Challock Parish Council Annual Meeting Minutes

Memorial Hall

Wednesday 7th June 2023, 7.30pm

Members of public present approx.42

Present

Cllr Tracy Brown (Chairperson), Cllr Max Thomas (Vice-Chairperson),Cllr Tony Aitken, Cllr John Ramsden, Cllr Robert Shallcrass, Cllr Jayne Walpole & Dianne Sandy (Clerk). His Worshipful Mayor Larry Krause & KCC Ward Councillor Charlie Simkins.

Apologies

No apologies

Welcome & Introductions

Chairperson Cllr Tracy Brown welcomed everyone to the meeting. Councillors introduced themselves.

Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting 14th June 2022

Proposed by Cllr Ramsden and seconded by Cllr Thomas

All agreed

Chairperson’s Report

Chairperson Cllr Tracy Brown, Vice-Chairperson Cllr Max Thomas and Cllr Jayne Walpole read out the Chairperson’s Report

Appendix 1 for full report.

Volunteer Presentation

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

His Worshipful Mayor Larry Krause thanked parish council for the invitation and thanked parishioners for voting. Privilege to be elected Borough Council and selected as Mayor for this year, 50th Mayor and first Mayor from the rural community in 20 years. Congratulations to the Parish Council on elections. Congratulations to Tracy Brown as new Chairperson, enjoy your term. Continue to support with members’ grant.

Report from Charlie Simkins KCC Councillor for Ashford Rural for the year to May 2022/2023

KCC Charlie Simkins, Challock is a wonderful community. Will try to address comments raised from the Chairpersons report.

KCC Charlie Simkins read out his report.

KCC agreed a balanced budget in February for year commencing 1st April 2023.

Very important and difficult decisions were necessary involving cuts in front line services including reductions in bus services.

Acute pressure remains on costs, specifically social care, notably older people’s residential services which account for just under 50% of total expenditure.

The Leader of KCC sent a joint letter with the Leader of Hampshire County Council to Govt in October requesting long term solutions for financing from Government.

Help for Residents. KCC has a strong record in this area and has undertaken several initiatives including free school meals in Oct. 2020 half term, the Household Support Fund. 450 awards have been made and KCC is working with District and Borough councils to provide support with water bills, free school meal vouchers and other grants. KCC launched a Financial Hardship Programme with £10m from the Covid Emergency Grant.

I am pleased to report that the Ofsted Report awarded Kent Children’s Services ‘Outstanding’ in their latest inspection.

Migration - In 2022 the large number of small boat crossings included 1390 unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children under 16 which come within the responsibility of KCC. Since 2021 better financial arrangements with Govt. and mandatory transfers to other councils have eased the pressure on KCC to a limited degree but the problem remains acute.

Ukraine - Kent welcomed the largest number of refugees of any area. 3274 guests came to Kent in 2022.

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At end year there were 349 Ukrainian children in primary schools and 234 in secondary schools.

Education - 19007 families applied for Kent school places and 78.2% were given their first choice.

Potholes - Acknowledged that roads are in a bad state partly due to age and wet winter.

KCC awarded £6m in handout by Govt for potholes in March and will keep on working hard over the summer to attempt to remedy the situation.

I am still ringfencing £5000 from my Members Grant towards the Faversham Road footpath. I am requesting guidance from the Parish Council as to whether this will be required.

Public Participation

The following parishioners’ comments addressed to KCC Charlie Simkins

Parishioner – the Faversham footpath development an oversight by ABC.

Parishioner – Potholes are the worst in Kent. KCC Charlie Simkins responded that it is important to keep reporting on the KCC Highways portal.

Parishioner – Government policy inconsistent – Road safety in the village, 30 mph should be extended throughout the village. Many financial resources are wasted on works carried out to the A roads.

Parishioner – Speeding too fast through our village, concerns walking along the footpaths.

Parishioner – Speed average cameras the best solution.

Chairperson Tracy Brown – Police presence has been requested repeatedly by Mick Fisher. Waiting on completion for bay markings of the A252 police check layby near Pested Lane junction towards Molash.

KCC Charlie Simkins – all complaints should be directed to the Parish Council.

Open Forum for Village Clubs & Organisations

**Clay Pigeon Club**

John Ramsden gave a report on the activities of the Clay Pigeon Club established 1996. Adjacent to the Gliding Club, Squids Gate Lane, anyone can come along, young people from the age of 14 years. Runs every other Sunday, shoot set in woodland, a great outdoor sport. 9 am signing in and shooting starts at 10 am. A great bunch of people, everyone welcome. Guns are provided with safety training. Details can be found on our website challockclayshoot.com or email John Ramsden john@challockclayshoot.com

**Gliding Club**

Jane Connolly 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.

Invite people to give it a go. Open 7 days during the summer and weekends and Wednesday during the winter period.

We welcome visitors and we would be happy to give any local resident a tour of the club and the operation. Please email or call the club to fix an appointment and one of the Board or a member will meet you and show you round. Help children with the Duke of Edinburgh scheme. Invitation to the Youth Club to come along.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

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

**Friends of Challock Church**

Scott Haigh-Reeve, Friends of Challock Church read out the following report. John Burden is the Chairperson of Friends of Challock Church who unfortunately, cannot be here this evening. Not a religious group but more of a community platform. The friends raise funds for the fabric of the building, fences, and grounds maintenance. Events - 2 quizzes per year, March and in October. Easter egg hunt, carol service and summer fair. Support the church with the Snowdrop Teas, Flower Festival and Christmas Fair. Water tank, replacement west door, heating system, vestry, and cupboard, alter, north boundary wall are ongoing series of projects to be funded by the Friends of Challock Church.

Always looking for volunteers and would love to welcome you as a volunteer.

The Friends have had a very successful year.

Contact details Gill Burden mobile 07904 950706.

**Youth Club**

Annabel introduced Lisa Stuart as the new Chairperson of the Youth Club. Youth Club takes place on Wednesday, second week, monthly. Currently between 50 – 80 young people attend, providing a safe environment, activities include sports, art, cooking by Frances, tuck shop, two discos annually. We have a couple of craft ladies teaching glass painting. We were successful in obtaining a grant which has paid for Sport Giants who do various sporting activities i.e., football, dodge ball, the kids really enjoy it. Thank you to Angela Pierce who raised £230 for a pool table by having a boot fair. We have a great team of helpers but could do with more volunteer helpers. We have our AGM this Thursday, 8th June at 7.30 pm at the Stag. All welcome come along. If you are interested in helping, please contact Annabel or Lisa. Email challockyouthclub@gmail.com

**Challock & Molash Garden Society**

The following report was read out by Anne-Marie.Sladden

The Society has a membership of about 46 people most of whom live in Challock or Molash but with a few “outsiders” from Ashford and Wye. Membership is the paltry sum of £5.00 for annual subscription April to April. Our home is Molash village hall. We enjoy events throughout the year

including:

* Spring Show in April – Summer Show in July – Autumn Show in October.

 They are well-attended with many exhibits from members in all the various classes. The emphasis is on informal, amateur Shows with attendees judging the exhibits rather than an external judge. All shows are accompanied with a buffet and glass of wine and the inevitable, but fun, raffle. The Summer Show features a scrumptious BBQ.

* Illustrated talks in the Winter/Autumn months when we enjoy talks on a variety of subjects by wonderful speakers. Yes, buffet and wine here as well!
* Opportunities to visit some lovely gardens both locally and further afield. Being a member of the RHS provides opportunities to visit their beautiful gardens at Wisley and Hyde Hall, Essex.
* Social evenings are also seen as important by members and have given rise to a Curry Night in Molash village hall, usually in February or March, and a Christmas Cracker night in December where carols are sung with gusto, stories told, quizzes stretch grey cells and alcohol, and tasty food are consumed. Not for the faint-hearted!

In summary, the Society is open for people who enjoy gardening and gardens as well as meeting friends in a comfortable environment to socialise and have some fun. Stuffy, formal, and boring we are not ….

More details from Ray Loftus as Chairman of the Society.

**Kingswood Players**

Donna Ashby gave a report on the activities of Kingswood Players. We were back on stage early this year with the biggest turnout, over 400 people. Raised funds for a defibrillator in memory of Anne Macey. The defibrillator is registered with 999 services. Training to use the defibrillator takes place later on in the year. Rehearsals for next year’s pantomime commence in September. Everyone is welcome to join, no talent required! Need people both back stage and help run the tuck shop.

Contact Details Donna Ashby mobile 07814 384193

**Cricket & Social Club**

Dave Richardson, Chairperson, gave a report on the activities of the Cricket and Social Club.

The pavilion extension is due to be finished by the end of the year. The bar will be twice its original size. The balcony will be extended outwards by 3 metres length, so people can enjoy the view. Paving slabs will be placed underneath. A fantastic facility.  Lost excellent players but rebuilding with younger members. Everyone invited to come along to play and/or support, practice to league standard, excellent tutors. Can stick to the fun of it. The pavilion club house bar is open on match days and Friday evenings. Will be organizing annual fireworks & bonfire event. The use of the facilities is not just for the cricket club but as a sports club, integral part of the village.

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

Thank you for your support.

**Ladies Choir**

Brenda Harding gave a report on the activities of the Ladies Choir.

The Ladies choir started up during 2017 with Lynwen and Dawn who have given up. Very informal group meeting up once a week, Tuesday at 2 pm. Females welcome, no auditions required. Come along to listen, more of a social event as it is singing, good for mental and physical health. Come along and give us a try at the Methodist Chapel. Printing of song sheets. £1.50 including tea and biscuits, have a good chat. We support village events, the flower festival and Christmas carols in December. Love to see you.

**Methodist Chapel - Roaring Twenties’**

Pat Feddon gave a report on the activities of the Methodist Chapel. We still meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday afternoons, and our usual attendance is between 20 - 28. We no longer have a membership but invite anyone over 50 to come along when they can. We have afternoon tea and a range of activities from quizzes to Beetle Drives, Bingo, or other activities.

We usually have a Fish ‘n Chip lunch every 6- 8 weeks which is always well attended. We recently had a buffet lunch to celebrate the Kings coronation which was well attended and enjoyed by all. Contact Details Chapel Steward Gill Jones 01233 714610.

**Mother & Toddler Group**

Pat Feddon reported on behalf of Paula Thorne on Pebbles, the Mother & Toddler Group activities.

Pebbles continues to grow and is a thriving group within the Challock community catering for

young children and carers. The group has always had a lovely feel to it and is often said by many

that attend that it is a very warm and welcoming group for them and their little ones.

Each week we continue to have a great attendance of mothers, grandparents, and childminders

and the age range of children is also varied. From new born babies right the way through to pre-

school ages. On average we have between 9-13 children regularly attending.

Many of the children that attend also move up to Challock School together which is wonderful as

friendships have already been established. (2 of the children will be moving up to school together

this September).

The group is consistently run (during term-time only) and is run by Paula Thorne (The main lead)

along with Philippa Daws and Sharon Stevens who help support the running of the group.

Each week a varied range of toys for the babies as well as craft activities for the preschoolers are

set out and all seem to enjoy their time of interactions.

Throughout the course of the morning the children are given a selection of healthy snacks and

there is also a bit of time for story and songs which the children love!

The group is also a great place where parents/carers have been able to support each other

practically as well as emotionally.

Pebbles is advertised in the Forester magazine, on social media Facebook groups: Challock

Chatter, Molash & Challock Mums and also within Challock School. The group is made up from

people mainly within the local community however we also have parents coming from Ashford,

Charing, Chilham and Westwell.

Pebbles is a thriving group and a great part of the Challock Community.

Highlights

Christmas party with Father Christmas visit - approx. 25 children

THANK YOU!!

Thank you to Beryl for her continued support and for allowing us to continue in the Methodist

church hall.

Thank you to Amanda Bancroft from Challock School for providing baked biscuits for the children

to decorate.

**Badminton Club**

John Saunders gave a report on the activities of the Badminton Club.

Recent influx of people in the village and the badminton club is thriving again. Badminton Club every Thursday at the village hall at 7.30 pm. Welcome to come along. £3 per night.

**Dog Training Club**

Martin Hook gave a report of the activities of the Dog Training Club.

Runs every Thursday in the village hall 2 – 4 pm. Social for the owners, training dogs to socialise and become better behaved and good exercise. Welcome to come along.

**Classic Cars at the Summer Fair**

Looking to hold a classic car event at the Summer Fair. Request for anyone who owns a classic car or know of someone who does to contact Mark Prince.

**Challock Memorial Hall**

Tim Freeman gave a report on the activities of the Village Hall Committee.

A number of projects, LED lights, improve ventilation, curtains replacement. Revitalise the building. The village hall committee is run by a group of volunteers. Prime use of the village hall is by village clubs who are representatives on the committee who have an input in the facilities. Have new people joining the committee but could do with more. People pay to use the village hall which helps cover the day-to-day maintenance. Obtain grants for improvements. Positive story. Help run it, ideal for new people moving to the village, an opportunity to get involved, be part of the village.

**Cllr Tracy Brown, Chairperson, thanked everyone for attending.**

**Meeting closed at 9.45 pm.**

**Next Annual Parish Meeting to take place 2024 date to be confirmed.**

**Appendix One**

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

**Challock Parish Council**

**Welcome**

As newly appointed Chairperson I am pleased to report on the highlights of the activities of Challock Parish Council during the past year. My thanks to the parish councillors for their contribution during the past year and I look forward to working with you all in the coming year.

**2022** was a tumultuous year with the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations and followed in September with the sad passing of her majesty Queen Elizabeth 11. We are now entering a new era with the reign of King Charles 111.

**Councillor Elections 2023**

Councillor Elections have taken place and the Parish Council welcome Robert Shallcrass and Jayne Walpole as new parish councillors. Michael Fisher and Russell Jacques stepped down and we wish them well with their future plans and thank them for volunteering their time and commitment to the well-being of our parishioners.

**Finance**

Finances have maintained good order; however, all levels of local government have continued to operate under severe financial constraints. The Parish Council continues to look at keeping 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 lottery bids with £1900 for the Queens Jubilee and £1,200 for the Kings Coronation.

**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. Offers of help to operate speed watch from parishioners continued during the summer of 2022. It is hoped more volunteers will come forward so we can commence speed watch in June. Molash and Chilham have formed a speed watch team, so the A252 will benefit from the extra input in recording motorist behaviour. However, they too are struggling to recruit volunteers. Leaflets are available if parishioners wish to join speed watch.

Due to the high cost of living and fuel prices rocketing during 2022, the new footpath along Faversham Road and the security of funding was undermined due to further increased costs. We are currently waiting to hear back from KCC with renewed costings and the prospect of the footpath now being constructed in phases. The first phase concentrates on the section leading from Paddock View up to the first bungalow. This is very disappointing, but the Parish Council will continue to strive to get this footpath installed.

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 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 Lees Woodland Walk and consideration for a footpath between the school and Kiln Close . The Parish Council 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. 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 statistical evidence. 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. A meeting with KCC Highways led to the Highways Improvement plan being amended, with additional funding from KCC to install slow down signs along Buck Street.

The 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 have at last been completed. Unfortunately, the outstanding works for repeater signs to be installed along the section from Monkery Lane to Westwell Junction, we are currently waiting for Alan Osouha to confirm an implementation date. KCC have been very slow in getting these outstanding jobs done. The police monitoring bay has been constructed but waiting on bay markings to be done. Though we have raised safety concerns for pedestrians crossing at the roundabout to KCC Alan Osouha who has responded that they are satisfied with the measures in place and there will be a 3-year assessment.

We have yet to hear from KCC about their consideration for speed cameras along the A252. The Parish Council recently requested a site meeting to discuss our concerns, but KCC have declined. With KCC procrastination in assisting the Parish Council with both the A252 improvements and Faversham Road Footpath we will be taking these matters further through KCC complaints process.

Last year the Parish Council pursued KCC requesting they resurface the Canterbury Road from Beech Court Entrance towards the roundabout at the Halfway. They have carried out patch repairs which we know will not last long.

The foot way along Buck Street, adjacent to the cricket ground and the overgrown vegetation should be cut back and side-edging allowing the foot way to be its proper width has been done by our grounds man. The Parish Council are still waiting to hear back from 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, the Clerk has requested if it can take place earlier. 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 but have now been replaced. There is still an outstanding job for the removal of glass along the footpath adjacent to The Beeches, Buck Street. KCC Public Rights of Way have very limited funds and only one person is responsible for the 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 for main section of the Lees and the 3 smaller areas by the Memorial. The smaller areas and perimeter of the Lees 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.

In recent 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. There have been no unauthorized encampments since 2020 and the Parish Council have no plans to further secure the remaining Lees with bollards at this present time.

As custodians of the Lees, the Parish Council carries out an annual inspection of the Lees in the Autumn. We have brought this forward to June 2023.

**Rewilding Areas**

Last year we extended area 5 near the loose planings with the help of Councillor Aitken and Challock Primary School children planting more wildflower seeds. The grounds man planted tulip and daffodils bulbs around sections of the Lees and the memorial.

The rewilding is a long-term project, and the Parish Council are keen to develop and enhance other areas of the Lees. Les Langley has kindly offered to make wooden troughs to be located around key areas of the village i.e., village sign opposite The Stag. 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 Lees Woodland Walk at the top of the Lees. A visit by the Woodland Trust last year suggested how to enhance this area, they also warned the Parish Council that there were a lot of Ash Trees that were diseased and needed to come down. In total there were 30 trees that needed to come down.

It was thanks to the Queens Tree Canopy now called the Queens Tree Memorial that we received 30 tree saplings which were recently planted by our grounds man. The Lees Woodland Walk has become abundant with wildflowers this is mainly due to the clearing of the Ash Trees allowing sunlight to filter through. Under our Wildflower Policy, the Parish Council endeavors to replace any tree that is felled. A recent assessment of the Lees Woodland Walk will require a couple more ash trees will need to be felled and some of the overhanging branches removed along the footpath. A further 30 tree saplings are planned to go into the Woodland Area and Mick Maidens has offered some tree saplings. If any parishioners have native tree saplings, they wish to donate please contact the Parish Clerk. A planned litter pick of the Woodland Walk is due to take place very soon.

Last 3 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. 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**

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 sea saw with different equipment with funds from the S106 contributions. A bark replenishment will need to be carried out this month.

**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 April 2023 with an improved turnout. 2 years ago, Crossroad Motors kindly donated £100 towards the litter pick campaign. The money was used to purchase a bottle of wine for the litter pickers and sweets for the children. These funds have now been depleted. As part of the Big Help Out the Parish Council are looking to organize a litter pick in Kings Wood in the coming weeks subject to enough volunteers coming forward. 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.

**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, Methodist Chapel and the Primary School. Last year the Scarecrow Competition raised funds for Faversham Food bank. Since then, every month Sharey Dalton has organized food bank donations from parishioners, proving very much needed and appreciated by Faversham Foodbank. The Parish Council wishes to thank Mr & Mrs Barth for organizing last year’s Scarecrow Competition and Sharey Dalton for continuing with the foodbank donations. On this note the Parish Council are pleased to announce a recent funding application made to KCC Community Cost of Living Fund has been approved and £500 each will be donated to the One You Stop Food Bank at Ashford and Faversham Family Food Bank by the end of the year. The Flower Festival organized by the Parish Church Committee in August 2022 proved yet again a great success. The first Summer Fair took place last September and was a huge success, raising over £6000 funds. This year events have returned with a vengeance with the Snowdrop Teas, Church Quiz Night, Beech Court Gardens open weekend as part of the National Garden Society scheme raising over £5000 for NGS nominated charities and Red Cross Turkey/Syria Disaster Appeal and the return of the Five Church Walk organized by the Parish Church Committee. Last week the Open Gardens raised a fantastic £4,600 and £91 for the Red Cross Turkey/Syria Disaster Appeal. The Parish Council organized a village boot fair for the first-time last year. 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. This year Angela has raised over £200 for the Youth Club, which is fantastic.

 We have the Flower Festival and the Summer Fair to look forward too.

The Coronation Celebrations recently took place, with the Parish Council organizing a Senior Coronation Tea on the 2nd May and the main village event on the recreation ground on Monday, 8th May. The fabulous Daisy Chains performing and our own talented Perla Hardie singing a couple of songs a cappella, and Stuart Weller Magician made the afternoon a very enjoyable event. Both events were funded by the Parish Council and Coronation Lottery Fund. Both events proved a great success and parishioners enjoyed it very much. A big thank you to all the volunteers that helped out and Paul Edwards for supplying a lorry for The Daisy Chains to perform on. Thank you to Challock Cricket Club & Village Hall Committee for allowing the use of their facilities and electricity.

The Primary School, Methodist Chapel and Challock Church all make a real difference to the community we have. The Cricket Club organizes the annual firework display for the village with a great turnout. 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. The Parish Council would like to thank the Cricket Club for holding the annual firework display and helping out with village events, the Queens Platinum Jubilee, and the Summer Fair.

Publicity is circulated via Notice Boards, Forester, Challock Website and Challock Chatter. The Parish Council wishes 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 notice board for the village hall car park has been ordered. The Parish Council are hoping to obtain funding for another notice board to be installed at Westwell Lane Junction.

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 2023 at £3403.26. 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.

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

The farm tenancy agreement was negotiated in December 2022 and will be renewed in January 2024 with the current tenant. Prior to the renewal the Parish Council considered other interested parties and considered options for a community orchard and/or allotments. Unfortunately, we received very little requests or involvement for setting up a community orchard.

**Planning**

Due to Stodmarsh many planning applications were put on hold, this included High Tree Lodge. Construction works commenced last 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,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 on The Lees.

To date we now have 75 new houses in the village with a further 19 new dwellings currently under construction. There are concerns that our infrastructure is below par with the loss of village post office, road safety around the village, poor access and last year due to the exceptional heat Challock was without water for days. High Tree Lodge has recently put in a planning application for 13 dwellings. The Parish Council will strive towards improving our infrastructure but is challenging with the lack of funds.

**Funding**

The government’s Community Ownership Fund has now been updated to accept applications from parish councils to help communities.  The Parish Council plan to investigate further into the Community Ownership Fund and is interested to hear from residents their thoughts about creating a community hub and café.

Under the Kent Plan Tree, there are opportunities for funding for potential community orchards and small woodlands. The Parish Council are interested to hear from any landowners who may have a suitable site.

**Future Plans**

* Skate Park with the expected target date of installation.
* Multi-Use Games Unit 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 reducing the 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.
* Funding for Village Notice Board at Westwell Lane Junction.
* 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 14 Chapmans Close. clerk@challockparishcouncil.gov.uk or telephone mobile 07895494851.

**Concluding Remarks**

Thank you all for your support.

**Appendix Two**

**Village Volunteer Certificates awarded at the Annual Parish Meeting**

The Parish Council would like to thank the following volunteers who dedicate their spare time to supporting communities and events in the village.

The Forester and distributors - Sue Ashby, Diane Ashworth, Steve Winpenny, Pat Harvey, Pam Perry, Pat Miles, Yoonus Sait, Caroline Dodds, Shirley Saunders, Rosemary McGill, and Jean Mcdermot who also sorts out the foresters as well as having her own delivery round.

As well as delivering the foresters Angela Puxted who also volunteers with the Friends of Challock Church, Clare Hook volunteers with the Friends of Challock Church and is secretary to the church. Martin Hook volunteers with the Friends of Challock Church & the Parish Church Committee who regularly goes down to the church early morning to check all is well. Lynwen Paddy who is our wonderful church organist, who we are very lucky to have, who also supports the church events. Rachel Spicer who helps runs the family services and the wonderful Christingle as well as the helping out at church events.

The Friends of Challock Church – John & Gill Burden, Liz & Scott Haigh-Reeve, Peter & Margaret Franklin-Bourne, Rod Taylor and Linda Wooltorton who have for many years raised funds for the church building by organizing and being involved in many successful events. The flower festival, The Christmas Fayre, Quiz’s and last year’s Garden Safari and Summer Fair were a great success raising lots of funds.

The recent Open Garden event was a huge success, raising over £4000. Jayne and Richard Walpole, the main organizers for this event. Thanking everyone, too many to mention, who helped out.

Volunteers who support the community via clubs. Paula Thorne who runs Pebbles (Mother & Toddler) group, Lisa Stuart and Annabel Burden who run the Youth Club and Gill Jones who is steward to the Methodist Chapel and runs the Roaring Twenties. Brenda Harding who runs the Ladies Choir and John Saunders who runs the Badminton Club. All these clubs offer invaluable support to our very young people, teenagers, and our senior citizens. Tim Freeman, Chairman and Kathy Stevens Secretary who have dedicated for many years to the running of the village hall.

The Parish Council would like to thank volunteers who helped out at the Senior Afternoon Tea Patrice Astell, Gill & John Burden, Liz & Scott Haigh-Reeve, Geraldine Hennessey, Linda Wooltorton, Tony Aitken, Tracy Brown, Lynwen Paddy Louise Barton Spears, Ann Broadhead & Sylvia Shearan.

Our Fund Raisers - Donna Ashby who is social club secretary to the cricket club. Runs the Kingswood Players directing their annual pantomime show and raising funds for charity and this year raised funds for a defibrillator for the village hall in memory of a much-missed parishioner Ann Macey. The Parish Council would like to thank everyone who took part in the Kingswood Players, providing great entertainment and laughter to our parishioners and raising money for charity. Shirley and Norman Barth who have organized the Scarecrow and Easter Bonnet Competition last year raising funds for the village and Faversham Food Bank. Sharey Dalton who has continued to organized food donated by parishioners on a monthly basis to the Faversham Food Bank.

Angela Pierce who raised £500 to the Ukrainian Appeal and £200 to Challock Youth Club through organizing a stall at boot fairs.

Chloe & Garth from Beech Court Gardens raised over £5,000 for charities with their Open Garden event in association with National Garden Society. A proportion of the money raised went to the Red Cross Turkey/Syria earthquake appeal.

Our Litter Pickers and Speedwatch Team help keep our village clean and tidy and safe. Our litter pickers are Jennifer Fernandes and her daughters, Alice & Lucy and Pauline Aitken who is also a governor at Challock Primary School and delivers the foresters. Stephanie Constance and family who did a litter pick in Kingswood as part of the Kings Coronation Big Help Out Event.

Our village Speedwatch team, Gill and Mark Prince, Cathy Crisp, Gill Powell, Jackie Moore, Angela Pierce, Cathy Pitcher, Swati Sharma, and Siobhan Park.

Our Parish Councillors who are volunteers too wish to thank Michael Fisher, Russel Jacques, Duncan Hardie, Tracy Brown, Max Thomas and John Ramsden and Tony Aitken. John Ramsden also supports the Friends of Challock Church and Tony Aitken who is secretary to Challock Cricket Club and a committee member to the village hall.

The Cricket Club holds an annual firework display and has supported the Parish Council with the Jubilee and Coronation events and the Friends of Challock Church Summer Fayre.

A special mention to Amanda Cottrell who has dedicated much of her lifetime to volunteering and supporting Challock, being a member of the Parish Council, the Goose fair Committee and supporting charity organisations outside of the village.

Present certificate and flowers to Amanda.

Thank you to all our parishioners who have supported our village clubs and events.