

## Chelmarsh Parish Council

**Annual Parish meeting held on Tuesday 17th May 2023 at 7.00pm in Chelmarsh Parish Hall.**

**Chairman** welcomed speaker, members of the public and Cllrs to the meeting. He introduced the speaker and thanked her for attending the meeting and handed over to Lily.

**00. Guest speaker** – Lily Hughes, Co-ordinator | We Don't Buy Crime | West Mercia Police: Lily gave an interesting talk on how Smartwater works, costs etc. Anyone interested was asked to let the Clerk know. It was also suggested that perhaps Lily could have a stall at the fete. Chairman thanked Lily for attending and she left the meeting.

**01. Apologies:** Shropshire Cllr Tindall

**02. Minutes of last meeting** - 27<sup>th</sup> April 2021:  
It was **RESOLVED that these minutes be signed as a true record.**

**03. Chairman's Annual report:**

The world has changed considerably since I gave my last annual report, it was back in 2019! The Parish Council has continued to meet and do business throughout the Covid pandemic moving meetings online when we were not allowed to meet in person. This has been challenging at times and it is good to be able to meet back in person again.

In March 2021 we had council elections, Cllr Albert Davies stepped down after many years on the council and Cllr Mick Williams another long-standing councillor passed away in 2020. Two new members, Theresa Cole and Sue Garrett were elected to fill the vacancies. It is notable that Chelmarsh was one of a handful of Parishes where elections were held, with more people standing for election than council places.

- 1) Four issues have dominated the Parish Council meetings since the last Annual Parish meeting:
  - a. Speeding cars and dangerous driving along the B4555 continues to be an issue in the Parish, particularly around The Bulls Head and the turning into Bake House Lane. Traffic calming measures agreed as part of the Astbury development have not yet been delivered as Shropshire Highways cannot give a window for the works to be carried out. The council have also built relationship with new local police team as a result some roadside speed checks are now being carried out and Chelmarsh signed up to the West Mercia "SNAP" campaign, residents who witness unsafe driving can capture images/videos on vehicle dash cameras, cycle helmet cameras or mobile phones and submit to the police where they will take enforcement action as appropriate.
  - b. Condition of the roads in Chelmarsh has been an issue for some time, but due to lobbying of Shropshire Council by ourselves, Highley and Eardington PCs, I am pleased to report things are slowly improving and we seem to have got over the message that patching potholes is not the way forward. Covert Lane has been resurfaced, major repairs have been carried out on B4555 between Eardington and Chelmarsh, Sutton Arms corner and Ingram Lane going into Highley. More works are planned to be carried out in May and June to resurface sections of the B4555.

- c. Planning applications in particular for holiday accommodation and low cost housing for local people. In the former, work has now started on the Astbury development which is being monitored to ensure the conditions agreed are complied with, and another proposed development of holiday accommodation off School Lane was opposed by the PC in view of significant opposition by residents, this has been passed by Shropshire Planning, but continues to be a source of concern. For the latter the council have support 5 low cost housing applications for young local people who want to continue to live and work in the area
  - d. Mud and dust on the road, caused by South Staffordshire Water moving sludge from the Chelmarsh Treatment Plant for distribution on fields, has been issue for local residents. Early in 2022 the PC met with Management from South Staffordshire Water and an action plan agreed. This will be tested when the next sludge movements occur and a review with South Staffordshire Water on its effectiveness carried out.
- 2) Chelmarsh Parish Council have purchased and installed a Defibrillator which with agreement from the Bulls Head has been installed outside the pub as one of the most central points in the village. A second unit has also more recently been installed at Chelmarsh Sports and Social Club.
  - 3) Playing field tarmac area – has been resurfaced, with a generous contribution from the Parish Hall Committee who are one of main users of the area for the annual fete.
  - 4) There have been a number of planning permissions brought before the council to provide comments, and these have taken views of residents into account where these have been provided.
  - 5) Lease for the cricket pitch has been renewed with Chelmarsh Cricket Club for 50 years.
  - 6) Councillor Tindall has attended a number of Parish Council meetings in the village during the year, enabling him to give insight into what is happening at Shropshire Council and to take back comments and issues from the Parish. Unfortunately, ill health has meant that his attendance has been reduced in the last 6 months.
  - 7) Platinum Jubilee – the Queen will shortly be celebrating her Platinum Jubilee and the PC have purchased commemorative mugs for all children of the Parish to be handed out at a Celebratory picnic on the Parish fields on 4<sup>th</sup> June.

**04. Shropshire Councillor's report:** Report emailed from Cllr Tindall:

1. Shropshire Council began its municipal year of 2021 to 2022 by electing a new leader, Lezley Picton, following the Local Elections held on Thursday the 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021.
2. The principal concern for South Shropshire has been Taylor Wympey's proposal to build 1,050 houses between Bridgnorth and Morville, principally in Tasley Parish but also affecting part of Morville Parish. The inclusion of this proposal in the draft Local Plan (Regulation 19 Submission) was opposed by two of the three Bridgnorth Shropshire Councillor, the Much Wenlock Shropshire Councillor and me. As I was the only Councillor with a role- as Vice Chairman of the Southern

Planning Committee- I was dismissed from that role by the leader. I have subsequently become one of the four Independents on Shropshire Council. Somehow however, I managed to retain my seat on the Planning Committee . However. at last Thursday's Council Meeting all six Conservative Members (i.e. the majority) voted me off being Vice- Chairman, no doubt in revenge for taking the stance that I did with regards to Taylor Wympey's proposals.

3. The Regulation 19 Local Plan is to be considered in July by the Planning Inspectorate beginning on the 5<sup>th</sup> July- Stage 1 Public Hearing at Shrewsbury Town Football Club.
4. Closer to home I have tried to push for the highways to be put into and thereafter kept in a much better state of repair. Stretches of the main B roads have been resurfaced but many of the side roads remain in a bad state.
5. During this resurfacing work some very unhelpful signage was erected on behalf of Kier, the Highways Contractor, and traffic was left not knowing where the roads were closed and whether businesses could be accessed or not.

## **05. Organisation reports:**

### **a) Cricket Club:**

Chelmarsh Cricket Club - Darren Strong, Treasurer:

Chelmarsh CC 1<sup>st</sup> enter our first season in Shropshire League Division 1 after promotion last year. The Second team continue in Shropshire Sunday division 3, after a successful first season having a 2<sup>nd</sup> team.

There are noticeable changes required for Division 1 cricket and you may have noticed the electronic scoreboard mounted on the social club. As division 1 has a pre-requisite of live scoring via the internet.

Also, we had to have sightscreens, we are trialling a sheet type this year, with looking for a more suitable alternative in the future.

Our first Ladies taster session was held last Thursday 12th May 2022 and was a great success with one of the best turn outs for these ECB supported taster sessions held across the county. We will be holding further taster sessions in the coming weeks.

Our website is up and running showing more in-depth player profiles and highlighting our generous sponsors, with links to their business websites.

In general, Chelmarsh CC are bucking the trend of local sport teams and continuing to expand and welcome all new players/members.

Obviously, we have the on going issues with the planning application and the 60ft (57+3) high fence we have to now fit the width and return down the field.

### **b) Bowling Club:** Jan 2021 to Jan 2022 received from Linda Jones

This year we managed to play both socially and in leagues as the league fixtures restarted. We had a good year fielding full teams in Telford Ladies, Highley League, Mid Shropshire Seniors, Ludlow League and MidShropshire Friday League. All teams had successes and lots of fun.

Our social events were well supported including for the first time a Big Bowls weekend, which was filmed for a short video financed by the Arts Council on the importance of clubs during lockdown. We also had a charity fund raiser, which raised £500 for the Highley First Responders.

Our in-house cup competitions produced some very competitive semi-finals and final games. We even had our own audience and supporters to cheer the finalists on to success.

Our pavilion had a refurbishment as the contractor who replaced the cladding on the village hall, kindly donated the old cladding for us to use. This has now been fixed to the rear of the pavilion and painted.

Many visiting teams commented on the superb condition of our green, which is thanks to our hardworking green keepers Kevin Hotchkiss and Richard Cook.

Finally we are always on the look out for new people to join our bowling club regardless of their playing levels. They would all be made very welcome.

**c) Parish Hall:** Geoff Price

The year 2021/2 has been the second year of unusual conditions because of the Covid restrictions, but the Parish Hall has come through it all pretty well.

We had to start the year by cancelling the Fete again, but before any serious costs were involved. Most performers have been happy to roll their booking over to 2022.

We used the quiet period in early 2021 to complete a re-decoration of the Hall throughout the interior, with very modest change to the colour schemes. We followed this with the installation of LED ceiling lights to replace fluorescent tubes, which will reduce running costs.

In the Spring Alan Groves replaced the defective roofing sheets at his own expense, using free replacements for the defective ones, along with a small contribution from the supplier towards his labour costs. Some of the defective sheets were donated to the Outdoor Bowling Club.

Many of our activities were able to start up again later in the year, and the Committee decided to offer a rent-free period to all organisers. This was much appreciated by users such as Taekwondo and Pilates, who needed time to rebuild their group of participants. By December most of our regular users were running again, along with a new weekly children's activity, Jiggy Wrigglers, with Zoe Moore. In April, a new 'Move it or Lose it' exercise class started. However, 'Chelmarsh Friends' has not re-formed.

Later in the year we were able to restart our 'Arts Alive' performances, with Green Matthews 'Brief History of Music' in November. Audience numbers were restricted to allow for Covid 'Social Distancing', and we did not serve the famous Chelmarsh Cakes – just juice and biscuits, to avoid using the kitchen. We ran the annual Pantomime again, with 'Dick Whittington', and a restricted size of audience. We knew we would lose money on this, but we had a lot of laughs. We concluded the season with Fret & Fiddle 'Grappelli Swing', again with a restricted but appreciative audience.

A scheme which took most of the year to bring to completion was the installation of a 14kW air source heat pump, for which we were able to claim a 50% grant from the Marches Renewable Energy Agency, so the cost to the Hall was £2,500. This will heat the Hall with about one third of the electricity used by the ceiling heaters but takes a little longer to feel effective.

Despite the lack of hiring income, and the outgoing capital expenditure, we ended the year with a very sizeable cash balance due to three Government grant schemes for Covid recovery. We will have to work out how best to use this for the benefit of the Hall.

The Covid pandemic has allowed many people the time to assess their priorities and to start new interests. As a result, several members of our committee have dropped out. My thanks to Sue Garrett, Dave Garrett, and Pam Chapman for their service over many years, to Jenny Green who has been involved with the Committee on and off for at least 30 years, often as Vice-Chair, and to Linda

Jones, who had been Treasurer since 2017, and effectively adding the role of Booking Secretary since 2020. I am therefore very pleased to welcome Heather Neale and Jane Harding to the Committee. Jane has taken over the as Treasurer, while I currently act as the Booking Secretary. We look forward to recruiting further fresh faces in 2022.

**d) Jubilee Club:** It is understood that this was reforming again following Covid etc.

**e) Chelmarsh PCC:** No report.

**f) Chelmarsh Friends Club:**

Report for Chelmarsh Friends Group: Thank you for inviting us to give a report on our activities but, unfortunately, we have not met since the start of lock-down, primarily because of personal circumstances and illness of our members. These have been very unsettling times for all.

**06. Parish problems:**

- Bakehouse Lane in very poor state
- Dog fouling
- Speeding

**07. Chairman's closing comments:**

Chairman thanked everyone for attending. This meeting was followed by the Parish Council meeting.

**08. Date of next meeting – 28<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

**There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.15pm**

**Signed: Chairman**

**Date:**