

## Chelmarsh Parish Council

**Annual Parish meeting held on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 7pm via Zoom prior to the monthly Parish Council meeting.**

**The meeting was Chaired by Parish Council Chairman Richard Woods.**

**01. Apologies:**

None received.

**02. Minutes of last meeting 16<sup>th</sup> April 2019 – to be dealt with when available.  
RESOLVED to accept.**

**02. Chairman's Annual Report:**

It has been a very different year for the Parish Council due to the effect of the Covid Pandemic. Meetings were suspended during the first lockdown of spring 2020 and were then resumed online from June 2020. It has been great to see the team react to working in a new way, but still be effective and dealing with the key issues for the Parish. Hopefully, we will be able to resume normal face to face meetings before too long. I would also like to mention passing of Mick Williams in March, a stalwart member of our Parish Council for many years, a sad loss to the council and also to Chelmarsh.

The key areas which the council has working on in the past 12 months are:

Planning

- Supporting the requests for affordable housing in the village for resident and their families
- Supporting the concerns of local residents against a planning application for a static caravan development on a field adjacent to School Lane, and the subsequent fall-out from this affect Chelmarsh Cricket Club which the Parish Council raised as a concern with Shropshire Council Planning, who decided to disregard the points raised by the Parish Council and permit the development to proceed.

Infrastructure

The Parish Council owned infrastructure has been given some needed attention, in particular:

- The tarmac surface in the playground, which was breaking up has been resurfaced, to allow continued use by villagers and the Parish Hall village fete. The Parish Hall Committee are thanked for their contribution towards the costs of this work.
- Repairs to the play equipment and fencing to the play area and carpark opposite the Parish Hall.
- Provision of a defibrillator sited at the Bulls Head for use by villagers.
- Changing all the street lights in the village owned by the Parish Council to low energy LED fittings (note lights by Bulls Head and Bakehouse Lane are owned by Shropshire Highways and are to be replaced as part of their update of street lighting in due course)
- Pushing for better broadband in the areas of the Parish not served by the BT rollout, especially Astbury and Hampton Loade where broadband speed is extremely slow, but Airband solution is being rolled out.

## Roads

The condition of the roads in the Parish is an ongoing concern and the Parish Council has lobbied hard with representatives from Shropshire Unitary Council and Shropshire Highways improve the standard of the roads and ensure potholes are dealt with in timely manner. Also working with the local Police to address speeding through the village and driving behaviour, especially overtaking around the Bakehouse Lane junction.

- Some more permanent repairs have started to happen as a result, Kings Arms corner camber and resurfacing, Covert Lane repairs and resurfacing, kerbing and drains to prevent water damaging the surface of Ant Lane.
- Parish Council are also reminding Shropshire Council Planning to ensure that the benefits road improvements agreed from the Astbury Planning Application are delivered now work has started on the development.

### **03. Shropshire Councillor's report: Cllr Robert Tindall report circulated by Clerk:** Thank you for asking me to give a report as your Shropshire Councillor.

It goes without saying that the municipal year 2020/2021 has been extraordinary in the true sense of the word because of the effect of the Covid-19 Pandemic.

One of the main difficulties caused by the three lockdowns has been the inability to meet physically and essentially Shirehall has been empty much of the time.

There have been some advantages of conducting meetings virtually by Zoom or Microsoft Teams- the principal one being that most meetings, but not all (including our own full Shropshire Council Meetings!), have generally been briefer. There are however technical problems, as I for one have experienced. One occurs in areas with poor low broadband speeds where the signal dips in and out, particularly during the evening when everyone seems to be using the internet.

As you may know I am a member of the Southern Planning Committee and I have found the lack of a physical site visit before each meeting to be a real disadvantage. Case Officers have done their best to provide informative photographs but there is no substitute for actually being on the ground looking at the site of a proposed development.

I am not allowed to take part or vote on any planning application that effects my electoral division- usually that is a good thing because I can get stuck into the debate without laying myself open to being accused of predetermination but there have been several applications during the last four years that I wish I could have voted on.

It would be amiss of me not to mention "highways"- a word I have come to dread! However, I do think, and certainly hope, that repairs will be carried out much more efficiently in this new municipal year of 2021/2022. The Council's main highways contractor, Kier, are being held to account and Kier itself has taken disciplinary action against certain sections of their work force. In addition, there is an additional £40m over the next four years to combat years of under maintenance.

Finally, I would like to give my thanks for your support- there are elections next week and if I am re-elected, I will continue to serve the Parish of Chelmarsh as best as I can.  
Thank you.

Cllr Tindall questioned what properties were connected to Airband at Hampton Loade (only Theresa Cole) as they cannot connect any further properties as there are no poles – Theresa explained the position.

**04. Organisation reports: All reports received via email were circulated by Clerk.  
a) Cricket Club: From Matt Ellis, Secretary.**



Chelmarsh Cricket Club

**Chelmarsh CC Officials – 2021**

<b>Chairman</b> - Rich Cook	<b>Secretary</b> – Matt Ellis	<b>1<sup>st</sup> XI Captain</b> - Connor Glendinning
<b>Vice - Chairman</b> - Dave Davies	<b>Press Officer</b> - Matt Evans	<b>1<sup>st</sup> XI Vice Captain</b> - Will Fensome
<b>President</b> - Dave Kelley	<b>Play Cricket Administrator</b> - Andy Unitt	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> XI Captain</b> - Rob Price
<b>Treasurer</b> - Darren Strong		<b>2<sup>nd</sup> XI Vice Captain</b> - Liam Preece

We are very pleased that the Shropshire Cricket League will be holding a full season in 2021 & both the Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> & Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> teams start their league seasons at home on the 24<sup>th</sup> / 25<sup>th</sup> April, respectively.

Connor Glendinning is continuing as captain of the 1<sup>st</sup> team & Rob Price will be captain of the 2<sup>nd</sup> team. Both are very keen for the season to begin & look forward to a competitive & enjoyable year. The number of members of the cricket club continues to increase & is probably the highest number we have ever had. This is incredibly positive, particularly when grass roots sports on the whole are struggling.

As part of our ground improvements, we have completed the new practise net, added additional drains & relocated the water supply to the corner of the square. Our next project is to hopefully add sightscreens to further enhance our facilities.

Presidents' day is provisionally scheduled for 25 July 2021, but we are currently finalising the details & will confirm nearer the time.

This season we have launched individual player sponsorships, to which we have had a promising response. We are very grateful to the companies & individuals who have supported this new initiative.

Added by Darren Strong - Treasurer:

Matters relating to the granted planning permission for the 6 lodges next to the pavilion has been reviewed on our behalf by Sport England.

Shropshire Council planning department should have consulted with Sport England prior to granting permission as the proposal directly effects a sports facility, as per guidelines. A ball strike survey has been conducted by Labo Sport consulting on behalf of Sport England. We await the final findings of the report and its effects on the cricket club.

The cricket club would welcome a donation towards playing equipment, especially now we have two sides.

**b) Bowling Club – report sent by Linda Jones:**

**April 2019 season** was another good season for Chelmarsh Bowling Club with around 32 bowling members fielding 6 teams playing over the whole week. There is now a Ladies team playing on a Monday afternoon which came 5th out of 14 teams.

Two teams played within the Highley League and finished in 5th and 9th position. Also, Mrs Sue Jackman came runner up in the Division averages. This is a tremendous achievement.

Our men's senior team came 4th out of 13 teams playing on Wednesday afternoons.

Our other two teams in the Ludlow league and the mid Shropshire league on Friday evenings played well but were 10th and 13th.

Our presentation evening in November was well attended by bowlers and villagers. Lesley Burnside the Highley League Secretary made the trophy presentations.

**2020 Season**

Our AGM saw a change of officers with a new Chairman, a new Secretary and Treasurer. Then Covid stopped all league fixtures and competitive bowling. We were able to open the green for limited social playing in line with Covid Government regulations from July to end of September.

**2021 season**

This season is looking more positive with new members joining the club and bowling leagues looking to restart under Covid regulations from 17th May. The green is now one for limited social bowling.

Our club would love to widen its membership and particularly engage with youngsters in the village.

**c) Parish Hall – report sent by Geoff Price:**

The past year has been dominated by the Covid pandemic, with the Hall being closed for much of the time. Many of our user groups halted their meetings in March 2020, and have not yet restarted, although some classes ran when the regulations so allowed.

We used the time this autumn to do some modest internal decoration and tidying up, so we are well positioned to reopen fully in May 2021. The Government has handed out liberal grants to the Hospitality and Entertainment sector, and we have qualified for several tranches, leaving us in a very positive financial position. We have decided to offer regular hirers six months of future hire free of charge, to allow them to rebuild their user groups. We will also be offering discounted prices for new users.

We had to cancel the Fete in 2020, as regulations would not allow it. We did so early, so there were no cost implications. We have now decided not to run a Fete in 2021. It might be possible, but our helpers are worried, and we would not finally know if regulations allowed it until very close to Fete day and would have incurred substantial costs. Perhaps we will help

organise another event in the village later in the summer. However, it will now be harder to get the momentum up again for a Fete in 2022!

We are aware of the deterioration in the Hall roof, due to the installation of defective sheeting – not the fault of the installer, Alan Groves. We are hoping he will soon find a slot in his busy schedule to fit the replacement sheets.

**d) Jubilee Club – report sent by Barbara Theobald:**

Jubilee club has not been able to be held since March 2020, due to restrictions and members shielding. The plan is to resume holding meetings at the Social Club once again towards the end of June or July, dependent on guidelines that effect the Club.

We wish to encourage a few younger members to hopefully and help with the organizing of meetings and arranging visits, with successors to the key roles to come forward.

**e) Chelmarsh PCC – no report.**

**f) Chelmarsh Friends Club – report sent by Angela Cadwallader:**

Firstly, may I thank Chelmarsh Parish Council for their kind invitation to present this report on behalf of Chelmarsh Friends Group.

The last 12 months have been the same for us as for every other group in the village. We met only three times in early 2020!

Our membership is static with the original 19 members.

We managed to arrange a rummage sale before the first lock-down. This raised enough funds to pay for Guest Speakers, had we been able to meet.

Hopefully, as this year progresses, we will be able to start our regular meetings again on the second Wednesday of each month.

This depends on how confident the membership is that the risks from Covid 19 are minimal. We have had encouraging feed-back and will perhaps hold our initial meetings social distanced in an outdoor environment during the summer.

**g) Toddlers – Theresa Cole reported:**

The Toddlers Group had not been able to run for 12 months, but normally meet on Tuesday mornings.

**05. Parish problems:**

- School Lane potholes – Clerk has been promised by SC that these will be repaired and is on the list.
- Resident at Hampton Loade had a problem with her drive since the road was repaired following the landslide. She had been in touch with the Clerk (first Clerk knew about the problem) and said that she had damaged vehicles and tumbled due to the road edge problem. She wanted to know how often the road was inspected as this was in the hands of her Solicitors. Clerk asked SC who said it was inspected quarterly but due to this being dealt with by the resident's Solicitors suggested that she write to SC Insurance Dept and put in a FOI request. The resident thanked the Clerk for her help.
- Cllr Tindall offered to follow this up.

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

Chairman thanked everyone for attending and reminded those in attendance that the elections were on 6<sup>th</sup> May.

Cllr Tindall reminded people to take their own pencils when voting!

**07. Date of next meeting – 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021 – Parish Council Annual meeting (AGM)**

**There being no other business the meeting closed at 7.30pm.**

**Signed: Chairman**

**Date:**

DRAFT