

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Held on Friday 12th May 2023 at 6.00pm

PRESENT: Jo Butler (JB), Rachel Blood (RB), Derek Heiron (DH), Victoria Coward (VC), Charlie Blood (CB), Alex Baker (AB), Michelle Andrew (Clerk)

APOLOGIES: Ian Pulley (IP)

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

- 1. To agree as a true record the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 09th May 2022.**

The minutes were approved **5 FOR.**

- 2. To receive the Chairman's Annual Report on the Parish Council's work and accounts for the year ending 31st March 2023.**

Written and read by Jo Butler.

“Following the recent election process, it is great news that all our existing councillors remain on the newly amalgamated Kettleshulme and Lyme Handley Parish council. I look forward to hearing from our Lyme Handley parishioners and involving them in all the events we hold within the Parish following a mail shot at the end of last month.

The last 12 months has been a year of grit bins and gullies, Jubilee and coronation and sadly the passing of our late sovereign Queen Elizabeth II.

We have had an ongoing conversation with Cheshire East regarding grit bin provision and we are still awaiting responses about this regarding additional support when the gritting service doesn't quite meet up with the demand of the Kettleshulme weather. As for the gullies. This seems to have been an issue since the flooding in the village and we still have no definitive action from Cheshire. Unfortunately, they don't seem to share the concern of residents or acknowledge the risk to our village from blocked gullies which seem to have gone from annual inspection to biennial to now triennial with no evidence that any work has ever been done to clear them. This will continue to be an agenda item until this is resolved to the council's satisfaction.

On a more positive note, we had had some cause for celebration. The Parish council arranged a jubilee event (and the weather to go with it) which was an amazing success. I personally met several families who had moved to the village over the lockdown, and I could at last meet and greet them. Similarly, the coronation event last week was full to capacity and so lovely to see so many familiar faces and some new friends too. Whaley Bridge band who performed at both events and put on a terrific show as always and continue to practice at the village hall each week.

Other supporters of the village hall are the WI and the Yoga sessions, and we appreciate that they utilise the facilities we have at our disposal. The PCSO surgeries also to continue to be held on a regular basis at the hall.

We reinstated the Village seniors Christmas party after the hiatus that covid caused. This was financially supported by the KETTs but was the first time this year that the Parish council had organised it. There was a lot of hard work involved and a very steep learning curve but it was a brilliant night with our own particular twist on the event. We received many compliments from those that attended.

We have put in place an application for some lottery funding for the play park in the village. This has been a slow process complicated by the election process when we could not pursue any financial undertakings. We will look to complete this year. Also, we need to now get some updates to the fabric of the hall with fascia's and new doors (both a hangover from the last financial year) completed as part of the renovation of the hall.

Unfortunately, we were not able to set our own precept this year as Cheshire East set this for us. This was because of the amalgamation with Lyme Handley but it puts us in an estimated deficit and £5,000 has had to be earmarked to ensure the day to day running of the hall and the increasing costs or utilities etc can be made. This may mean that other plans have to be postponed for now.

Fortunately, we have a healthy bank account thanks to grants from the lockdown and money raising events. We have around £24,000 but with increasing costs for work and projects this will soon reduce. I would like to thank Jos Sanders for all her help and support for the council and residents of Kettlethulme and look forward to working with her on behalf of Kettlethulme and Lyme Handley.

I would also like to say how much I appreciate all the work that the parish councillors do, often unseen, on behalf of the village and local residents. I look forward to the next 12 months and all that we can achieve."

3. Matters arising from the Chairman's report.

Councillor RB thanked JB for her report and taking on the Chair's role over the past 12 months. This was repeated by all present Councillors.

4. Parish Matters – an opportunity for residents to raise issues.

No residents were present at the meeting.

The meeting closed at 7:09pm.

Signed:

Dated: