

**Draft Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting
Tuesday 17th May 2022 - 7.00 pm Colsterworth Methodist Church Hall**

Present

Councillor Caroline Hainsworth (Chairman), Sue Grant (Parish Clerk) and 7 parishioners.

1. Introduction and Welcome

The Covid measures lifting mean that we have been able to resume our face to face meetings again soWelcome everyone who has kindly taken the time to attend this Annual Parish Meeting which is an opportunity for myself as Chair of the Parish Council and Sue Grant the Parish Clerk to outline the work of the Parish Council in the previous year. The Annual Parish meeting is also intended for Colsterworth and District residents to raise any issues they have for the Parish Council to consider.

2. To approve the Minutes of the meeting held Friday 21st May 2021

The minutes of the Parish Meeting of the 21st May 2021 agreed and duly signed.

3. Chairman's Annual Report

This is an opportunity to celebrate and acknowledge those people in the community who give so much of their time to benefit the community and I am pleased to welcome speakers tonight.

Before I summarise some of the work carried out this past year, I must acknowledge the late Cllr Bob Adams who we sadly lost last year and who served this community as a County and District Councillor for more years that he would have wanted to remember!. Our new County Councillor Charlotte Vernon and District Councillor Ben Green have now been elected and it has been a pleasure to get to know them and very much look forward to forging new relationships to benefit the community.

Councillors are volunteers from the Parish whose job it is to represent the interests of the community – so I would like to thank all our Councillors for the work they have done this year and would like to make a special mention and offer thanks to Derek Cox who was Councillor and Chair for many years and who retired from the Parish Council in July 2021. Also, Jim Skelton who left in December 2021. The Parish Council had three new co-opted Councillors during 2021, (Ken Vickers, Ian Johnson and Terry Neale).

Special thanks to Sue our Parish Clerk in supporting Councillors and Parishioners to ensure that the Council carries out its duties *within the resources provided by the annual precept and other incomes*. We have again received a favourable internal audit report providing assurances to our Parishioners of a properly and efficiently run Council.

I would just like to mention some of the headlines over the past year;; -

North Witham Play Area

It was back in February 2020 when the Council set up a working Group to provide new equipment to the existing Play Area at North Witham Village Hall. I am pleased to report that due to the hard work of Cllr Clark, the North Witham Village Hall Committee and the whole community that this has now been achieved. This would not have been possible without the generous grant from FCC Communities and third-party contribution from the Parish Council.

I think this is a real achievement and demonstrates real community involvement and partnership working that the Parish Council has been happy to support.

Other Play Areas

The Parish Council continues to maintain and repair play areas in the Parish and repair works of over £4,000 has been spent on Colster Way and Woolsthorpe Road.

Nature Trail

- The Parish Council is responsible for the Nature Trail which we know is a highly valued asset to our community. Heartfelt thanks to Mo and Jackie Taylor who mobilise a dedicated group of volunteers who meet every Monday (weather permitting!).
- The value of the Nature Trail in respect of community involvement and environmental benefits have been recognised this past year with generous grants from South Kesteven District Council of £2,720 for improvements to the Nature Trail steps and rails with a Parish Council contribution of £680.
- Further generous donations were made by Cllr Ben Green from his SKDC Member Grant of £500 towards a bench for the Nature Trail and The Frederick Ingle Charity in the sum of £400.
- Nature Trail volunteers also planted trees donated by the Woodland Trust for the Queens Green Canopy and a plaque to mark this has been provided by the Parish Council.

Keeping our Community Clean and Tidy

- I must mention our community cleaners Kevin and Mark who worked right through lockdown and continue to provide a first-class service including the unenviable task of removing the dog waste bags from the waste bins.
- The Parish Council provided a new bin on Colster Way Play Area near the picnic benches – lets hope its well used!
- For those areas not covered by Kevin and Mark, a special thank you to Graham Kieley for his regular litter picking activities along with a group of other volunteers and also a shout out to Arthur, aged 11 who has an annual litter pick with his Dad who lives in Woolsthorpe – a real inspiration for someone so young doing something for the community.

Highways and Footpaths

Community Speedwatch

Whilst activities were suspended during lockdown (and winter weather) volunteers are now looking at re-starting roadside checks. The Parish Council also supported our neighbours at Corby Glen sharing knowledge and equipment for setting up their own scheme

Roadsigns

One of our priorities for 2022/2023 is to look at improving and adding to the vehicle activated signs in the Parish to ensure that they are more effective in terms of reminding drivers of the need to observe the speed limit to improve road safety.

In Touch

The In Touch continues to provide information to all households in the Parish so a special thanks to all the volunteers who make this happen and to our Editor and resident contributors. The Parish Council consider this to be a valuable tool to engage with the community and it remains one of our priorities for the future.

I have mentioned a few individuals but there are so many more individuals and groups in our community who work behind the scenes to help others and we will hear from Steve Bill later. Thank you for coming

To close

We now are looking forward to the Queen's Jubilee – the Beacon purchased and hosted by the Parish Council will be on Colster Way Play Area at 9.45pm on Thursday 02 June 2022 as part of the national celebration

4. Clerk's Financial Report

The SCRIBE Accounting Parish Council software package continues to provide the Parish Council with a robust transparent accounting system with reports extracted from SCRIBE.

Bank accounts are reconciled and approved monthly.

- **The Finance and Administration Committee** meet twice yearly;
 - **October** includes Budget Setting which was agreed and recommended to full Council.
 - **April** for End of Year accounts and external audit.
- Internal Audit** is undertaken twice yearly by an independent auditor.
- Councillor Hainsworth continues to have view only access to the Parish Council bank accounts.

Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2020/2021

- **The Internal Audit Report** was completed on 09/04/21 and the Parish Council achieved a 'Yes' that all internal controls had been met.

- **The Annual Governance and Accountability Report** received dated 30/07/2021 for 2020/2021 had no findings.

Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2021/2022

- **The Internal Audit Report** was completed on 06/04/22 and the Parish Council achieved a 'Yes' that all internal controls had been met.
- **The Annual Governance and Accountability Return** 2021/2022 has been completed and was signed at the Parish Council Meeting 3rd May 2022 and submitted to the External Auditors PKF on 6th May 2022.

The Statement of Accounts were handed out to the persons present and are uploaded on to the website.

Bank Balances at 31/03/22

- Community Account £22,732.49
- Community Savings Account £54,322.13
- **Total £77,054.62**
- Less unrepresented payments at 31/03/2022 of **£4,309.63 = £72,744.99**

Receipts for 2021/2022 = £94,407.56

Payments for 2021/2022 = £86,459.68

Leaving a surplus of **£3,638.25** taking into account unrepresented payments at 31/03/2022 of **£4,309.63**

Increase on receipts and payments from 2020/2021 due to the following: -

Receipts

The Parish Council received the following Grants:

£31,177 from FCC Communities Foundation for a new children's play area equipment and installation. (Total cost Equipment £17,402.51 + Installation £20,009.89 = **£37,412.40 incl VAT**)
£6,231.40 VAT reclaim received.

£2,720 from South Kesteven Community Projects Grant received for repairs to Nature Trail steps & rails. (**Total cost incl VAT £3,400.00**)
£566.67 VAT reclaim received.

£500.00 Ward Member Grant from SKDC.

£571.80 VAT Reclaim from War Memorial (Architects Drawings & tender quotes)

Payments

£37,412.40 for new children's play area equipment and installation.

£3,400.00 for repairs to Nature Trail steps and rails.

£3,430.80 for Architects drawings for War Memorial Project.

Policies for Updating

CAD are regularly reviewed and recommended to full Council for adoption. All Policies and be found on the Council website on the following link

<https://colsterworth.parish.lincolnshire.gov.uk/council-business>

5. Parish Council Priorities for 2022/2023

- The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacon Lighting 9.45pm Thursday 2nd June 2022, Colster War Play Area.
- Timber bus shelters to receive weatherproof treatment.
- Timber notice board on Bourne Road to be cleaned, receive weather proofing coating.

- New Notice Board at the Co-op to be investigated.
- Road Signs
- In Touch Magazine - community communication
- Highways & Footpaths Working Group – Speed signs.
- Continue to make FMS reports for all villages

6. **Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations**

Wendy Stubbs representing Colsterworth Sports & Social Club

Wendy Stubbs introduced herself and spoke with passion and enthusiasm on the follow events planned for Saturday 4th June 2022 at the Sports & Social Club: -

At 12.30pm a Jubilee Pram Race planned from Woolsthorpe Manor to the Sports and Social Club with prizes for the fastest, best dressed, best engineered and most tokens.

From 12 noon the fun starts at the Sports & Social Club with, live singers, dancing, raffle, bouncy castle, cake sale, ice cream, Jades Passion on a Plate and much, much more.

Clerk to the Parish Council Sue Grant - The Queen's Platinum jubilee Beacon

On behalf of the Parish Council Sue gave an update on the preparations for the lighting of the Queen's Jubilee Beacon at 9.45pm on Thursday 2nd June at Colster Way Play Area and said she was looking forward to a good turn-out.

7. **Steve Bill - Helen's Helping Hands**

Steve Bill introduced himself and shared how the loss of his wife Helen had affected him, suffering clinical depression for many months. Steve explained that before his wife Helen's death she could see the legacy of loneliness that COVID19 would leave and with that thought he changed the name of the Colsterworth Resilience Forum (CRF) which Helen set up to 'Helen's Helping Hand's' (HHH's) as a legacy to all of the voluntary work Helen had done in her life. Steve now runs a coffee gathering at the Methodist Church Hall with refreshments (voluntary donations only). Steve also explained how he and his volunteers support new people who join their coffee gatherings. He went on to thank Margaret Winn on behalf of the Frederick Ingle Trust and Helen Scorrer for a grant to enable HHH's to have the Methodist Church Hall until the group is self-sufficient. He also gave thanks to Cllr David Bellamy for the £500 Ward Member grant which was used to purchase a coffee machine.

Steve also gave thanks to his daughter Sam and all of his volunteers.

Chair to the Parish Council Caroline Hainsworth thanked Steve for giving his update and congratulated him on the success of Helen's Helping Hands.

8. **Update on the Nature Trail by the Nature Trail Ranger Mo Taylor.**

What we have done.

Fortunate to be awarded a Lincolnshire Environmental Award Grant of up to £4000. This was used to improve access and safety at several areas along the old line. During the course of these works damage was noted on the old accommodation bridge at the Woolsthorpe end of the trail. The land-owner has been informed of the need for repairs.

New paths have been opened up at both the Colsterworth and Woolsthorpe ends of the Trail. This has entailed the removal of considerable amounts of blackthorn and hawthorn scrub.

Several areas of scrub have been removed to limit the blackthorn monoculture and promote bio-diversity.

Similarly, a large area of scrub was removed to enable the planting of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Wood and participate in the Queen's Green Canopy Initiative.

Individuals from the Volunteer Group assisted the Lincolnshire Branch of the Butterfly Conservation Society at their reserve on Twyford Wood.

Litter picking continues routinely although, other than small scale littering at the BBQ sites, it is not a particularly significant problem along the trail. Of more significance was the removal of a considerable amount of rubbish that had been fly tipped several years ago from the North face of the old quarry at Woolsthorpe. Several volunteers have also assisted Graham Kiely with his organised village litter picks.

Donations and Assistance

The Nature Trail and the associated Volunteer Group continue to be well supported by individuals from the Parish and numerous local businesses and organisations.

You will be aware that the Parish Council are purchasing a new bench and information board for siting at the Queen's Jubilee Wood. The annual sum of money set aside for the use on the Trail continues to be greatly appreciated and is generally used for the purchase of protective clothing and tools, with other ad-hoc purchases as necessary.

The Woodland Trust donated more than one hundred trees of a variety of native species for the creation of the Queen's Jubilee Wood.

Several organisations have donated money for the Trail. Councillor Ben Green granted an award of £500 from the SKDC Ward Grant and the Frederick Ingle Charity donated an additional £400. These sums have been used to purchase an additional bench which will be sited on the new trail at the Woolsthorpe end of the Trail.

Several parishioners have provided money and assistance to the Trail. Once again, Madeline and Dave at the White Lion have generously donated, as have Margaret and Christine from Skillington and June Jessop from Colsterworth. Ellie Jennings and Charlotte Lucas donated money collected during the Colsterworth and Woolsthorpe Christmas Santa Sleigh. The monies donated were used to purchase wild-flowers and bulbs for planting at various sites along the Trail.

Several individuals have donated their time and expertise. David and Michael Ostler help out with equipment and know-how as necessary; Kate Russel from KWR Logs continues to offer support, equipment and specialised tree knowledge including felling of dangerous trees; John Weston generously provided himself, plus a large JCB, to assist with moving the fly-tipped rubbish into the skip.

To Do

Undoubtedly other stuff will crop up, but at the moment we are preparing to install the two new benches and the information board. Clearance of scrub and the promotion of bio-diversity will continue.

Finally, I can't finish this without mentioning the volunteers. Recruitment has continued in an informal way throughout the past year, and we now have more than 40 people available.

It is not unusual to have more than 20 turn up for the routine Monday afternoon work group. Without them very little of the above tasks would have been completed and I owe them my thanks and gratitude for being such good sports.

Mo Taylor.

9. Motions by Electors

None

10. AOB

None

The meeting closed at 8.10pm

**Signed:
Chairman**

Date

DRAFT