Challock Parish Council Annual Meeting Minutes

Memorial Hall

Tuesday 14th June 2022, 7.30pm

Members of public present:16

Present

Michael Fisher (Chair), Russell Jaques (Vice-Chair) Max Thomas, Tracy Brown, Tony Aitken, John Ramsden, Duncan Hardie & Dianne Sandy (Clerk). ABC Ward Councillor Larry Krause & KCC Ward Councillor Charlie Simkins.

Apologies

No apologies

Welcome

Chairman Michael Fisher welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting 20th July 2021

Proposed by Cllr Ramsden and seconded by Cllr Thomas

All agreed

Chairman’s Report

Cllr Michael Fisher & Max Thomas read out the Chairman’s Report

Appendix 1 for full report.

Report from Charlie Simkins KCC Councillor for Ashford Rural for the year to May 2021/2022

KCC Charlie Simkins read out his report.

I am delighted to be able to be here in person to give you a report from Kent County Council. As you know I was re-elected last year and am now serving my third term.  Life has returned to some form of normality at KCC with the majority of meetings taking place in person. Although Microsoft Teams meetings enabled business to carry on throughout the pandemic it is much more satisfactory to meet face to face.

Kent County Council is facing many challenges, one of the major ones being financial. The Budget this year was the most difficult that I can recall in my nine years at KCC. However, we did manage to agree a balanced budget although agonising choices had to be made with regard to some front-line services. Council Tax was raised by 2.99% including a 1% levy on social care which now accounts for 50% of county council expenditure. This will be a growing burden with an ever-increasing elderly population.

As you will know the threat of bus cuts looms which is a particular concern to those of us in rural villages. Regrettably the KCC Highways and Transport division has to reduce departmental expenditure by £2.2m this financial year and thus 48 subsidised services are threatened. Regrettably Stagecoach is also reducing services as occupancy has not picked up since the pandemic.

I fully understand the concern expressed by residents with the effect being particularly hard on parents with schoolchildren and the elderly. I have spoken to the Cabinet member and participated in the consultation. I have been vocal on this issue and as well as writing to the Cabinet member I spoke at the recent meeting of the Environment and Transport Committee to ask for exceptions for the cuts for rural villages where elderly residents depend on bus services and parents rely on them for taking children to school. Now that the consultation is over decisions are expected in early July.

As councillors will know I have supported the Faversham footway project from the beginning and provided funds for the design.

i am committed to fund a further £5000 towards the project. KCC officers have confirmed to me that they are progressing the legal deeds of dedication required to obtain private land for the new footway and I hope that the plans for the installation of the footway will proceed smoothly so that the project can be completed by early next year.

The disruption to the M20 through Operation Brock has also caused difficulties for residents. As you know this is not the direct responsibility of KCC as motorways are the responsibility of National Highways England, but KCC is involved through the KENT Resilience Forum. Regrettably the continuing limited ferry capacity at Dover requires the need to retain the option to quickly step up the control of freight flow on cross channel routes and not risk leaving Kent exposed to possible significant disruption. The situation is constantly under review.

As we all know Kent enjoys a special geographical situation with a large population covering urban and rural communities whilst having one of the busiest international borders in Europe This throws up all sorts of problems particularly immigration where the numbers of cross channel immigrants, notably young children under the age of 16 arriving on our beaches, has put a real strain on KCC resources. We constantly seek to lobby government on this issue, and I am pleased to say that central government eventually responded to these concerns by insisting on the transfer of under aged children to other councils across the country.

KCC is currently working on a five-year strategic plan to enable it to work with the districts to support people in the community. More details of this will emerge as the plan is developed.

I split my time between serving on committees where I chair the Pension Fund committee.  I also sit on the Planning committee as well as several others combined with my duties attending to the concerns of the residents in my division which extends from Challock to south of Bethersden. I look forward to serving the residents of Challock over the next year.

£5000 out of my grant allocation is funding the Faversham Road Footpath and understand from Darren Hickman the works are due to commence Summer 2023. KCC legal team are currently working on the Land Deeds of Dedication.

Larry Krause ABC Councillor for Downs West – Challock, Westwell and Eastwell & Boughton Aluph.

Larry Krause reported ABC have provided a large lump of monies, underwrite bid of up to £50,000 towards the Faversham Road Footpath.

The last six weeks there have been changes with the number of engagements reduced, 7 committees and 4 charities I am involved in. I have been chosen to be Deputy Mayor, along with Sue Starkings retired vicar as Vice Mayoress.

Chairman Fisher congratulated Councillor Krause on his new position.

Open Forum for Village Clubs & Organisations

**Youth Club**

Annabel introduced Lisa Stuart as the new Chairperson of the Youth Club. Currently have between 40 – 70 young people attending, a lovely bunch of children. Activities include discos, tuck shop, sporting games. We are struggling to run the youth club as we are short on volunteer helpers. If you are interested in helping, please contact Annabel or Lisa. Telephone 01233 742666 or email annabelburden17@gmail.com

**Methodist Chapel**

Pat Feddon gave a report on the activities of the Methodist Chapel. Reverend Tim Nichollshas recently joined the Chapel. Sunday services are on the 2nd & 4th week of the month, with 1st & 3rd weeks via zoom. Many thanks to Donna Ashby who organizes the zoom joining instructions. The 4th Tuesday of the month, the Chapel has a coffee morning, including a raffle from 10.30 – Mid-day. Every Tuesday afternoon the Ladies Singing Group meet up. It’s very informal and we have lots of fun. Every Wednesday the Mother & Toddler Group meet up from 9.30 – 11.15 am. The 1st & 3rd week of the month the Roaring Twenties meet at 2 pm. Contact Details Chapel Steward Gill Jones 01233 714610.

**Roaring Twenties**

John Webster gave a report on the Roaring Twenties and its activities. Members who have mobility difficulties are picked up. During the sessions there is tea, coffee, sausage rolls & cake and a raffle is drawn. Members are encouraged to bring prizes. Most raffles there are 28 prizes, £1 for 5 tickets. The club organizes a fish & chip meal starting at 1 pm, where the fish and chips are collected from the local fish shop and Christmas meal. During the sessions we sometimes play bingo at 20p per ticket. Beetle drive and the booby prize is for example, toilet roll. At quieter times we have board games. Quiz time in groups of pairs or fours. We have guests attend who give various speeches. Lynwen attends with the singing ladies for a sing-a-along. We are always looking for new members. Everyone over 55 years is welcome. Contact details Gill Jones 01233 714610.

**Friends of Challock Church**

Rod Taylor Treasurer of Friends of Challock Church reported the friends raise funds for the upkeep of the building, fences, and grounds maintenance. Events - 2 quizzes per year, March and in October. Our Easter Egg Hunt event earlier this year raised £300, proved very popular with families. The Garden Safari with 140 people visiting the gardens, with the entrance fee and refreshments & cake raising £1400. The Senior Jubilee Lunch was not intended as a fund-raising event and through invitation by nominations and the Clerk providing list of parishioners. There was no charge to invitees. The Parish Council contributed £367 towards the cost and the generosity of parishioners donating, there was no loss.

The Country Fayre is planned for 10th September 2022. A lot of work has already been done organized by John Burden and friends. The Fayre will be held on the cricket ground and in the village hall. 20 stalls have already been booked, ice-cream van, Morris dancers will be in attendance. First for many years since the loss of the Goose Fair. The Christmas Fair held last year was very successful and will be held again this year in November. A Carol Service will be held in the Church in December and was well attended last year. With the funds raised, the Friends of Challock Church will be looking to replace 120 chairs this year, costing £10,000. Currently looking at samples and ensuring they are comfortable. The Friends of have helped fund the Church insurance, which costs £3,000 per year. The church is short of funds. Every 5 years a survey is carried out costing £450 which half is funded by the Friends. Through a legacy left to the Church for grass cutting of the church yard, the Friends pay for. The legacy is for 8/9 years.

The Friends have had a very successful year.

Contact details Gill Burden mobile 07904 950706.

**Mother & Toddler Group**

Paula Thorne and Phillipa Daws reported on Pebbles, the Mother & Toddler Group activities.

Took over the running of the group from the successful reigns of Pat Feddon in September 2021. After the pandemic it was imperative that we reopened in a safe way with the use of hand sanitizers, an important factor concerning health & safety for the group with little ones, newborns to pre-school come to enjoy. The group has up to 20 attending with 9 – 10 children moving up to pre-school. The group runs during term time only. Sarah Stevens helps with craft activities. A very supportive group providing emotional as well as practical support to mothers. Coffee and cake for the mothers whilst their children play. The group provided toys to a Ukrainian boy whose family are staying in Molash. We have parents attending who come from neighbouring villages, Molash, Charing & Westwell and from Ashford. 30 children came to meet Father Christmas with surprise guest Pat Feddon, which the children loved. Thanking Beryl from the Chapel for her support. Contact Details Paula Thorne mobile 07813 880041.

**Gliding Club**

Anne Ruglys & Gordon Smith gave a report on the activities of the Gliding Club. The flying instructors and members are volunteers. Run trial sessions and people decide to take it up can attend courses. The club runs junior programmes, for young people from age 14 wanting to be pilots. Carl Cox and Jake Brattle who have trained at the club are now glider champions. Will be holding the Women’s Gliding Championship this year and with donated funds for Ukrainians Championship.

Gordon commenced learning to fly at 15 years and have been an instructor for the past 25 years. Invite people to give it a go.

The Fly Zone – holding area, regarding development of Manston has been flown out of planning.

We welcome visitors and we would be happy to give any local resident a tour of the club and the operation. Please e mail or call the club to fix an appointment and one of the Board or a member will meet you and show you round.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Contact Details: Website kent-gliding-club.co.uk or Email enquiries@kentglidingclub.co.uk or Telephone 01233 740274

The Youth Club enquired about the Duke of Edinburgh scheme for young people who are interested in the Gliding Club. Anne responded will investigate and there would be lots of activities e.g., driving the tractor, radio operator etc. British Airways fund a charity for school children with disabilities to get involved in the gliding club.

Parishioner questioned aircraft flying over Long Beech Park, with the tow rope near trees.

Anne thanked parishioner for bringing it to their attention and will flag it up with the club.

**Clay Pigeon Club**

John Ramsden gave a report of the activities of the Clay Pigeon Club. Adjacent to the Gliding Club, anyone can come along, young people from the age of 14 years. Runs every other Sunday, shoot set in woodland, a great outdoor sport. A great bunch of people, everyone welcome.

Details can be found on our website challockclayshoot.com or email John Ramsden john@challockclayshoot.com

**Cricket & Social Club**

Donna Ashby gave a report of the activities of the Cricket and Social Club. Drive for a more family orientated, with limited players and few friendlies, looking to get back to league matches. Everyone invited to come along to play and/or support, practice to league standard. Can stick to the fun of it. The pavilion club house bar is open on match days and Friday evenings. The Cricket and Social Club helped out at the recent Jubilee Firework Celebrations event along with the Parish Council. Up and coming our Annual Fun Day with friendly game with Spice of Bengal, a bar, barbecue and bouncing castle. We will be supporting this year’s Annual Fete organized by the Friends of Challock Church in September, being held on the cricket ground. Followed by Halloween Firework Special in October.

Contact Details can be found our website challock.play-cricket.com or Facebook Challock-Cricket-Club.

Thank you for your support.

**Kingswood Players**

Donna Ashby gave a report on the activities of Kingswood Players. We were back on stage early this year with a great turnout, nearly full on all shows. Raised £1000 to the Admiral Nurses in memory of Margaret Watson. Advertise pantomime at the Christmas Fair with annually donated tickets. Looking forward to our 50th Anniversary, which is not far off. Had the biggest turnout for people interested in joining the Kingswood Players. Everyone is welcome to join, no talent required!

Contact Details Donna Ashby mobile 07814 384193

**Challock & Molash Garden Society**

The following report was available as a handout.

Challock & Molash Gardening Society has about 40 members (some still to pay membership fees! but I am sure that's just an oversight ...). The membership fee is only £5.00 and runs from April to April and entitles members to come along to talks, social events, coach trips to gardens and, of course our 3 Shows which are held in Spring, Summer, and the Autumn. The next Show is on the evening of the 16th July and will comprise classes of flowers, displays, vegetables and a cookery class. The usual delicious BBQ and social meanderings will also be important for the occasion.

The Society had to take an enforced break in proceedings due to the dreaded Covid 19 virus. We had to suspend our events from March 2020 to August 2021. This of course was the norm for other Societies in that period.

We made a very welcome comeback to near normality in August last year with our wonderful but belayed Summer Show. We followed that with a talk from our old and trusted friend Richard Goodenough from Chartham (he of Chartham Vineyard fame) who has always given full value on a variety of subjects. Our wondrous Christmas Party was full to bursting where members sang carols with gusto, enjoyed various silly games, were entertained with several "turns" by members, scoffed delicious food and quaffed copious amounts of alcohol!

So far in 2022 we have enjoyed our famous Curry Night, splendid Spring Show and a coach trip to the National Flower Show held at Hylands House, Chelmsford. Unfortunately, the fundraising evening we were sponsoring for the military charity Walking With The Wounded on 25th June has had to be postponed. Holiday season blamed for a projected low attendance. It will now be incorporated into our Autumn Show.

The Society comprises of members who are very keen and proficient gardeners and also those who watch and admire but prefer to appreciate the social side of what we offer. Room for both.

The 2022 schedule of events is available to view on the Challock Parish website. Our "home" is the quaint village hall in Molash.

I hope this gives you a flavour of what the Society is about.

Parish Forum

Parishioner raised concerns on the costs of installing the bollards and how this cost is justified out of our parish precept. Parishioners understanding that the costs of installing section 1 was in excess of £30K, section 2, 21K & section 3, £30K. Chairman Fisher responded that the figures were incorrect and the Clerk to write to parishioner with actual costs. Parishioner also raised concerns regarding Hegdale Quarry and that asbestos is being dumped at the site. The clerk to make enquiries with KCC Planning for an update and to inform parishioner.

Parishioner added that monies raised at Chilham Boot Fair came to £500 and additional £200 raised to the Pilgrims Hospice out of the remaining unsold boot fair items. Chairman Fisher congratulated parishioner.

Councillor Ramsden informed parishioners that the old post office letterbox has been sealed today without notice. Clerk is making enquiries with Post Box Royal Mail to try and get the letterbox reinstated. The letterboxes in Faversham Road are not easily accessible and is on a dangerous road.

**Michael Fisher Chair thanked everyone for attending.**

**Meeting closed at 8.45 pm.**

**Next Annual Parish Meeting to take place 2023 date to be confirmed.**

**Appendix One**



**Chairman’s Report to the Annual Parish Meeting on 14th June 2022**

**Challock Parish Council**

**Welcome**

As Chairman I am pleased to report on the highlights of the activities of Challock Parish Council during the past year. I am privileged to have a hardworking committed team of Parish Councillors and to report on the considerable work carried out by them. My thanks to you all for your support during the past year.

Coronavirus played a large part in curtailing any plans made by the Council. But despite this, the Council's planned projects were completed. The highs and lows in some cases are listed below

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**2021**

The village hall reopened mid-Summer, and we were able to return to in person Parish Meetings maintaining social distancing and wearing of masks. I thank fellow members and parishioners for attending zoom and in person parish meetings throughout the past year.

**Finance**

Finances have maintained good order; however, all levels of local government have had to operate under severe financial constraints and Challock Parish Council need to be mindful of this. The Parish Council continues to look at maintaining costs to a minimum. The Parish Council need to be cautious with our future spending and projects and cannot rely on grants we have traditionally received. However, we have been successful in grants from ABC for a new website and will be receiving a grant for the installation of CCTV for the village hall and cricket pavilion. We also received a grant from ABC to help with the reopening of the village hall and community places, Challock Church, Methodist Chapel, Cricket Club received wall hand sanitizer dispensers and PPE. We have been successful in two lottery bids with Together for our Planet fund of £2,930 for the wildflower project and £1,900 for the Platinum Jubilee.

**Highways**

Speeding issues continue to be a concern in the Village. Our efforts to date have included encouraging the Police to be active in speed monitoring. The Parish Council have received offers of help to operate speed watch from parishioners and is now up and running. Badlesmere, Leaveland & Sheldwich Parish Council have kindly loaned their speed watch equipment to Challock Parish Council. The Parish Council would like to thank parishioners volunteering to carry out the speed watch. It is hoped more volunteers will come forward. Molash and Chilham have recently formed a speed watch team, so the A252 will benefit from the extra input in recording motorist behavior. Leaflets are available if parishioners wish to join speed watch.

The new footpath along Faversham Road underwent a design assessment in Autumn 2020. The security of funding was undermined due to increased costs from the design assessment. Progress is now in place in securing additional funds from Ashford Borough Council for the footpath to be installed. I am pleased to announce if all goes well and subject to obtaining funding of £9710 the installation of the footpath will commence this, Autumn.

Upon completion of the Faversham Road Footpath, the Parish Council will turn its focus on other new accesses and improvement of existing footpaths. New footpaths for consideration are a footway alongside of the cricket ground adjacent to Blind Lane and a footway adjacent to the Chequers, Church Lane. The Parish Council are also looking into a more accessible footpath through the wooded area. The Parish Council will welcome comments from parishioners on village access.

A collective alliance with Badlesmere, Leaveland & Sheldwich and Boughton Aluph Parish Councils was formed to improve road safety along the A251. A couple of meetings with KCC Highways and KCC Ward Councillor Andrew Bowls took place prior to March 2020 and unfortunately due to the pandemic further meetings were put on hold. The Parish Council have since produced a draft Highways Improvement Plan for the village. The plan involves carrying out speed monitoring via the police and speed watch volunteers which in turn will provide statistics. Road safety assessments and proposed safety improvement measures i.e., gated entrances, lower speed limits. KCC Highways have some funds available, but the Parish Councils would also need to contribute and look towards other funding avenues. Parish Council’s will work collectively where possible, and savings can be made on some of the works/surveys. Copies of the Highway Improvement Plan is available to parishioners and the Parish Council would welcome feedback on the proposed plan. We are waiting to hear back from KCC on the next step regarding the Highways Improvement Plan.

A252 Safer Roads Fund Scheme funded by Road Safety Foundation and proposed safety improvements along A252 between the villages of Chilham and Charing with the works are near completion. Repairs to the uplighters at the roundabout is still outstanding. A post installation and road safety assessments are currently in progress but has been slow.

The Parish Council reported to KCC Highways of our assessment of the installation measures and requested consideration for the installation of speed cameras through residential areas. KCC have responded that they are considering speed cameras.

The Parish Council are pursuing that the Canterbury Road from Beech Court Entrance towards the roundabout at the Halfway to be resurfaced. The patching repairs and the filling of the potholes makes it very noisy when lorries drive through for nearby residents.

During 2020/21 the foot way along Buck Street, adjacent to the cricket ground has been repaired and the overgrown vegetation cut back allowing the foot way to be its proper width, improving safety for parishioners travelling on foot. The Parish Council have asked KCC Highways to see if a section of the footpath, 15 metres, Buck Street Cottages towards High Tree Lodge, trees, and shrubs can be cut back to increase the width.

An Annual Highways Inspection is due to take place in September. Parishioners can email the Clerk of any issues.

**Public Rights of Way**

The clerk has reported anumber of footpath signs have come down. KCC have been slow in getting these put back up. KCC Public Rights of Way have very limited funds and only one person responsible for whole of Kent.

**The Lees**

The potholes on the Lees track have been maintained regularly as well as the odd fallen trees/shrub by the grounds man. Landscapes are contracted to carry out the grass cutting as per schedule for 2022. The smaller areas are carried out by the grounds man. The Parish Council will continue to preserve the Lees and its amenities. The grounds man also maintains the area by the roundabout and Faversham Road grass verge opposite the Paddock View development.

An annual tree survey is due to take place in the coming months.

Over the past 5 years there has been unauthorized encampments mainly on the top section of the Lees. This has cost the parish council funds in excess of £10000. The top section of the Lees perimeter has been secured by wooden bollards and a number of retractable bollards to allow access onto the Lees for grass cutting and events. The Parish Council will consider securing the remaining sections of the Lees at a later date, depending on funding and unauthorized encampments.

As custodians of the Lees, the Parish Council carries out an annual inspection of the Lees in the Autumn.

**Rewilding Project**

Last year the Rewilding Project Group approached the Parish Council for some areas of the Lees not to be cut and to see what wildflowers might grow. The Parish Council had previously approved for a wildflower area on the Lees for the school to get involved with. The Rewilding Group, Councillor Aitken, and the school eco group planted seeds in the area after the grounds man had scarified and rotovated the area. In January 2022 the Parish Council reviewed the wildflower areas. Taking into consideration parishioners views and consultation with Kent Wildlife Trust, the Parish Council decided to concentrate on areas 2,3 & 5 for the time being and to extend area 5. The Parish Council understands this was a disappointment to the Rewilding Group and the Parish Council were saddened they decided to step down. The Parish Council would like to thank the Rewilding Group for their efforts and enthusiasm for the project. Their help with area 5 and placing plugs in areas 2 & 3.

The rewilding is a long-term project, and the Parish Council are keen to develop and enhance other areas of the Lees, in particular the wooded area. The lottery funding has paid for the seeds & bee bombs to be planted in area 5 and in Autumn areas 2 & 3 will have plugs planted. As areas 2 & 3 are mainly under tree canopies, woodland wildflower plugs will be planted. Les Langley has kindly offered to make wooden troughs to be located around key areas of the village i.e., village sign opposite Halfway Pub. The troughs will contain herbs like lavender and later on in the season perennials as suggested by Kent Wildlife Trust. The Parish Council has received an offer from a parishioner who would like to maintain one of the troughs. We would welcome offers of help to maintain the other troughs. All costs plants, soil etc. are funded by Together for our Planet lottery. We would also welcome suggestions of where the troughs should be located. The Parish Council are looking to enhance the wooded area at the top of the Lees. A recent visit by Woodland Trust suggested how to enhance this area. Unfortunately, there are quite a few Ash trees which need to come down. A local tree surgeon has recently carried out a survey on the Ash Trees and we are waiting on quotation for priority removal. Under our Wildflower Policy, the Parish Council endeavors to replace any tree that is felled. Ashford Borough Council’s Platinum Tree Project, we will be receiving tree saplings in the Autumn to go in the wooded area. Parishioners who have made a request will be receiving tree saplings for their gardens.

Last 2 years we have joined in the “No Mow May” campaign in which the area opposite the roundabout and the perimeter of the Lees has been left uncut. The Parish Council has received positive feedback on the area opposite the roundabout and negative feedback on the perimeter of the Lees. It is the Parish Council’s intention to keep the area opposite the roundabout uncut for a little bit longer until the flowers start to fade.

For full details of our plans for the Wildflowers please take a look at our Wildflower Policy.

**Play Area**

Thanks to the lottery funding we were able to secure £10000 towards the new equipment. Installation of the new equipment consisting of nest swing, junior & toddler swing and activity trail was completed at the end of June. A full bark replenishment has now been completed. An inspection of the play park is due to take place next month. The Parish Council will look to replace the junior monkey bars and see saw with different equipment.

**Environment**

Overall, the village is kept clean and tidy, and the grounds man continues to do an excellent job in maintaining the Lees track and pathways.

The annual village litter pick organized in conjunction with ABC Kent Clean Campaign & Keep Britain Tidy took place in September 2021 & April 2022 with a low turnout. The Parish Council wishes to thank Crossroad Motors who kindly donated £100 towards the litter pick campaign. The unspent money will be brought forward to the next litter pick. The Parish Council would welcome feedback on the litter pick and whether to have another one in the Autumn. The Parish Council wishes to thank parishioners ‘unsung heroes’ who take it upon themselves to do the occasional litter pick, trim and tidy areas around the village.

**Village Post Office & Beech Court Gardens**

Changes occurred in the past year with Andrew Puxted moving on and the closure of the post office. Angela kept the village shop open and arranged for the pop-up post office to operate on Tuesday & Thursday afternoons. The village store closed in August last year. Parishioners & the Parish Council came together to thank Angela for running the village stores for many years, wishing her a very happy retirement and presented her a bouquet of flowers and gifted some money to spend on a day’s outing.

Sadly, the village shop has been sold as a private residence. Due to the size, and probably the post office recent scandal had put prospective buyers off. The Barn Shop has increased its product range and now sells tobacco. A newsagent in Tenterden has now taken on the franchise for delivery of newspapers. A pop-up post office operates from the Halfway every Thursday afternoon. The Parish Council wish to thank Jason Piper at the Halfway for allowing the pop-up service to operate. The Post Office are pursuing alternative premises to allow a more regular pop-up service.

Beech Court Gardens are under new ownership, and we welcome Garth & Chloe to the village. The first open garden for charity recently took place.

**Publicity & Community Events**

Community events in the village had notably declined with the absence of the Challock Goose Fair and the pandemic. During 2021 the start of events began with an introduction to the Scarecrow and Bonnet Parade organized by Shirley Barth raising funds for Challock Church and Methodist Chapel and Primary School. The Parish Council would like to thank Mr & Mrs Barth in organizing the scarecrow and the bonnet competition, raising funds for the Church, Chapel, and Primary School. The Flower Festival returned in August 2021. All events proved successful. This year events have returned with a vengeance with the Snowdrop Teas, Church Quiz Night and recently Garden Safari and Beech Court Gardens open weekend. The Parish Council organized a village boot fair for the first time. Though the turnout was low, the Parish Council managed to almost break even and raised £180 for the Red Cross Ukraine Disaster. Angela Pierce raised a fantastic £500 for the Ukraine Appeal, through donated items from generous parishioners for her car boot stall. The Parish Council have received requests from parishioners to do another boot fair.

We have the Scarecrow Safari, Flower Festival, and the Country Fayre to look forward too.

The Platinum Jubilee Celebrations recently took place, with the Friends of Challock Church organizing a Senior Jubilee Lunch, with the Parish Council donating £367 towards the food which came out of the Jubilee Lottery Fund. It was a fantastic event and parishioners enjoy it very much. A big thank you to the Friends of Challock Church and volunteers that helped out. With the help of Challock Cricket & Social Club, the Parish Council organized a Jubilee event with Hullabaloo Band and a Firework Finale. It was a great success and many parishioners saying how much they enjoyed this once in a lifetime event. The Parish Clerk would like to thank Councillors Tony Aitken & Tracy Brown for helping out with the organizing of the event. Chairman Mick Fisher to doing the Toast and Councillor Max Thomas helping with the marshalling. Thanking Paul Brown for his help and providing the lorry as a stage, Gavin & Louise for helping set up in the morning and evening, including Cricket & Social Club volunteers for their help.

The Primary School, Methodist Chapel and Challock Church all make a real difference to the community we have. The Friends of Challock Church hold many events throughout the year and the Parish Council wishes to thank them for raising much needed funds for the church and giving great community spirit and bringing in visitors to our village.

Publicity is circulated via Notice Boards, KM Roundabout, Forester, Challock Website and Challock Chatter. The Parish Council wish to thank the parishioners who distribute and deliver the Forester Magazines. Challock Chatter is a listening tool to the Parish Council; however, we are advised not to enter into debate and request parishioners attend parish meetings or email the clerk with their concerns.

A new website is now up and running. Further enhancements are due to take place later this year.

Challock Parish Council will continue and endeavor to improve communications via these forms of media.

**William Oure Trust**

This trust originates from William Oure whose 2 acres of land in Pested Lane known as the Poor Field and its annual rent, the proceeds of which would be distributed by the church at Christmas time to the poor people of the Parish. The trust operates differently in these times and is registered with the Charity Commission. The funds in the trust stand as of May 2022 at £3371.98. There has been an amendment to the articles to encompass the whole of the village and assist parishioners in need.

The Parish Council would like to thank parishioners who looked out for our vulnerable parishioners, especially when we were in lockdown and many parishioners were having to have Christmas alone, by providing a Christmas dinner.

The trustees of the William Oure trust provided a winter package to our vulnerable parishioners which was very much appreciated. Recently the William Oure Charity has assisted Ukrainian Guests staying in the village, providing funds for uniforms, fruit & veg box and a small lump sum.

The William Oure Farm Tenancy will be up for renewal January 2023.

**Planning**

Due to Stodmarsh many planning applications have been put on hold this includes High Tree Lodge. Construction works are due to commence this year at Clockhouse Green Phrase 2.

To avoid the potential for any further deterioration in the water quality of the Stodmarsh European designated site pending further investigations as to the cause. This has direct consequences for some new development proposals within parts of Ashford Borough which includes Challock. Ashford Borough Council are looking an inventive way to improve the water course and looking to the development of wetlands. Throughout the past year we have still been busy receiving planning applications for extensions, additional buildings etc. Clockhouse Green phrase 2 development has been sold onto a new developer. The S106 developer contributions applies and the table of obligations list contribution towards the provision of a skate park, an extension to the existing play area, new equipment, and site furniture at the playing field/recreation ground in Blind Lane, contribution towards a Multi-Use Games Area at the playing field/recreation ground in Blind Lane and contribution towards a hard surfaced access and additional seating at The Lees.

To date we now have 75 new houses in the village with another 19 new dwellings due to commence construction in the coming months. There are concerns that our infrastructure is below par with the loss of village post office, road safety around the village and poor access. The Parish Council will strive towards improving our infrastructure but is challenging with the lack of funds.

**Coronavirus Pandemic**

We have faced unprecedent times during the past 2 years. To the relief of everyone restrictions were lifted early this year, though perhaps a little bit apprehensive to begin with we have started to embrace our freedoms once again.

Everyone has come together and supported each other through this challenging period.

**Councillor Elections 2023**

Councillor Elections will be taken place during next year. Any parishioners interested in becoming a Councillor can apply. A notice will be displayed prior to the elections inviting parishioners to apply. There is information available about becoming a Councillor and what is involved. Parishioners can talk to the Councillors after this meeting.

**Future Plans**

* Skate Park with the expected target date of installation commencing autumn 2022/23.
* MUGA project
* To continue to identify Outdoor Play Space Projects, including further upgrade of the play park junior equipment and secure funding. To extend the play park to include a woodland activity and seating area.
* To continue to campaign for reduce speed limit and road safety measures around the village.
* To review the footways in the village and to look to continue campaigning for new footways.
* Lees track residents’ consultation.

The Parish Council are keen to know the projects residents would like to see the Council working on along with dealing with issues, requests for grants and support. Residents are welcomed to attend Parish Meetings, contact through email or mail to c/o Post Office.

[parishclerkchallockpc@gmail.com](mailto:parishclerkchallockpc@gmail.com) or telephone mobile 07895494851.

**Concluding Remarks**

Thank you all for your support.