

Kirkbride Parish Council



Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting Held on Tuesday 10th May 2022 at 7 p.m. In Kirkbride School.

Present: Chairman Cllr Kirk

Councillors: Benson, A Hedworth and Noblett.

County Cllr: Johnson

Public attendance: Mrs A. Little, Mrs L Maxwell, Mr S Sowerby and one other member of the public.

Clerk: M Abbs

1. Councillor Kirk welcomed those present to the meeting.

The clerk advised that he had received apologies from Cllrs J Hedworth, Day, Irving and Simpson along with the following member of the public, Mr R Bellett and Mrs K Stamper.

2. The Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 11th May 2019 were **approved and signed**.

3. Chairman's Report.

Cllr Kirk welcomed everybody to the meeting and reported on the changes to the Council since the last annual meeting, Mr R Mostyn had resigned from the Council and his place along with outstanding vacancies had been filled by Cllrs Simpson, J Hedworth and Mr W Benson.

A number of road safety concerns had been reported. She was grateful to Cllr Day for all his work on the woodland area. The new shelter in the playpark was a welcome addition that was being used frequently by locals. A traffic speed device had been installed outside the school along with a defibrillator outside the village hall. This was checked on a weekly basis but thankfully had not been used yet. Cllr Simpson was thanked for organising the Carol Singing Event with the Carnival Committee. A sculpture was planned for the playground and should be installed in the forthcoming weeks. Unfortunately, the Council had been unsuccessful in its attempts to provide a football pitch in the village. Grants to the Tennis Club and the Great North Air Ambulance had been made.

The clerk and Cllrs were thanked for their work and support along with County Cllr Mike Johnson and Borough Cllr Alan Hedworth.

4. Financial Report.

The clerk gave out copies of a comparative summary of spending over the last three financial years. Fewer grants had been made to local organisations due to COVID. The Council continued to upgrade facilities in the village especially in the playpark, woodland area and the bus shelter. He explained that the Accounts had been audited without problems and stated his view that the financial affairs of the Parish remained healthy despite the general economic climate. The outlook looked challenging for the foreseeable future partly due to the current inflation. Other responsibilities, such as the consideration of planning matters in the Parish had been discharged satisfactorily.

5. Reports from Parish Organisations.

The clerk read out the report from the Solway Gardening Society which had been sent to him by Mr Bellett who was away on holiday.

A number of venues had been used for meetings during the year. The Society post Covid was 'awakening from hibernation'. Details of the topics covered at the recent meetings were outlined. The Summer 2022 programme would acknowledge the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a tea at Bothel on the 9th of June and a visit in July to RHS Harlow Carr.

Finally, the work on a 'Get Cumbria Buzzing' project with Cumbria Wildlife Trust was outlined.

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A member of the Bowling Club reported that an Open Day was being planned to hopefully attract new members. The club was generally in 'good order'.

Mr Sowerby gave a report on behalf of Kirkbride PCC. He outlined the current grass cutting situation and confirmed that the PCC would like the Parish Council to consider their request for a grant of £500 towards the cost in 2022. The organ had been renovated at a cost of £480 and an organ recital was planned. Some roof repairs were required and he hoped that, following investigation, these would not be too major. Post covid church attendance was half to two thirds of the previous level. The Church Institute had discovered a crack in the wall of the toilet block area. Work would be needed but not urgently. Emergency lighting had been upgraded and the defibrillator installed in co-operation with the Parish Council. The hall had low usage currently and he would welcome the involvement of more young adults. Church Road was in need of repair.

Mrs Little then gave an extensive report, provided by the Head Teacher Mrs Barley, on the many and varied achievements and activities of the School during the past year.

The school was currently in the process of compiling a new vision statement that reflects how the whole community feels about the school.

Whole school assemblies are held and the values of Respect, Friendship, Honesty, Ambition, Trust and Kindness are promoted.

The school has been involved in outdoor learning with a Forest Schools Facilitator which is going 'brilliantly'.

The activities, inside and outside the school, of the different classes were outlined.

World Book Day had been a great success and the 'look for a book' scheme was highlighted.

Other activities in the community involved After School Clubs, Business Stars Enterprise Project, Charity Events and a Carnival Committee Lunch.

Mrs Maxwell outlined the activities being planned for the Platinum Jubilee Event and provided a written summary on behalf of the Kirkbride Carnival Committee.

The Platinum Jubilee Committee was grateful for the grant given to it by the Parish Council and its background and fund-raising events were summarised. Details of the activities planned over the bank holiday were outlined. Tickets for the event at The Bush were almost sold out and no problems were envisaged in selling the remainder given the local interest.

The Carnival Committee had held a second 'Garden Carnival' during September 2021. The Committee had been 'overwhelmed' by everyone's efforts. A number of trophies had been awarded.

A 'light up the village' initiative in November had been successful culminating with a visit from Santa.

In April the Committee provided a light lunch and raffle gift to 25 village pensioners in the School.

A Carnival is being planned for Saturday 9th July and will form part of a rolling calendar of events.

6. Open Forum.

Mrs Maxwell expressed concern about the danger to children playing in The Lees caused by traffic. Options were discussed with warning signage being the one that would be discussed further at the following Parish Council meeting. Cllr A Hedworth had had discussions with residents about parking in the area. The clerk, supported by the County Cllr, pointed out that taxed vehicles could park on a public road as long as they did not cause an obstruction; in which case it became a police matter.

There being no further business, Cllr Kirk thanked people for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 7.50 p.m.

The members of the public then departed.

Note: Written reports from parish organisations are retained by the clerk for 12 months, until the next year's meeting. Copies can be made available on request for a small charge, contact the clerk on 51722.