

## Chelmarsh Parish Council

### **Annual Parish meeting held on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2018 in Chelmarsh Parish Hall.**

#### Guest Speakers:

Adnan Ali, Community Speed Watch Co-ordinator, Warwickshire Police and West Mercia Police, Safer Roads Partnership.

Dave Lloyd, Airband, Project manager for Shropshire

Ben Walker, Marketing and Engagement Manager, Connecting Shropshire

Chairman welcomed speakers and all parishioners to the meeting and opened the meeting.

#### **01. Apologies:**

Sue Jackman, Bowling Club. Shropshire Cllr R Tindall both (received after meeting).

#### **02. Guest speaker:**

##### Adnan Ali – Safer Roads Partnership:

Adnan explained the Community Speed Watch Scheme and encouraged people to get involved.

A resident said that people had shown an interest but then pulled out as they were afraid of any backlash they might receive from motorists.

The recorded figures were discussed but residents could not recall seeing the black box in Chelmarsh and requested that this task is repeated.

After discussions regarding the speeding along the straight in front of the Bulls Head it was suggested that SC are asked to carry out another speed check during the school run hours!

Overtaking is another problem along this stretch of road.

A suggestion of reducing the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph was made but Adnan pointed out that not every village meets the criteria for this.

Chairman thanked Adnan for attending the meeting. Adnan confirmed that he is happy to work with the Parish Council in a Community Speed Watch if people change their minds.

##### Dave Lloyd – Airband:

Copy of the presentation attached.

A lengthy discussion took place regarding the provision of faster broadband, especially to Hampton Loade where there are several businesses working from home with a very poor service.

Their technology requires a line of sight to transmit wireless broadband to homes and businesses. Engineers will visit properties to make sure that there is the line of sight before they sign anyone up and take money.

Airband is a South African Company but work from the UK with a 24hr support line.

It was suggested that a letter drop is carried out around the parish and to include Astbury and Eardington to see if there is any interest.

Dave was thanked for his presentation and would email presentation to Clerk.

##### Ben Walker – Connecting Shropshire:

Ben confirmed that Airband was a great Company to work with. He confirmed that the aspiration of Connecting Shropshire was that every property should have at least 30mg. Ben confirmed that the task has been huge and that he is aware of the problems within the parish and are still trying to solve this.

Chairman thanked Ben for attending

8.45pm meeting commenced:

#### **03. Minutes of last meeting – 25<sup>th</sup> April 2017:**

These had been circulated with the agenda and it was **RESOLVED that these be accepted as a true record.**

**04. Matters arising from minutes:**

None.

**05. Chairman's annual report:**

- 1) This time last meeting we were about to go into an election for the Parish Council, the first in a number of years. This resulted in a change to the membership of the council and I am pleased to welcome Councillor Garrett to the team. New councillors on the team have also attended training sessions during the year organised by SALC.
- 2) Three issues have dominated the Parish Council meetings during this year:
  - a. Speeding cars and dangerous driving along the B4555, particularly around The Bulls Head and the turning into Bake House Lane. Monitoring of the road by Shropshire Highways has shown insufficient speeding traffic to trigger action by themselves. However, Highways have agreed to replace signage when the 2018 budget becomes available. An outcome of this was a serious accident earlier this year. The police have also been involved and some monitoring has taken place, but their suggestion was to form a Community Speedwatch Team. A number of Parishioners volunteered to form a Community Speedwatch team, however, concerns about retaliation by drivers has meant that support for this is insufficient to form a community. [We have a guest speaker, Adnan Ali today who can perhaps address some of these concerns or suggest how this has been handled elsewhere.]
  - b. Broadband access for the communities within Chelmarsh who are furthest from the fibre broadband installation, in particular Hampton Loade and Astbury. [Again, we have invited guest speakers Dave Lloyd and Ben Walker to provide an update on how these areas will be served]
  - c. Condition of the roads in Chelmarsh, made particularly bad by the severe winter weather we have experienced
- 3) Repairs to road outside the Parish Hall have brought to the attention of the PC and these will be repaired shortly when a suitable weather window is available
- 4) Street lights – during the next year the Parish Council have obligation to replace the street lights in the village with low energy fittings
- 5) Electricity – ongoing discussions with nPower who want to more than double our electricity bill, mainly with admin charges
- 6) Playing field area - tarmac area requires re-surfacing. This is to be planned for 2019/20 council year
- 7) 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. The Parish Council have been successful in supporting two applications to build affordable housing in the parish

- 8) 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.
- 9) During the year a number of parishioners have requested how they can find out more about what is to be discussed at Council Meetings and the outcomes of discussions. As reported at the last meeting the Parish Council must comply with the Government's Transparency code. Agendas and minutes of council meetings are posted on parish notice boards at the Parish Hall, Bakehouse Lane and now a new notice board in Hampton Loade. Also, the council has a website [www.chelmarshpc.co.uk](http://www.chelmarshpc.co.uk)

**06. Shropshire Councillor's annual report:**

No report available.

**07. Organisation reports:**

a) Parish Hall committee: Dr Geoff Price

Not every year is exceptional, and when we look back at 2017, we would probably rate it as 'ordinary', which in the Parish Hall context means steady forward progress.

Looking at the various annual reports from our core users you will see generally healthy and active clubs and activities. The number of 'corporate' events continues to grow, Toddlers has seen a great increase in numbers under Theresa's guidance, and 'Jiggy Wrigglers' have joined us on Thursday mornings. This is a franchise which offers music-based activities for pre-school children. They moved from Worfield, and many of their children come from that area. In both cases we get some follow-on bookings for children's parties and the like.

The Fete did well again in 2017, blessed with equitable weather. Numbers were up, to a 7-year high, and we ran out of programmes! The profit for the day, including the Raffle organised by Janet, was over £4,300, the highest for 10 years. We can speculate on the reasons for our success, but at least part must be due to the return of happy visitors from 2016, so we have high hopes for 2018! Grateful thanks to all the helpers who turn out to set up and run the event. We cannot do it without you – I hope you had some fun!

Our 'Arts Events' continue to flourish. The Panto was another great success, and we tried a 'Race Night', organised by the same company, which was good fun, and made a modest profit. In addition, we had a season of 'Flicks', with respectable audience numbers, organised by Eleanor. My thanks to those who promoted events, and those who put out the chairs and stage, and bake cakes and serve teas.

We are able to draw on some 7 talented and knowledgeable individuals to make up our monthly team of 4 for the Shropshire Halls quiz. In January 2018 we were standing 5<sup>th</sup> in Shropshire, almost as good as 2017, so we maintain a high standard.

Our 'Improvement Project' this year was the refurbishment of the Ladies Toilets, to make them a little less 'institutional', and also easier to keep clean. We also replace the flooring and took this out through the lobby to the gents Toilets and finished the job by re-painting these areas. Many thanks to Peter Jackman for planning all and executing most of this. We also installed an external letter box, and registered this with Royal Mail, so we now appear on the Post Code lists.

We have had the website upgraded by Paul Griffiths of Betelguise, to make it more user friendly on phones and mobile devices, and also much easier for us to maintain the 'What's On' list. He made no charge for this but uses the site as an example for others!

I was grateful that at the last AGM Linda Jones took over from me as Treasurer. One of her changes has been to drop the need to pay deposits for most one-off bookings, saving much paperwork. We were also faced by the resignation of Sonia Hobbs, our efficient Booking Secretary for many years, due to planned relocation to be nearer their family. It looked as if it was going to be difficult to replace her, so we were relieved that the move temporarily went onto 'hold', and she continued to act for us. We all thank her for her continuing dedication to the Hall and wish them both 'All the Best' when they finally do move. My thanks also go to all the other members of the Committee, who give up an evening every 6 weeks or so, to guide our activities, and to Steve Ansell for acting as auditor again. It is pleasing that the accounts show that all our efforts are rewarded by a healthy bank balance!

Our tasks for 2018 will include some more repainting, including the storage container, and trying to attract some new and younger members to the Committee.

b) Chelmarsh Cricket Club: Matt Ellis, Secretary & Groundsman

Our season was due to start last Saturday but due to the bad weather we have had recently the Shropshire Cricket League have given teams the option to rearrange this fixture. So, our season starts this Saturday at home, & we are working hard to make sure the ground is ready & keeping our fingers crossed for decent weather.

We have a new captain this season, Connor Glendinning who has taken over from Andy who decided to step down after several years. We are very grateful for Andy's hard work in a thankless task, & we are pleased that Andy is continuing to play for the club. As always, as a small village club we always looking for new players & we have welcomed some new faces at our preseason nets held at Much Wenlock Leisure Centre.

The shower room project for which we have been raising money for over the past years is underway & we are hoping to see this complete towards the middle of the cricket season. This is being overseen by Richard Cook & Darren Strong & their efforts are finally seeing rewards. We believe that the showers are a massive step forward to us & a further benefit in encouraging new players to join our club. We are indebted to many people for their contributions in donations & time towards this project & all the other unnoticed work that goes on.

On a personal note I look forward to a competitive but fair & enjoyable season.

c) Chelmarsh Bowling Club: Sue Jackman

The Short Mat Bowling Club continues to meet weekly on Tuesday evenings from September to the end of March.

Membership remains steady, with regular attendance of between 9 and 12 people per week, dependent upon the weather and various health problems. We lost one of last season's new bowlers who decided to bowl closer to home in Bridgnorth but gained two more from Highley. Maurice continues to make the weekly journey from Coventry (because we are more friendly than his local clubs) and he is one of our more regular players.

Two friendly matches with Ditton Priors took place this year, one home and one away; both were very enjoyable evenings which we hope to repeat next season. Now that we have a stable membership, matches with other clubs will be considered for the future.

As always, new members would be welcome, bowls and tuition are available for new bowlers.

d) PCC -no report.

e) Jubilee Club:

It is understood that this still meets at the Sports and Social Club and is run by Jean Davies.

The Chelmarsh Friends Group replaced the WI. The group is open to men as well as ladies and this has a membership of approximately 20.

**08. Parish problems:**

- Drain belonging to Severn Trent blocked on main road close to Mere Oak.
- Country Park Volunteer – financial support from Highley and Alveley PC. Any donations would be welcome for this – perhaps a fund-raising event in Parish Hall?

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

Chairman thanked everyone for attending, especially the speakers who tried to address the topical issues we have in the parish.

Thanks also to Barbara for providing the refreshments.

**10. Date of next meeting:**

Annual Parish Council meeting 22nd May 2017

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.15pm and chairman invited everyone to stay for refreshments.

**Signed: Chairman**

**Date:**