

	<i>Meeting (No)</i>	Community & Environment (6)
	<i>Date</i>	26 November 2024
	<i>Document</i>	<i>Ref No</i>
	Professor Clarkson Prize	CE6/74

The Professor Clarkson prize was created in 2023 as a fitting tribute to the late Michael Clarkson who was instrumental in implementing environmentally sensitive mosquito control techniques on the marshes. Professor Clarkson was always supportive of young people and a passionate advocate for high quality education and so, following discussions with Neston High School, it was agreed to create an annual prize for achievement in science for a year 11 student. We purchased a shield to be engraved each year and displayed in the school's trophy cabinet and agreed that a prize of £100 would be presented each year to the prize winner at the school's annual awards event. Mrs Clarkson agreed to present the annual prize.

We provided the shield and the £100 during the 22/23 school year and were originally informed that that school leavers would be invited back in autumn 2023 for an awards event and that the initial Professor Clarkson prize presentation would be included in this event. The autumn 2023 awards event was cancelled and we were informed that the first presentation would instead take place at the next event scheduled for later in the 23/24 academic year. This second event did not taken place and I have been requesting updates since June. On 18 November I received a message stating that no events ceremony had yet been arranged and it was likely to be towards the end of the summer term. The delays have had the effect that two groups of school leavers (ie those leaving in summer 2023 and summer 2024) have not had the opportunity to benefit from the Professor Clarkson prize.

The Committee will wish to decide whether to wait for the High School to begin awarding the prize or to consider alternative options.

Audrey Duncan
Community & Environment Manager