

UTKINTON AND COTEBROOK PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk and RFO: Mrs Kathryn Lloyd
6 Sutherland Way, Vicars Cross, Chester CH3 5HN
Phone 07709512348 or email utkintonandcotebrookclerk@gmail.com

Annual Meeting of the Parish

Tuesday 16th May from 7pm – 7.30pm 2023 at Cotebrook Village Hall

Programme:

- 1. Meet your local parish councillors informally, enjoy a cup of tea/coffee and piece of cake and find out more about the parish council.**

Present: Cllrs Marian Atkinson, Sarah Crawford, Tony Dahill, Matthew Grant, Andrew Needham, Graham Spencer, Caroline Stubbs, Graham Stewart, Francis Tunney.

In attendance: CWaC Ward Cllr Charles Hardy
Clerk, Kath Lloyd

- 2. Welcome from the Chair and presentation of Annual Report presented by Cllr Tunney**

Welcome to the annual Parish Meeting for Utkinton and Cotebrook.

I have been a member of this Parish Council since 2012 and privileged to act as Chair for eight years. In that time, I think we, your councillors, have contributed a great deal to the well-being of our community and our involvement includes:

- The Parish Plan (way back in 2013) and became the precursor to the UCPC Neighbourhood Plan, that was made in 2021,
- We have held 85 Parish Council meetings,
- A Parish Web-site and social media have grown the way we communicate,
- We have produced 20 editions of the Courier as well as brochures and publicity for Parish-wide events, including two fund raising 'Royal' festivals,
- Contributed to many Planning Applications – some contentious others not so,
- And, personally I have represented the Council on ChALC and Cheshire Community Action.

It may not sound like much, if you say it quickly, but believe me it all takes a considerable time – each issue of the 'Courier' alone takes between two and three weeks to compile – so more than a year in total. And then Councillors deliver it to every household in the Parish.

None of this is by way of complaining, being a Councillor and Chair isn't a job it's a vocation and over my time as Chair, I have been supported by five Clerks, currently by Kath Lloyd who serves the Parish very well. On the Local Authority front we have been advised by Eveleigh Moore-Dutton as our Ward Councillor and for the next few years we will be supported by Councillor Charles Hardy. And we welcome him here to his first official Parish Council meeting.

Where ought we to be headed over the next, say, five years?

- Firstly, we ought to begin the process of reviewing the Neighbourhood Plan you voted on almost two years ago, look at what it has contributed, and, perhaps updating it,
- Then, we need to find better ways of communicating with the 500+ households in our Parish – and getting them involved. To do this will involve really understanding how many of our households are 'connected' to the web, and if not, how can we let them know what is going on,
- Supporting our Primary School, the Church, the two wonderful village halls and our WI, helping to make them integral to the future of our communities,
- Continue to look for recreational space across our two villages, that was a feature of the 'Neighbourhood Plan',

- Campaign for better roads – not faster, just better and we need to involve more households (and almost every household has a car or two) and find ways to gain leverage over CWaC's Highways Team, who maintain our highways and byways. This too, was integral to our 'Neighbourhood Plan',
- And, as a rider to our roads, try to persuade CWaC of the benefits of a Demand Responsive Transport system for our Ward.

It has been a privilege to work on your behalf and I feel that much of what we do is in your hands as the residents of our Parish, and hope that we can build on our work in the next twelve months.

Cllr Francis Tunney

Chairman

Utkinton and Cotebrook Parish Council

May 2023

3. Presentation of Annual Accounts

INCOME	£
C/Fwd from 2021.22	9,439.28
Council Tax Precept	9,400
Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)	----
Jubilee Funding Group	9,495.39
Donations	139.92
Bank interest	64.86
INCOME	
EXPENDITURE	£28,539.45
People: Clerk's salary, NI & Tax, Cllr expenses, travel, training budget etc.	3,363.25
Council Costs: Insurance, legal costs, Courier, IT, postage, audit, room hire, stationary etc.	1671.68
Subscriptions: Information Commissioner's Office £35 Mid Cheshire Footpath Association £8 Campaign to Protect the Countryside £36 Cheshire Community Action £20 CHaLC £219.96	318.96
Green Spaces: Grass, tree & hedge cutting, maintenance	1,250.00
War memorial: plants, hedge cutting, repairs	352.42
Projects: 2 x new benches with memorial plaques	700
Jubilee Garden Party at Tirley Garth	7980.37
Tea Party at Cotebook Village Hall	145.03
EXPENDITURE	£15,781.71
C/Fwd 01/04/2023	£12,757.74

4. Parish Matters - issues raised by residents:

- a) There was a concern raised that there was no safe place for young children to play in either village. The Chair agreed with the resident and said that the parish council has tried to negotiate suitable sites but has been unsuccessful so far.
- b) It was reported that the War Memorial needs replanting, this is usually done by a local resident but financial support is needed to buy plants, slate etc. The Clerk reported that a financial contribution was on the agenda of the parish council meeting for approval. There was also a query raised about the structural condition of the wooden cross which is made of teak and has been painted many times over the years. It was agreed to monitor the condition of the wood and potentially strip the paint off and apply oil in order to keep it in prime condition. The Chair reported that he is trying to register the monument with Historic England and will keep the council updated.

5. **Meeting closed:** The Chair thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and invited residents to stay to listen to the parish council meeting which would start shortly.