal British Legion.

Balance to date to carry forward

Total Income £34,790.65

Total Payments £18,454.36

To carry forward £16,336.29

£5,825.37 is held on behalf of the Churchtown Flood Action Group.

£964.65 is held on behalf of Churchtown in Bloom

Kirkland Parish Council Balance £9,546.27

Gillian Benson, Responsible Financial Officer

Resolved: The Responsible Financial Officer's report was accepted

ANNUAL REPORTS:

6. Wyre Area Lancashire Association of Local Councils

Garry Payne, CEO, Wyre Council attended; introducing a new Covid business grant which broadens the scope of those who can apply. Under a Greening Campaign; a carbon footprint survey has been carried out in parishes. YMCA fees are to be reduced to encourage more use. The Greater Garstang Partnership is looking to re-open the high street and have appointed consultants.

7. Voluntary Organisations:

School House Trust

Cllr. Mrs. K. Davis reported the AGM will be held next week.

Representative on Kirkland and Catterall Memorial Hall

Since the schools returned; dance classes have resumed. Covid testing was taking place on Fridays. The building has experienced major leak problems where the old meets the new.

Churchtown Flood Action Group

CFLAG Report to Kirkland Parish Council

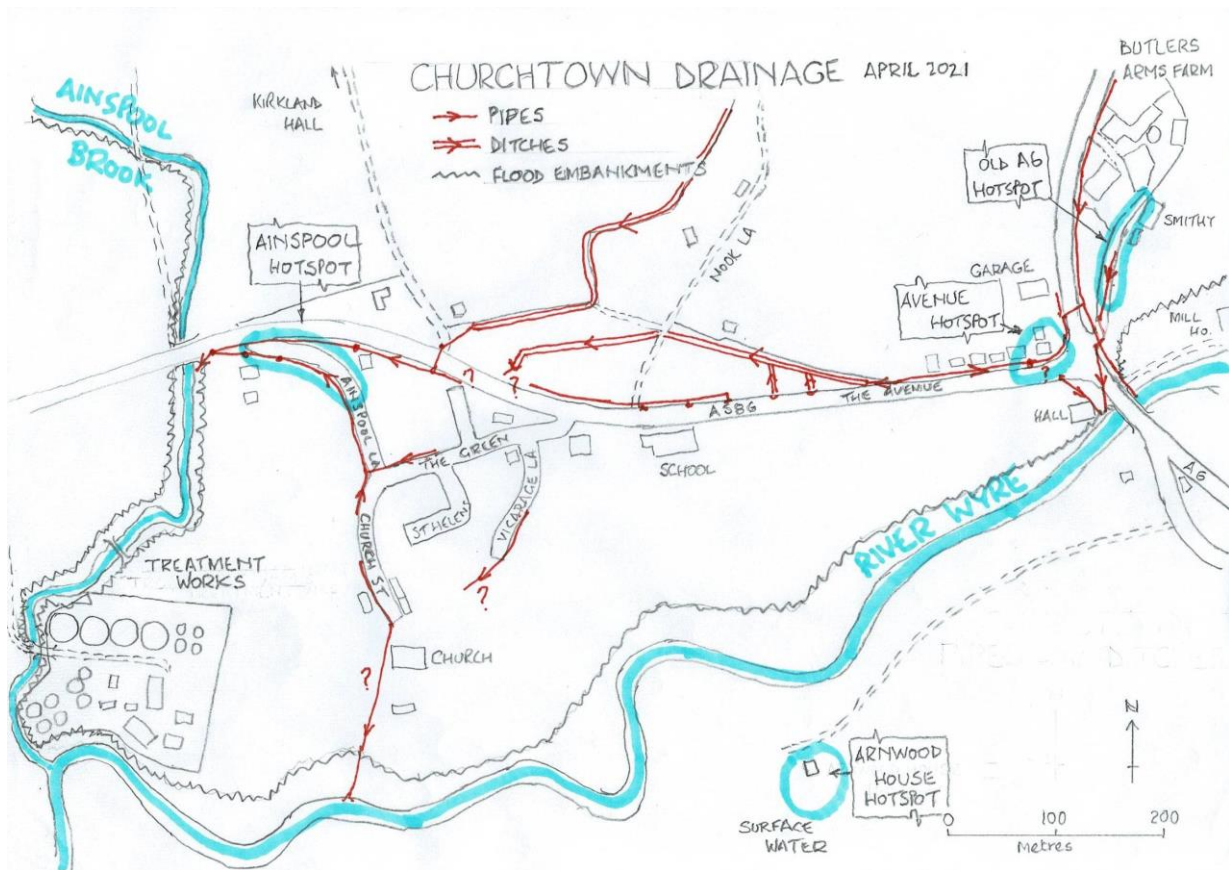
3 May 2021

Last face-to-face meeting of the CFLAG was 3 March 2020, since when members have communicated by phone, emails and virtual meetings with agencies. Two joint inspections of the Avenue and Ainspool Hotspots were made with social distancing in the past FY with EA and LCC.

The main items to report over the past financial year (FY) are:-

1. No more village-wide flooding – Three big flood events in the year have proved that the Kirkland Bund does work, where otherwise flood water would have crossed the A6.
2. Four surface water flooding 'hotspots' still remain, as shown on the map below.
3. Flood risk to the Tarnacre area relies on EA's optimal operation of its two barrages for controlling river levels to prevent breakouts. Reliability is now improving due to replacement of the pistons at Garstang (50% done), completing shortly.

4. Flood events in the past 12 months occurred on 6 Nov 20, 12 Dec 20 and 19 Jan 21.
5. Ainspool Lane Hotspot – is due to water at a higher level in either or both of Green Wood and/or the Ainspool Channel itself. LCC fitted one non-return valve (NRV) this FY as proposed by CFLAG but this did not solve the problem. LCC working with CFLAG for solution.
6. Avenue Hotspot – affects the end houses opposite the Memorial Hall. CFLAG has asked LCC to use a camera probe to find the blockage on original crossing beneath the A586 after jet cleaning the gullies, slot grates and manholes in this area. If the blockage cannot be cleared, a planned road closure in June gives an opportunity to dig across the A586 if needed.
7. Old A6 Hotspot – Surface water from the A6, farmyard and fields is held on the Old A6 when the NRV at the river shuts off. CFLAG suggested to LCC that the NRV be removed and an angled pipe outlet fitted, using the speed of river water to stop/delay flooding the Old A6.
8. Arnwood House Hotspot –Water rises through the ground here when surface water gathers in surrounding fields. Investigation for presence of sand lenses would be the next step, to see whether or not a low embankment protection could work.
9. Flood Group Membership –reduced with the departure of Siriol and Robert Hogg's move to Cambridgeshire. They were undoubtedly the most active members and the driving force behind the Flood Action Group with a special skill for fundraising. Their departure leaves just four active members in Churchtown and one living 15 mins away. New members would be most welcome to ensure the work of the CFLAG continues for the benefit of the village.
10. Flood Warden Changes –New Head Warden is John Bracken and Alternate Head Warden is Ray Truswell. Role shifted from total flooding to specific hotspots. Existing flood wardens have moved to cover different zones but owing to departures, more volunteers are needed.
11. Grit Bins – CFLAG has asked WBC to relocate 3 grit bins at the Memorial Hall to an agreed drier location. CFLAG planning for 3 more bins for a location to be found at Tarnacre.
12. Finance – CFLAG records show funds held by the PC at £3,684.55. Of this £2,203.20 is held for field drainage works at Kirkland Bund, now likely next autumn. Coming up are 3 grit bins and a drone, the choice of model awaiting the outcome of current changes in regulations.
13. Possible Works Projects – hotspot remedies will hopefully be funded by respective agencies. Natural Flood Management methods (NFM) such as leaky dams and creation of small water storage areas, upstream on the Ainspool and the Nook drain, could be capital expenditures as part of EA's NFM programme. If automatic pumped systems were needed as a last resort at Ainspool Lane and/or the Avenue, that agencies would not support, then the CFLAG would then need to raise funds and mount a special operation.



8. MATTERS RAISED BY RESIDENTS

There were no matters raised by residents.
 There being no further business the meeting finished at 8.00pm

Date

Chairman.....