

KIRTON IN LINDSEY ANNUAL TOWN MEETING 2021



MINUTES OF THE TOWN MEETING ON MONDAY 26th APRIL 2021 AT 6.00pm VIA ZOOM

PRESENT – Councillors: Pat Frankish (Chair); David Garritt; Karen Gunn; Hazel Fox; Joy Kofoed and Ian Lawrence
Assistant Clerk: Sarah Gillingham and Town Clerk: Neil Taylor-Matson
Circa 18 Residents of Kirton in Lindsey

MINUTES

ATM2021/01

Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Kathy Cooper, Cllr Billy Boyd, Kirton in Lindsey Junior Football Club and Humberside Police.

ATM2021/02

Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting 2019

It was noted by Rachel Whipps that the minutes of the 2019 Meeting recorded that Huntcliff would be oversubscribed, but she reported that this did not occur. The Mayor noted that the report within the minutes was a view of what was expected to happen when presented in April 2019. The minutes of the 2019 Annual Town Meeting were noted as approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor, Cllr Pat Frankish.

ATM2021/03

Reports from the Town Council, town groups and organisations

a. Kirton in Lindsey Town Council

Mayor's Report 2021

Mayor of Kirton in Lindsey, Councillor Pat Frankish, thanked everyone present for attending the meeting and reported on the previous year. She noted this has been the strangest year of all her years in local government. But we are here and managing to communicate with modern technology. The Mayor welcomed everybody to this virtual Town Meeting for 2021 and gave a brief summary of what the Town Council had managed to do. There was no Town Meeting last year when we were in the early stages of a very frightening pandemic. The Council appointed a small group made up of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Town Clerk to have devolved powers just to keep the Council functioning. This was able to change when legislation was brought in allowing virtual meetings, which have continued. It's not the same but it has allowed us to function and keep the legalities of the office and the cemetery continuing.

The Council have appointed Sarah as Assistant Clerk, who ran an alternative Christmas event in place of the usual events and there is ongoing work to combat the issues of dog fouling led by Cllr Fox. In terms of planning, despite a huge amount of work from residents and objections from organisations including the Town Council the disappointing approval by the Inspectorate for outline planning permission off Ings Road has happened. We will continue to urge the planning authority to enforce appropriate protection for the residents adjacent to the site.

The Council managed to set up a volunteer register and that has been really helpful. We thank everyone who has contributed to that. It has made life bearable for many people. We've followed the rules about the playpark and kept it under careful watch for repairs. Burials have happened according to the rules and we offer condolences to all the families who have lost loved ones to the virus or to other causes. We sadly also lost trees to damage and hope to replace them when we can.

Ongoing projects have been the allotments, the Wormwood Hill/Traingate developments, plus discussions about the Sports Hall and the initial planning for a car park. So lots to keep us busy. We have not been able to have the Gala or the Christmas lights event, or any Civic Events either, although we did manage a Virtual Quiz last week to raise some funds for the Mayors Charity. The Scarecrow Trail and Kirton in Bloom have helped to keep some community spirit alive.

It has not been easy, and I would like to extend thanks to my fellow Councillors, functioning now with 9 instead of 14 members, for all their work through this year. Attendance at virtual meetings has been very good. And a special thanks to Neil, our Clerk,

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for his sterling work to keep us on track and to get the work done. Thank you Neil. We look forward to some return to normal working soon.

Mayor's Charities

The Town Council acts as Charity Trustees for a number of Charities. In addition the Mayor can choose a Charity to support with fund raising during their year as Mayor.

I chose the Garden of Edward Elmhirst Duckering which is land at the side of the War Memorial. The intentions are to develop a Peace Garden as was always intended on this land. The Town Council have raised funds by hosting Civic Events including the 2019 Civic Service (20th October 2019) and the 2020 Civic Dinner (15th February 2020) and the Virtual Quiz on 23rd April 2021. Other events were not able to be held due to the pandemic.

The final donation from the Mayor's fund raising activities will be confirmed shortly and the information will be published and made available.

Promoting Kirton Committee

The Promoting Kirton Committee meet each month on the second Monday, usually with the exception of August. The main focus of the committee is planning for community events and the annual Summer Gala and Christmas Festivals are standing items of discussion. The Town Council listened to suggestions from the community to work to improve both events in the last year and again look to the community for information, suggestions, ideas and improvements to make these events continue from strength to strength and to appeal to everyone in the community. The Town Council welcomes involvement from residents so if you have ideas and suggestions please let us know so that we can build them into the events.

Town Council Registered Charities

The Green and The Market Place

The Green and the Market Place continue to be taken care of by the Town Council who are the trustees. There is no income for this Charity and so the Town Council fund works through its budget. Part of the care undertaken is the provision and maintenance of the play park and working alongside the residents of King Edward Street to provide continued available access to their properties. Work over the past two years has also included further maintenance of the lime trees along King Edward Street for safety and the upgrading of the bollards separating the Green from the Garden of Edward Elmhirst Duckering. The Town Council employ grounds maintenance contractors to maintain the grass and the planting at the Green, the Market Place planting is carried out by In Bloom volunteers.

War Memorial and Garden of Edward Elmhirst Duckering

The Council are corporate trustees of this charity. There is no income for this Charity and so the Town Council fund works through its budget. Alongside the work of upgrading the bollards, the Town Council also worked with local groups for the upgrading of memorial benches at the War Memorial, the original benches will be reinstated in new locations within the town soon. The Town Council employ grounds maintenance contractors to maintain the grass and the planting at the War Memorial.

Poor's Close and Torksey Charities

The Trustees successfully merged the Poores Close and Torksey Charities together so that they are simply known as the Torksey Charity. Income is generated from the rental of land on Ings Road and Scotter Road and there is a healthy bank balance for the charity standing at £30,000. The objects of this Charity are to "provide the relief of residents in Kirton in Lindsey in need, by reason of youth, age, ill health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage by providing finance, services or facilities to relieve their specified need". Six applications were made to the Charity between April 2019-April 2021 and applications or nominations are always welcomed so that benefit from the funds can be distributed within Kirton in Lindsey.

KLASSIC Park

The Town Council became Trustee of the KLASSIC Charity in June 2020, following the approach of the previous Trustees in order to ensure the protection of the Charity for the good of the town in perpetuity. The Charity maintains itself through fees charged to organisations for use of the facilities and in applications made for grant funding. Sarah Gillingham, Assistant Clerk then explained more about the way this works, and explained how it has been managed through the pandemic with revised risk assessments, the support of faithful users and respectful safe use. The pavilion was turned into a vaccination hub in January 2021 and has continued to provide vaccinations for the local population throughout the government's national programme. Thanks were expressed to Martin Eccles as caretaker for the site and also to the volunteers who have assisted with the vaccination hub coordination efforts. It is hoped from mid-May, in line with the 'Government's RoadMap out of Lockdown' reaching Stage 3, careful re-opening can again begin.

b. Groups and Organisations

Huntcliff Academy

Rachel Whipp noted that with the current Head, Patrick Daley is set to leave the school in July and tonight's meeting was an ideal time to introduce Nadia Bibby. Nadia introduced herself and noted her aims to continue to make the school the best school for the local area. The method to achieve this was noted as having a student-centred approach and success in this would result in the numbers at the school rising. Nadia emphasised how excited she was to start working with the local community. Rachel closed the report from Huntcliff noting the tough year the school had faced, with a number of 'class bubbles' having to be closed due to coronavirus infection rates but that the school was ranked as one of the better performing during the pandemic response. It was noted with disappointment that the excellent GCSE results achieved could not be published, and the situation would be the same for 2021 due to the cancellation of the formal examination process for the second year running and in their place staff assessment and mini-tests confirming gradings.

Humberstone Police

PC Stewart Pearson provided the following written report for the meeting: It is unfortunate as I am aware that I have been in post for a while now and due to Covid-19 both myself and the PCSO Paul Fearon have not been able to meet the local Town Councils

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and attend meetings. Similarly, there have not been any Neighbourhood Action Team meetings and we are trying to establish these as quickly as possible.

I can assure you in the meantime that there are regular patrols in the area some of these are on foot when we have the availability to do so and amongst other things recently we have carried out the following:

We have dealt with a number of issues regarding ASB, the youths have been identified and they and their parents have been spoken to as per the victims wishes.

We have also been working with Huntcliff School regarding a number of pupils that have caused concern.

We have raised concerns over a family living in the area and have directed a number of additional agencies to the family and they are now receiving the support they need.

We have identified the owner of a dog which had attacked a sheep and we have been able to recover some of the cost of the lost sheep for the owner.

It is my intention to make contact with local councils within the Ridge Ward area and to arrange for myself and Paul to meet you all, hopefully soon this will be in person rather than online.

Glanford & Lindsey Lions

Alan Hall, President of Glanford & Lindsey Lions presented an overview of the Lions, who they help and the work that they do. CHRISTMAS DINNER - Once again, as in previous years, they thanked The Wortley House Hotel and all their staff for providing a Christmas Dinner for 50 homeless and vulnerable people at The Forge Project on Cottage Beck Road.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS - This year again they have been able to provide Christmas Hampers to people within the villages and towns they cover. This is just our way of showing them that the group are thinking of them through the Christmas period.

HOPE HOUSE MEAL DELIVERIES - Members of Glanford and Lindsey Lions have been pleased to be able to work with Hope House and Boson Family Support in assisting with the delivery of the 5000 meals over the last 34 weeks. A great achievement.

SANTA - Unfortunately due to the restrictions Santa was not able to come round the villages in the same way as in previous years but the Lions were able to escort him round so he could wave to the children and find out where they lived ready for his deliveries on Christmas Eve

VACCINATION CENTRES - Members from local Lions Clubs have been assisting with marshalling at the Ironstone Centre at Scunthorpe and the Riverside Surgery at Brigg to help with the vaccination programme.

LOCAL INITIATIVES - Lions 'Message in a Bottle' and 'Message in a Wallet' is a voluntary scheme for anyone living at home, so that essential information is readily available to the Emergency Services should they suffer an accident or sudden illness. The scheme ensures that vital information is available not only to identify you, but to advise of relevant illnesses, allergies, medication and contact addresses. All free of charge. Spectacle Collection: The Lions collect used spectacles for re-cycling and send them for recycling to a Lions Club in France to be sorted before they are shipped directly to Lions Eye Clinics (for example in Papua New Guinea, Ghana, Nigeria and Nepal). Trauma Lions and Wash Bags: These are ways they can support children and their families at Scunthorpe Hospital A&E and Disney Ward.

LIVES

No report received.

Kirton in Lindsey Cycling Club

No report received.

Kirton in Lindsey Bowls Club

Pete Brocklesby provided the following update for the meeting:

The club is probably the longest running sports club in the area. They play in four leagues - the Scunthorpe and District Bowls League, Men's Triples League, Mixed Triples League and Tuesday Afternoon Friendly League. Members also have roll ups during the season. The club play on an artificial green (carpet) which is the only one in the area. The club currently has approximately 22 members who each pay an annual membership and also pay a match fee. Last year the club were to have an Open Day and also a Gala Day but these were cancelled due to COVID-19. The members carry out green and surrounding grass areas maintenance during the year.

Short Mat Bowls

John Escreet provided the following update for the meeting:

'Normal time' usage is Monday evenings at 6.00pm September to March at KLASSIC. The last session was on 16th March 2020 and, of course, restrictions meant they were unable to play at all during this past winter. The group hope to restart in September 2021, but will just have to see how much restrictions ease during the summer to consider if this can be possible.

Kirton Lindsey Primary School

Nicolien Lawson, Vice Chair of Governors presented an update reporting at the very beginning of March 2020, the school had been busy preparing for the Ofsted visit that was due but little did they know that school life was about to be turned upside down less than three weeks later.

When the announcement came that schools would close to most pupils, the staff prepared home working packs, planned in cover for keyworker and vulnerable children, sorted school lunches and did so much for 240 children in an incredibly short space of time.

At the heart of it all was the desire to look after the children, even if they couldn't be seen face to face, and to do everything the school could to make sure they received the best standard of education. Without the skilled and committed team of teachers, support staff, office staff and premises staff, along with a band of volunteers from the community, they would have not been as successful in supporting both children and families. Particular thanks were given to Bruce McKenzie, Neil Taylor-Matson and Cllr David Garritt for their tremendous effort getting home education packs and school lunches to the children out in the community.

School staff have shown tremendous flexibility and resilience when adapting to the new situation - in particular when it came to ICT. The school has been on a very steep journey, which started with paper homework packs and very quickly moved to

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delivering live lessons online for the class in school and those at home at the same time. At most primary schools, including Kirton in Lindsey, online lessons had never been done before, and certainly not with different audiences like this - but the remote learning offer has been of high quality throughout and the way the school has dealt with the whole situation was commended by the local authority.

The dedicated pastoral team have made sure that the most vulnerable families have been supported throughout, from making phone calls with parents and children, to doorstep visits - ensuring that no child would go without.

A heap of praise should go to the parents, who transformed into teachers while juggling their own work, responsibilities and childcare and family commitments at the same time. Without their support, it wouldn't have worked and all the parents listening in tonight should give themselves a pat on the back for getting through not one but two school 'closures'.

In amongst all that's happened over the last year, Deputy Headteacher Mrs Atkinson left to take up the position of Headteacher in Scunthorpe. In December Mrs Kerridge was appointed as the new Deputy Head who had to hit the ground running when the Prime Minister announced at 8pm on her first day in the new role that schools were once again closing to most pupils.

Kirton in Lindsey children really have had the best chance possible to come through this experience with minimum long-term impact. They are now happy to be back in school, learning with their friends and enjoying normal school life (as close to this as possible). The school has its own roadmap out of restrictions which follows the national roadmap, so that it can pick up those fun things everyone really missed doing together.

Should anyone be interested in becoming a governor at Kirton Lindsey Primary School, they currently carry a couple of vacancies, so if anyone would like to volunteer their time to become a governor, then please get in touch with the school.

Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group

David Garritt updated the meeting as Chair of the Group, outlining that a Neighbourhood Plan is a planning document written by residents and when complete sits with the National Planning Guidance and Local Plan for the area. The Kirton in Lindsey Neighbourhood Plan was started at the end of 2018. The pandemic has called a temporary halt to the work of the group as they need to meet together in the same room to continue to develop the plan following the most recent consultation work carried out in March 2020. Continued public consultation is key to the Neighbourhood Plan and having one in place for the town will assist in the future with any applications for planning permission related to Kirton in Lindsey.

North Notts and Lincs Community Rail Partnership

Barry Coward, Chair of the Partnership noted that not many trains had visited Kirton in Lindsey during 2020. Staff changes due to illness and other requirements plus priority routing resulted in the temporary closure of the services from March 2020 and a temporary lifting of them only in September 2020 for a brief period of time. From May 22nd 2021 trains will return for the Saturday services between Sheffield and Cleethorpes. NNLCRP are working with the Department for Transport (DfT) under the 'Restoring Your Railway' project and have secured a grant from North Lincolnshire Council of £50,000 for a study to look at various aspects of the proposal for increased use of the Barton – Gainsborough – Sheffield route. Last week was the first meeting around this work, and was very positive with Network Rail showing support in making use of the rail infrastructure which is in place. The study is now underway and should be reported to the DfT in November when they will decide if support will come. It is hoped that more good news will follow from this next year.

Women's Institute

Olive Ovington, President of Kirton in Lindsey WI, provided a report for the meeting. January started off well with a talk and a demonstration from George Blogg on the subject of Tai Chi. Members took part with him in doing some of the moves, which was very interesting.

February was the Annual AGM to discuss the business of the previous year. It was followed by a quiz and as usual with plenty of laughter.

In March Norman Britton joined our meeting to give us a demonstration and talk on how to produce and take care of bonsai trees. It was fascinating.

Later in March and for the following months came the dreadful news of the pandemic, which meant we had to go into lockdown. During those months we as a committee contacted our members to see how they were and if anyone needed help.

We had a couple of coffee mornings via zoom.

In August we were able to have a socially distanced meeting followed by a quiz, members who were able to join us enjoyed the evening very much.

In September another socially distance meeting was held with an extremely interesting talk with projected photos of Mary Hollingsworth's trip to Namibia. Mary is one of our local historians.

Then unfortunately we had to go back into lockdown again, but the committee still kept in touch with our members; a chat on the phone means such a lot in these extremely strange and difficult times.

Christmas was upon us and a decision was made by the committee to hand deliver a Christmas card and a box of chocolates to each member and I have to say they were delighted.

That concludes my report for this year and I sincerely hope 2021 brings us back together again.

Kirton Pottery

Maggie Davies reported for the pottery, and said in a normal week at the pottery there are adult classes, mainly in the evening.

Monday night is the one she has attended for 41 years! There is also one on a Wednesday evening and a Friday morning.

So when lockdown happened last March the classes all stopped. Several people took clay home with them so that they could carry on there. Peter and Christine carried on doing their own work in the pottery but enjoyed the long sunny spring of 2020 in their lovely garden too. Normally there would be craft fairs to be getting ready for but they were all cancelled too so that pressure to produce was removed. What we missed were all the friends who we would normally be meeting at those events; catching up with news and perhaps buying things. A few of the faithful potters, some of whom have been potting for nearly as long as me, have kept in touch by telephone. When restrictions relaxed some used the pottery on their own or in twos, one in one workshop one in a separate one. Then it was back to lockdown again...

The Pottery managed to have a sale just before Christmas in aid of the Lindsey Lodge Hospice. It was of seconds which were really cheap, but still managed to raise £200.

We are hoping that a couple of craft fairs will go ahead this year. There is a big one at the end of May in Alford and a Gardening Day event at the Ropewalk, Barton on Humber, also in May, selling plants as well as pots suitable for gardens.

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The plaques that are awarded the winners of the Kirton in Bloom annual garden competition are now being planned by Peter. He is thinking of having a change this year and instead of flowers decorating them as usual doing birds instead. Christine will be helping with the decorating. Plaques are quite tricky as they have two firings and have a tendency to crack.

St Andrew's United Church

Revd Kathy Colwell presented an update noting like every other organisation, St Andrew's United Church was affected greatly by the pandemic. Required to close the church building during the first lockdown, they moved into homes and the outdoors. Kathy's first action was to work with the Town Council to help co-ordinate and mobilise community volunteers and publicise the help available for anyone who needed support. This was a positive step for all those who wanted to do something to help, and continues to provide a service in the neighbourhood.

Church worship went online from the Vicarage on Good Friday 2020, using the Zoom platform. It was a steep learning curve for everyone. At Easter last year Paul, the curate, and Kathy put together and distributed gift packs to 50 house bound people in the community. Kathy went on compassionate leave after the sudden death of her husband at the end of April, and the curate and other church members readily stepped in and took over, enabling online worship to continue, which it is still doing. The Church also returned to live services throughout the autumn and again this Easter. For those with no facility to join Zoom, telephone participation has been encouraged and enabled, and also more than twenty packs are hand-delivered weekly to residents containing prayers, notices and other materials so they can stay connected. The Methodist Circuit has helped provide these week by week. Thanks go to Heather Bunker and James for facilitating this. Some worshippers also joined Methodist Circuit services Zoomed from Brigg, and helped to lead them in turn.

The ABC Family and Children's work also went online with weekly stories and activities to download, and many families joined Zoom Christingle and Carol Services, as well as a Zoom Easter this year. Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve was in Church and was able to safely accommodate around 40 people before the January lockdown closed the building again. A small wedding even took place early in December, although all other weddings and baptisms had to be postponed. Funerals with limited numbers have been held in church since December.

The parish magazine Nutshell, and the Kirton First supplement In a Nutshell has been increasingly important during Covid-19 as a means of keeping in touch, and thanks go to all who make these publications happen, especially the Revd Michael Sheard who manages it all at the church end, and the distributors who get it into people's homes.

The Church Hall refurbishment after the fire in November 2019 was completed mid-2020 and the Halls were used to collect and store items for the Food Bank for after Christmas when traditionally stocks are low. The Church also continued to support the Forge throughout Covid-19 with donations of clothing and food, and three children's charities through donations at Christmas and personal collecting boxes. Other donations were made to Christian Aid, DEC, Baptist World Mission and Methodist Easter Offering.

Financially the Church, like many organisations, has taken a big hit, and is grateful to all those parishioners who have continued to give generously during the past year when everything has been so uncertain. As has been explained before, our parish church is a listed building, which is expensive to maintain, and all workers are volunteers, except the Revd. No government or other help is available and the Church rely entirely on what people give to keep going. Across the Lincoln Diocese there are question marks over whether it will be able to pay for, and therefore keep, vicars in the future. Similarly, the Methodist District is also having to rationalise its finances and human resources and is undertaking a programme of reflection and review. If you want to know more about that, please contact Kathy directly.

Sadly there have been several deaths amongst the Church family in 2020. As they continue to hold those departed before God, their thoughts and prayers also remain with those who continue to mourn them. Other changes include the resignation of Carl Anderson as Baptist Deacon, and also Pat Frankish as Churchwarden. Sincere thanks go to them for all that they have done. The Revd Paul Dickinson, who joined St Andrew's early in 2020 to complete his curacy, also leaves at the end of June. Appreciation was given for all that Paul has brought to the life of the church and best wishes to him for the future.

If the past year has taught us anything, it has reminded us that the church is people. There has been so much faith, kindness, generosity and good humour demonstrated, despite everyone's anxiety and loss, and it has kept us all going. It is good also to be back in both of our the buildings, which are visual reminders of a continuing Christian presence in this community. A Big Thank You goes to everyone who has contributed to the ongoing life of the United Church in Kirton in anyway during such a difficult year. You may never know what a difference you have made. May I also add a personal thank you for all your prayers and practical support during my own personal losses. You helped to make them bearable.

Kirton in Lindsey Archery Club

Dave O'Brien, Secretary, reported that the year had started full of hope following the success of 2019 and records set including a UK record using a long bow at their Record Shoot event hosted at KLASSIC which also generated many compliments for the facility and the town. The Club remains busy with a waiting list in place circa 50 members. Outdoor space was provided by Dave Cappell while KLASSIC remained closed – a move understood and supported by the Archery Club – this was at no charge but a donation was made instead to Lindsey Lodge. The club wished to express thanks to Dave Cappell for the generous use of his land. Plans for resuming are now in line with KLASSIC reopening. There are no plans to hold a Record Shoot this year, but the Archery Big GB Weekend will be held once the relevant guidance required is known. The Club are excited by the news about the potential for obtaining the Vincent Hall for community use and offer all the support required with this. One member is to go before the Paralympic Selection Committee and is in with a chance of heading to the Tokyo games. Dave reminded the meeting that taster sessions are available for those interested in archery, and they can be run at minimal cost for local groups.

Kirton in Lindsey Junior Football Club

Simon Morton, Secretary, supplied a report to the meeting. The grassroots football and other sporting activities that we all know and come to love ceased to operate at the end of last year with only online skills and drills being a way of interacting with members, to carry on practicing and keeping fit.

With such hard work and dedication going into last season from the players and club officials/helpers it was the club's intentions to have a presentation of some sort. In previous years a full club presentation with all players getting together to celebrate their achievements was held. This was clearly not possible under the current circumstances and therefore they just held separate team celebrations outside where players received their individual trophies.

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The club continued to take advice from the FA, Government and leading scientists in keeping members safe when they restarted, as it was deemed safe to return to training back in July. It was good to be back out there along with smiling children, kicking a ball with their team mates once again. The club was forward thinking in planning for the start of the new season, obtaining temperature guns and hand sanitizer stations. By conducting Covid-19-risk assessments, league/team information packs, team data sheets for traceability and QR codes to sign in at venues so once they could start they were ready. Even with the small break things still looked promising with teams enjoying their football again but then back into lockdown for the New Year.

The club have just recently returned back to playing (start of April) with the season time extended to get the games in. Working correctly and together, following FA guidelines they have managed to get games played again and can see the season finishing this time. Training and matches have been at KLASSIC Park with whom the club have a good working relationship which is always important, especially in these circumstances as KLASSIC is also working as a vaccine clinic on match days. This meant the club staggered kick off times to ease congestion at busy times, to help the clinic run smoothly.

The club has teams at age groups, u9s, u10s, u11, u13, u15, and u16, with some fantastic coaches and committee members who help in keeping the club well run. They have some great news also as a new coach who has joined and started an u7s team which has now got membership up to over 90, so there is plenty to look forward to.

Kirton in Lindsey Table Tennis Club

Rod Boyers, Chairman and Treasurer and organiser, presented information about the club. Following on from the minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting, Rod noted that Kirton Table Tennis did in fact, as promised, make 2 donations from its fundraising efforts; £100 to Kirton First and £100 to St Andrew's United Church.

The winter season ran from 5.9.19 to 5.12.19 and average attendance was 11.4. They had a successful Christmas Exhibition Match, between 2 former county champions and arguably the best first division players from the Scunthorpe League, with free refreshments thrown in for good measure.

Completely unaware of what was ahead, they started the second part of the winter season 9.1.20 and ran until 12.3.20, with an average attendance of 10.2. But, on 16.3.20, notice was given to members, that sadly, table tennis would have to be postponed until further notice.

The club usually have an AGM around June, but with all the restrictions in place, it was decided to leave the Committee as it was. Hopefully, however, the AGM will be able to be held later this year.

In line with Government and Table Tennis England guidelines and having invested in sanitisation items, they started a table tennis 'bubble' from 10.9.20, with 6 players able to play singles only, for one hour and then another 'bubble' of 6 different players, playing the second hour. There was to be no handshaking, no wiping the table with your hand, no breathing heavily on your bat and ball to clean them and doors left open, for extra ventilation. This enabled the club to continue playing for 7 weeks, until 29.10.20, but this averaged only 6 players. Unfortunately, the country then went into another lockdown.

The club are very pleased to see Kirton Table Tennis doing their bit during the vaccinations at KLASSIC Park, as their tables are used for screening purposes.

From the coaching point of view, the last session was 5.12.19 and then the coach sustained an injury, which he told the club at the time, would put him out of action until the end of 3/20 and we all know what happened then! But, if everything goes according to Boris' plans, the club are hoping to re-start next month, Thursday 20th, and hope to have their coach back shortly after that date.

It was noted that it was unfortunate this meeting wasn't being held in three days time, as that would be the 10th anniversary of the formation of the club. Since forming on 29.4.11, the club have had 78 members on their books.

If you'd like any further information, please search for the website; just Google 'Kirton Table Tennis' and look for the WIX site. Just a final thought on the future of table tennis in Kirton in Lindsey. I understand the gym at the old Rapier Barracks may become available and my head says, that this would, in all probability, be a better facility for us, due to there being more playing space and greater headroom for lobs, but my heart says, the facilities at KLASSIC Park are truly excellent and if you don't use them, you lose them, so we'd have an exceedingly difficult decision to make.

Cadets

No report received.

Kirton in Lindsey Society

Mary Hollingsworth, Chair of the Society, reported to the meeting. Lockdown March 2020 meant that the indoor programme to June was cancelled, along with two summer visits. A brief relaxation of lockdown meant that they were able to hold an AGM in September but then it all stopped again. The programme secretaries have been very busy cancelling and re-booking speakers! All other regular activities ceased too such as the family crafting mornings done in conjunction with the Society for Lincolnshire Heritage and Archaeology (SLHA) and support for the Churches Festival.

Martin and Carol changed the display in the Heritage Room at the Town Hall at the end of February from 'Law and Order' to 'Kirton in Lindsey in the 1960s' – just in time for lockdown so hardly anyone has seen it yet.

One lockdown positive is that Mary found time to produce the next publication in the society's Local Studies series; 'Beyond the Church Walls' – Kirton in Lindsey in the Wider World. It is a potted history of the town and has been well received with over 150 copies sold so far.

Rather less positive is that, in their role as a registered Civic Society, Kirton in Lindsey Society objected strongly to the proposed housing development down Ings Lane – along with over 200 other local people and organisations - but this has not stopped it being given permission on appeal.

All the activities of the society can be found on their website which is well-used and the source of many local and family history queries. www.kirtoninlindsseysociety.org.uk

The Society are now looking forward to the Town Hall re-opening in May so that their indoor programme can be resumed.

Diamond Jubilee Town Hall

Mary Hollingsworth, Chair of the Diamond Jubilee Town Hall Trustees, reported the Covid-19 pandemic definitely rained on our parade in that 2020 was supposed to be a year of celebration to commemorate 10 years since the refurbished and extended building re-opened to the public. Instead the hall has been closed for activities for most of the last 12 months; only the second time in its 121-year history that this has happened.

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When lockdown eased in the summer of 2020, we briefly enjoyed a few activities coming back but social-distancing requirements meant that many things could not return – notably live music and dance. We managed to hold our AGM in September before everything started to close down again.

The financial ramifications of this period are profound. Overnight we lost 90% of our income yet the building still had to be maintained and heated. The continued usage by the Town Council as their office helped enormously, as did the continuation of the Waste Not, Want Not bags and bits and pieces of income from the 200 Club and a Christmas raffle but, with 4 part-time staff to support in addition to the upkeep of the building, we could have been facing liquidation.

Fortunately, a number of support schemes put in place by the Government, their agencies and the local voluntary sector have kept us viable. Community buildings have been classed as part of the 'hospitality' sector which means grants have been available to partially offset income loss and the National Lottery Heritage Fund also had grants for heritage organisations that they had supported in the past. Lincolnshire Community Foundation have supported the Waste Not, Want Not bag scheme and, finally, the furlough scheme has enabled us to keep our staff. All of these have had to be applied for which has kept us busy during the lockdown period!

The Town Council has continued to support the annual cost of servicing and maintaining the lift for which we are very grateful and this, combined with reserves of the charity mean that we come out of lockdown in a position to do 'business as usual' as soon as the national guidelines allow.

However, we must not underestimate the size of the task ahead. Continued social distancing means that only the large hall can be used and, as we get ready to re-open on 17th May, only a fraction of our capacity is returning with many users not committing until Stage 4 (i.e. 21st June) has been reached. An optimistic view is that anything approaching normality will not be achieved until autumn at the earliest which creates continuing financial pressures beyond the life of the current support schemes. There will need to be a significant amount of publicity work undertaken to reassure people that the Town Hall is a safe venue and to build up public confidence to return to activities they enjoyed before the pandemic.

The next 12 months will continue to be a roller coaster with all the finest plans shattered if we go back into restrictions.

Food Aid Project/Waste Not Want Not bags

Mary Hollingsworth spoke briefly about the introduction of a food aid system in the town through the Town Hall and support from volunteers. Food Aid can now be provided to those in need and Waste Not Want Not bags are available for anyone to buy from the Town Hall each Friday between 11am and 12noon. The bags contain surplus food re distributed from the food chain and local supermarkets and cost £5 each. Collection points for donations are also in place in the Co-Op stores at High Street and Station Road. Involvement in the scheme has shown the shocking amount of food wasted in this country for a variety of reasons.

Kirton First

Pat Frankish updated the meeting to note that Kirton First soldiers on, with some editions cancelled during the pandemic due to the majority of volunteer distributors having to shield under government guidance. The next edition, delivered to every household, is due very soon.

Nutshell

Michael Sheard, Editor of Nutshell spoke to the meeting. In a Nutshell (Nutshell for short) is the magazine of St Andrew's United Church, Kirton and St Radegund's Church, Grayingham. It is published bi-monthly in an A4 format with a colour cover. In the alternate months, they pay a small annual fee to place an 8 page insert in Kirton First, the town magazine.

Nutshell is self-financing. At the end of 2019 they had nearly 200 subscribers, each paying £3.50 a year. Nutshell also had income from 20 adverts and from occasional sales. It was selling around 30/35 copies per issue in retail outlets: The Bistro at Kirton Garden Centre, Uncle Henry's, the butcher's in Kirton (until he closed), and Payne's, the chemist.

Nutshell has two main aims: 1. To inform people about, and invite them to share in, what is happening in the local churches: not simply the services of worship, but also the social activities, such as the annual harvest supper, the summer family quiz, the children's holiday club, the activities of the uniformed organisations (Brownies, Guides and Scouts) which meet at Church premises and/or go to services in Church; and one-off events like the Poppy Cascade in November 2018, marking the end of World War I. 2. To be a vehicle for Christian communication: that is to offer a Christian commentary on local, national and world events that affect everyone: homelessness, local and global poverty, refugees, climate change, racism – and to invite a response, and action as and when appropriate. Of course in doing this Nutshell welcomes debate but invite criticism, especially from people who think that the Church and churchgoers should be seen and not heard and should not voice opinions that stray into the realm of politics!

The Covid pandemic closed churches for most of 2020 and the first part of this year, so efforts were made to try to keep Nutshell going as a support for people who were isolated or lonely: three issues were produced which were posted to subscribers. The cost of posting was covered by some generous friends. By the start of 2021, however, it was clear that Nutshell was facing a huge challenge:

- All occasional sales were lost because the retail outlets were closed.
- Distributors weren't able to visit and invite repeat subscriptions in February as they normally do. So far around 20% of subscribers have not renewed. It is hoped to recover some of these, though a few people have actually cancelled.
- Income from advertising is in jeopardy, as several clients have suffered badly in the last 15 months.
- The Church is not in a position to help: lockdown has made a massive hole in church income.

In the first quarter of this year, therefore, Nutshell faced the strong possibility that 2021 would be the end, at least in its present form. A special appeal was made through the pages of the magazine, and many of those who have renewed their subscriptions have responded wonderfully, but a £500 grant from the Town Council is a lifeline for which the magazine was desperate. The grant has given the breathing space in which to recruit new subscribers – advertisers too where necessary – and to explore new sources of funding and ideas for the future. Above all it has helped secure the magazine at least until 2023.

Evergreens Club

Nancy Smith, co-ordinator, provided a report for the meeting, noting on behalf of all the members of 'The Evergreen Club', sincere thanks for the grant from the Town Council to pay for the Town Hall to continue with their meetings. The club have a few new members already lined up for when they get started back again. However, sadly they also lost a few along the way.

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'Swings and roundabouts' as the saying goes and the club vow to always make the best of what they've got. It is hoped they can get back to meeting as near normal as is possible very very soon.

Peggys

It was noted that the group no longer have a base in Kirton in Lindsey but now operate from Scunthorpe.

Kirton Call Drama Group

No report received.

Trent Valley Gliding Club

Kristina Samuels reported to the meeting that she became Chairman of the club two weeks before the lockdown was announced in March. Restrictions for solo pilots were lifted early in the summer. Flying is again possible now under the Department for Transport Regulations, and so the club is again open to visitors and bookings are available. Thankfully the club was designated under 'leisure' allowing access to grant funding from the local authority during closure periods. Kristina noted the loss of some members including the founding member over the past year, but also noted a massive uptake in new members searching some new outdoor activities. Junior membership is also notably growing, which is great as traditionally the club has had older membership dynamic. The club has received complaints about noisy low-flying paragliders over the town, and wanted to note that these are not associated with Trent Valley Gliding Club.

Kirton in Lindsey In Bloom

Martin Hollingsworth, Chair of In Bloom, reported that the group, like many others had its organised events curtailed over the last year, but with its activities being 'outdoors based' some activity did take place by individuals on an 'ad hoc' basis. Planting – summer and winter planting of the group's flower beds and planters in the Market Place and Library Car Park was done to help keep the town looking as good as possible in the circumstances. Two new planters (open bottomed & made from recycled plastic) have been purchased thanks to a 'Spring in Bloom' grant from North Lincs Council. These are to be positioned in the verge on Redbourne Mere.

More trees have also been planted at various locations around the town.

Litter – The group have a steady and welcome group of volunteers (which has grown this year despite the situation). There has not been any planned/arranged litter picking activities but the fantastic volunteers have been out on a regular basis – some doing specific areas and some doing it on their regular exercise walks. In Bloom are most grateful to them for helping to keep the town tidy. If you see them out and about give them a smile and say hello!

Traingate Plinth and Sculpture project – The group has provided help and advice to local resident Tony Bartlett (who has been driving this forward in these difficult times) and the Town Council. It is due to be unveiled in a limited ceremony on Saturday 12th June by the Mayor. Tony has again been planting and maintaining the flower beds at the top of Traingate.

Last year the East Midlands in Bloom competition did not take place but the CPRE Best Kept Village Competition did. Kirton in Lindsey weren't successful in gaining an award this time. They are both running again this coming year and In Bloom hope to achieve awards this time.

Kirton in Lindsey in Bloom received an approved grant from Kirton in Lindsey Town Council of £2,000 in April 2020. The group expressed its grateful thanks for this.

Kirton in Lindsey Amateur Gardeners

Pat Frankish, Chairman for the Amateur Gardeners, reported that the group had been unable to do what they wanted to throughout the pandemic and that this frustrating situation continues. Looking back over 2020 shows simply a long list of cancellations, both events and meetings. Zoom meetings did start late into 2020 with interesting presentations provided for members. The group were to celebrate their 40th birthday last year, but hope to mark the occasion this year instead. They are determined to hold their plant stall in the Market Place on May 22nd, with social distancing in place and also hope to hold the annual show, in some form, in September.

Kirton Lindsey Entertainment Organisation

Martin Hollingsworth reported that this group was formed through the Kirton in Lindsey Regeneration Partnership, the Partnership formed to carry out and implement the results of the Kirton in Lindsey Parish Plan 2002 ('Planning for Real' public consultations carried out in 2000/2001). It is in its 17th year and during that time there have been a wide selection of shows, as part of LiveLincs (which is NLC's Rural Touring Arts project supported by the Arts Council through the National Lottery) The group has not organised an event since Autumn 2019. Recent contact with LiveLincs indicates that there will be an Autumn 2021 programme. If anybody has any suggestions as to shows KLEO could look at organising please let them know.

Town Hall Live

No report received.

Kirton in Lindsey Guides and Brownies

Elaine Tattershall provided an update on the work of the Guides Although the Brownie and Guide units have not been able to meet face to face, they have continued to hold virtual meetings via zoom. No, it isn't the same, but they have tried to rise to the challenge and find the positives. The units followed the detailed online safeguarding procedures set by Girlguiding UK and the National Youth Authority.

Many activities have been planned and adapted by enthusiastic adult leaders, with parents also supporting them by printing off instructions and making sure equipment needed is there. Activity packs have also been made up and delivered. The girls have all said how much they enjoy the meetings and having an opportunity to see and chat with their friends.

The Brownies have completed a number of Challenges and badges, including Be Well and Take Action. Guides have completed challenges and activities including chocolate fun, Taskmaster and kindness. Both units had fun evenings taking part in Comic Relief and they held a joint meeting to celebrate Thinking Day.

Looking to the future there will be challenges to overcome. At the moment numbers are down, but they have a core group of members attending every week. On the positive side Brownies have girls waiting to join when face to face meetings can resume.

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As lockdown continues to ease they hope to run a mix of virtual and outdoor activities with indoor meetings unlikely until September. All these options require completion of detailed risk assessments set by Girlguiding to ensure, as far as possible, safety for all.

The units will be taking part in an upcoming national publicity and recruitment campaign for both young and adult members And finally – planning continues for the local Jamboree Poacher 2022 held on the Lincolnshire Showground. The Adventure of a Lifetime July 31st – August 6th. Now that really is something to look forward to! Join the units to be part of it.

Kirton in Lindsey Cubs, Beavers and Scouts

Ann Wood provided an update for the meeting, and Sarah Gillingham presented the information at the meeting. We take boys and girls from the age of 6 with a group up to 16 beavers. There is a leader and 2 assistants who are training to be leaders and a section assistant. We normally meet at KLASSIC on a Wednesday evening.

We cover all sorts of activities and do badge work. We like to do star gazing. We visit Kirton Fire Station and everyone loves this. We normally have a stall at the Christmas Festival for funds. We join with cubs to do this.

We have helped in Kirton by doing litter picking. This was a great group activity, but most of our activity this year was through packs and activities. We are this half term returning to doing outside activities. Hopefully in June we may be able to go inside and do baking and cooking so we can cover different badges. We look forward to being back together as a group

Mark Longster and Sue Ball provided the following update for the Cubs - Cubs, along with other groups for young people, went into lockdown, and we were not able to meet face to face all through the pandemic.

The leader and section assistants organised badge work and activity packs to keep in touch – but for some children this was too much on top of all their online school work.

Plans have been enthusiastically made for a return to face to face activity, and last Wednesday (21st April 2021) we finally met again after a year away – safely outdoors at the Scout Camp at Primrose Hill.

Nigel Clark, Scout Leader provided the following update for the meeting: Given the current lockdown Kirton Scout meetings have been online from the beginning of the year.

Zoom took a bit of getting used to and I was at an immediate disadvantage to the youngsters who've been using it for almost a year. My philosophical musings and their relevance to modern Scout values didn't stand an earthly chance when one of the youngsters somehow managed to take control of the presentation. By the second session I was ready for them, having learned both about the mute button and how not to inadvertently cede the role of presenter.

Some subjects have gone down better than others. What I thought would be a lively debate on the OS map symbol for the new type of electricity pylon didn't fare well. Another evening we covered shelter construction involving late Medieval wattle and daub techniques; the sound of a universal yawn could be heard as far as Grayingham.

However, more success came from methods of hunting and trapping animals (strictly off limits for Scouts in normal times, but it's open season on Arctic hares in these days of the Zoom). Popular too were the pictures taken while on hikes and camps, prompting a longing for a return to the days when we can pile into the 08.08 from Scunthorpe for a day in the Peaks.

Kirton in Lindsey Youth Club

Jane Webster, Project Youth Worker, provided a report to the meeting. As with everyone and everything the Youth Club has found the last 12 months very challenging. It seems to have consisted of small numbers, bubbles and lockdowns.

We were able to operate on the park in small groups for a couple of months during the summer and then we were lucky to be able to use KLASSIC for a number of sessions in bubble groups until lockdown 3. During March we ran one to one sessions in the library targeting a young person who has struggled with on line school and home life in general during lockdown.

At last on Tuesday 16th March 2021 we were able to finally run this one to one session in our own building. Within the roadmap guidelines we will hopefully be able to progress to small bubbles again very soon.

The important thing is we are back home in the familiar surroundings of our treasured youth club and will be returning to supporting our young people and above all else having some fun.

Thank you for the massive support from the Town Council and KLASSIC in enabling us to provide a service during these most difficult times.

Exhibition Endowment

Julia Melling, Clerk to the Governors, provided a report to the meeting. The Kirton in Lindsey Exhibition Endowment is a local charity (Registered Charity no. 529749) that functions under a 1910 Scheme made by the Board of Education under the Charitable Trusts Act.

Each year, Book Grants are awarded to local students going into Higher Education. These are advertised at all local sixth form colleges, online and through local advertising. Application forms may be obtained from the Clerk to the Governors, Julia Melling, and must be returned by 1st September.

Last year we had a record year of applicants and the Governors of the Endowment awarded 57 grants to qualifying students of £55 each.

If you know anyone eligible then please note that the email address has changed this year to: BookGrantClerk@gmail.com

Outer School

Martin Hollingsworth, Director and Volunteer at the Outer School reported on the work of the organisation provided before and after school care for children. The centre is a not-for-profit limited company and is attached to the primary school with its own enclosed outdoor play area. The Outer School has close links to the primary school and is able to cater for the staggered school starting times brought in during the pandemic. The centre provides a warm, happy, safe and relaxing environment with a focus on the children's needs but also supporting the needs of parents. The Outer School remained open throughout the pandemic and subsequent lockdowns to support key workers and vulnerable children. Numbers were noted to have fluctuated due to parents finding themselves furloughed during the health crisis.

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Covid-19 Community Response Team

David Garritt asked to report on the success of the Covid-19 Community Response Team and noted the co-operation from across the town by businesses and over 50 individual volunteers offering assistance of all kinds to those who needed it throughout the pandemic response across the entire community. He noted that it is testament to the town of Kirton in Lindsey that although a response team was quickly formulated and put into place, the vast number of volunteers who came forward were hardly needed as family, neighbours and friends provided much of the support needed.

ATM2021/04

Matters for discussion

The Mayor asked if there were any questions or matters to be raised.

Karen Gunn asked to publically thank Ian Lawrence for all his work throughout the pandemic in producing and providing face shields, masks, PPE, sanitiser, and accessories to ease long term wearing of PPE items. She also noted his assistance with the food bank initiatives and that he didn't only focus his efforts on humans but also noted his help and support of Messingham Zoo with food deliveries for the animals.

No other questions or matters were raised.

Meeting closing

The Mayor thanked everyone for attending and contributing to the meeting and wished for the end of the pandemic and the return to normal life soon.

The meeting closed at 7:30pm