

## Chelmarsh Parish Council

**Annual Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023 at 7.50pm in Chelmarsh Parish Hall following the Annual Parish meeting.**

**Present:** Cllrs R Woods (Chairman), P Thomas (Vice Chairman), T Cole, R Bebb, D Garrett and S Garrett.

**1) Election of Officers:**

a) Chairman: It was proposed, seconded, and **RESOLVED that Cllr Woods continues as Chairman. No other nominations.**

b) Acceptance of Office by Chairman: Cllr Woods signed his declaration and Clerk witnessed this.

c) Election of Vice-Chairman: It was proposed, seconded, and **RESOLVED that Cllr Thomas continues as Vice-Chairman. No other nominations.**

d) Acceptance of Office by Vice-Chairman: Cllr Thomas signed his declaration and Clerk witnessed this.

**2) Public time** – meeting to be suspended for this item. No public present.

**3) Apologies for absence:** Apologies noted from Cllr Cadwallader and Shropshire Cllr Tindall who sent the following email:

*I shall not be coming tonight so please will you give my apologies? I am about to set off East Anglia, but I will attend your June meeting if at all possible.*

*I have very little to report partly, I suspect, due to my absence.*

*However, one new item is the changes to the boundaries of our Electoral Divisions proposed by the Electoral Boundary Commission which will come into effect in time for the May 2025 local elections.*

*I think Brown Clee is going to lose Billingsley to Highley but gain Astley Abbots. I don't think Chelmarsh is affected but I will give the Commission's Report a good read while I am away.*

**4) Declaration of Interests**

*The Localism Act 2011, Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012.*

*Members are reminded that they are required to leave the room during the discussion and voting on matters in which they have a disclosable pecuniary interest, whether or not the interest is entered in the register of member's interests maintained by the Monitoring Officer.*

None declared.

**5) To confirm minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2023:**

These had been circulated with the agenda and it was proposed, seconded, and **RESOLVED that the minutes were signed by the Chairman as a true record.**

**6) Matters arising from minutes:**

Clerks report:

Dog mess:

Street Scene Officer has asked that photos of the dog mess are sent in via FixMyStreet, which has not been cleaned up by the owner. It will probably follow a pattern then a file can be put together and hopefully find the culprit!

Bakehouse Lane – I have again chased the repairs to this road with Shropshire Council.

2 Enforcement Notices received from Shropshire Council.

Highway improvements to help reduce speeding were all part of the planning conditions for The Astbury. Clerk has asked for this to be looked into.

Any others – none.

7) **Planning applications (if any received after issue of agenda).** None received.

8) **Correspondence:** *All emailed out to Cllrs, taken as noted unless comments made:*

- West Mercia PCC Funding for Safer Road Projects – Wondered if this could help with speeding through Chelmarsh, but this should be part of The Astbury planning conditions.
- Bakehouse Lane skip email received:

*Is there anything the Parish Council can do to get the skip removed from the green area at the top of Bakehouse Lane. It had become a permanent eyesore and adds to the general shabby state that the lane has become. It is used by the builders to offload daily, rubble and rubbish from their vans and has little or no reason to be there. As soon as it is full, it gets replaced with another. Please can you help.*

*Clerk's reply: I have made enquiries and understand that work is being carried out at the property. Is that not the case?*

*Reply: I think not. This has been going on for years. I feel they are emptying vans after a day's work in the building trade. The house does not appear to have any work being done. Is that green space council property, if so, surely, they have no right to place a skip there permanently.*

Councillors confirmed that a lot of work is being carried out at the property, hence the skip is required to dispose of the rubbish.

Clerk had queried ownership of the land (possibly SC) and if permission had been received to site it there but is still awaiting a reply.

- Thieves in Bakehouse Lane again:

Email received: Please could this be brought to the attention of the Parish Council?

For the second time in only a few months thieves have targeted cars and front doors in Bakehouse Lane. In the first incident Isaac and Vicki at Craster had their front door lock broken and they rifled the hall drawers for car keys and stole an Audi.

Last night's incident was picked up on CCTV as thieves in a Ford van tried car doors and house doors, managing to get in to about 6 cars and rifle through them. They left when they saw Dana looking out of his window. The police have been out on both occasions, we were woken at 3am by them ringing our doorbell this morning. The thieves tried our cars and side door apparently (Glebe House), but we have older cars with real keys, so they didn't get into them.

Please could the Parish Council consider whether upgrades to local area security are possible? One suggestion is a camera at the top of Bakehouse Lane, which some residents I'm sure would be happy to help fund if required. Or any other local safety and security measures that might be suggested by the neighbourhood police?

On a similar subject I don't think we've heard any more about Smart Water yet?

Cllrs felt that it was owners' responsibility to put up their own security cameras but suggested inviting the Police to attend the September/October meeting to discuss options to make properties safer.

Not enough interest in Smartwater to take the project further, but residents can purchase their own.

- DLUHC Consultation on Infrastructure Levy – time lapsed.
- SALC Latest bulletin – Clerk asked Cllrs to read these as useful information is included.

- Confirmation of Local Connection letter – Archie Groves. Clerk had sent this letter following consultation with Cllrs via email. **RESOLVED that this was acceptable.**
- Alterations to the Electoral Register
- Eardington PC - Astbury Falls bridge:  
Reply: I forwarded your email to the Chairman and hope that he replied to you but – just in case – I can tell you that he has spoken to someone at Highways, and they told him that repairs to the bridge would commence in September.  
In the meantime, some drivers of heavy goods wagons are still trying to get over the bridge and when they fail to get through, they have to find a turning place and return to B4555.  
We have the AGM on Monday so if I hear anything else I will let you know.
- Any others after issue of the agenda:  
There is a public footpath that runs from Hampton Loade to Highley along the banks of the River Severn.  
Alongside this runs the Mercian Way Route 45 cycle path and then alongside this is the Severn Valley railway track.  
Along the riverbank, about a mile south of Hampton Loade and then down into Highley, there appears to have been significant development by the landowner on the public footpath and within the field, turning either the footpath and/or field into a hardcore road over the past few months.  
A lot of the public footpath has now disappeared, and it is now a developed wide track which would allow cars/traffic to use this. There has also been development, creating a wide, hardcore track away from the public footpath, again allowing vehicular access.  
Recently the pedestrian/cycle crossing on the Route 45 Mercian way crossing has had significant development, the crossing being raised by about 2 – 3 metres high and then this has been extended into a ‘road’ as it then passes onto the riverside public footpath.  
Concerns have been raised as to the amount the crossing on the route 45 has been raised, making it difficult for walkers to cross, but also the environmental consequences that the land/road development will and continually does have along the riverbank.
- Chairman gave a brief report that he, Cllr Thomas, and Clerk held on Teams Video with Maria Howell, Planning Officer from SC.  
Chairman explained to Maria that the parish has a huge amount of holiday homes but local people applying for affordable homes have so many hurdles put in front of them.  
Maria confirmed that there will be new procedures coming out next year but would send the policy to the Clerk. Chairman asked Clerk to circulate this to all Cllrs.  
Maria suggested that if a landowner had a piece of land suitable for 4/5 affordable homes this could be an option for the PC to consider, due to low wages not everyone can afford to build their own home.  
Holiday lets are supposed to be good for the economy!  
Chairman suggested that we ask Cllr Tindall to talk about Planning in ‘simple terms.
- SALC - Training event added to Programme - Fundamentals for Councillors - Monday 2nd October 2023, 6.30pm - 9pm

## 9) Finance:

- a) Clerk’s salary – paid via Standing Order  
HMRC - £100.40.

Insurance renewal - £417.56 (3 years).

SALC Affiliation fees - £276.41.

SC Street lights electricity - £147.18.

John Higgins account – playground repairs to fence and gates – Quote £1130.00 but there will be an extra £100 as further work had to be carried out.

**RESOLVED to pay all these accounts via internet banking.**

b) Accounts year end – these must be signed off by the Internal Auditor prior to the Parish Council approving these but will have to be dealt with at the next month to comply with External Auditors deadline.

c) Any others received after issue of agenda – none.

Clerk would query with SALC if the income received from the Clothes bank can be donated to the Syrian/Ukraine Charities.

## **10) Parish problems:**

### Complaint:

Is there anything the Parish Council can do to get the skip removed from the green area at the top of Bakehouse Lane. It had become a permanent eyesore and adds to the general shabby state that the lane has become. It is used by the builders to offload daily, rubble and rubbish from their vans and has little or no reason to be there. As soon as it is full, it gets replaced with another. Please can you help.

My reply: I have made enquiries and understand that work is being carried out at the property. Is that not the case?

Reply: I think not. This has been going on for years. I feel they are emptying vans after a day's work in the building trade. The house does not appear to have any work being done. Is that green space council property, if so, surely, they have no right to place a skip there permanently.

Potholes – Chelmarsh Bank, including drain covers collapsing.

Faded road signs.

Signed knocked over just coming out of Highley, but in our parish.

Road gullies need cleaning out.

Footpath surface along main road needs repairing.

Clerk questioned work required by Richard Millington for the Environmental Scheme and explained that a new Officer had taken over this scheme and has suggested that accounts ought to be sent in monthly or perhaps quarterly as the scheme runs for 12 months. They are also asking for dates/hours/work carried out and that Cllrs should be monitoring this to ensure that the work is being carried out.

Cllrs agreed on the following:

Hedge around car park – 1 cut.

Hedge all around playing field – 1 cut.

Grass at playing field.

Road junction splays: Hampton Loade to be cut May, June, July, August, September (5 cuts)

It appears that SC has already cut School Lane, and Bakehouse Lane (only cut if necessary) and the Church Lane splay is cut by someone else.

Weed killer around car park.

Road signs need cleaning (part of the scheme).

Cricket field hedge is the responsibility of the Cricket Club.

Clerk will email Richard Millington with this request as the PC is unaware of the grant, we will receive but will monitor the situation and if it is considered that more cuts are required then the Clerk will contact Richard.

Health meeting at Highley re: Dr's on Thursday.

**11) Date of next meeting:** 27<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Apologies from Cllr Woods.

**There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.25pm.**

Payments made:

SALC Affiliation fees - £276.41

SC Street lighting - £147.18

HMRC - £100.40

Insurance renewal -£417.56

Clerk's salary – S/order

John Higgins - £1130 + £100 for extra work involved.

**Signed: Chairman**

**Date:**

DRAFT