

Chignal Parish Council

C/O 45 Cherry Garden Road, Great Waltham, Chelmsford, Essex, CM3 1DH

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Clerk: Will Adshead-Grant

Chair: Lynn Ballard

Website: e-voice.org.uk/Chignal-Parish

Vice Chair: Linda Nelson

Posted: 07 November 2023

You are hereby summonsed to attend the Bi-Monthly Meeting of the Chignal Parish Council on Monday 13th November 2023 at **7.30pm** for transacting the following business.

w j adshead-grant, Clerk.

The Public and Press are cordially invited to be present. Members of the public are invited to address the Council at the Public Open Session.

AGENDA

Governance

2023/631 Chairman's Welcome

2023/632 Apologies for Absence

2023/633 Register of Declarations of Interests and any requests for dispensation

2023/634 Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 11th September 2023.

2023/635 Note the Orchard sub-Committee minutes of 1st November 2023.

2023/636 Public Open Session for any matters that need to be drawn to the Parish Council's attention.
The item does not need to be on the current agenda.

2023/637 County and City Councillors' Reports

- i. Essex County Councillor Report – Cllr Mike Steel
- ii. Chelmsford City Councillor Report - Cllr Nicolette Chambers

Planning

2023/638 Planning Decisions:

<u>Type</u>	<u>Status</u>	
23/01092/FUL	The Three Elms Mashbury Road Chignal St James Chelmsford Essex CM1 4TZ	Application Refused

2023/639 Planning Updates:

2023/640 Planning Applications:

1. **Planning Application Reference: 23/01421/FUL: comments submitted**
Address: Barn South Hillcroft, Chignal Road, Chignal Smealy

Description of works: Removal of identified buildings on site and re-use and conversion of existing buildings on site to a residential dwelling.

Chignal Parish Council has argued consistently against allowing the erection of a house on this area of open countryside. The need for any additional housing in this part of Chignal is being met more than adequately by

the extensive new residential areas in the parish, (Little Hollows and Copperfield Place) and the Kilfield Barns development on Chignal Road.

In as much as the "chicken sheds/barn" had any historic or architectural merit, the conversion does not retain any of its original barn character as advocated in the Chignal Villages Design Statement (VDS), page 20. From the drawings and plans both proposed buildings look like brand new prefabricated units which could be found on an urban industrial site, not a refurbished barn and garage in keeping with its rural setting.

The proposed works go a very long way beyond what might sensibly or reasonably be described as a conversion. The development is in all practical terms starting afresh, with only a modest amount of help from the original agricultural building.

The Design and Access Statement includes a sustainability checklist that states that paving will be kept to a minimum to prevent run-off. However, the plans show an extensive area of unsightly concrete block paving from the road leading up to, and in front of, the proposed dwelling and garage. This hard urban treatment of the driveway is contrary to the VDS, page 21: "the use of large areas of concrete, tarmac and block paving are not well suited to rural settings, where traditional materials such as shingle are more appropriate, and assist with rainwater drainage".

The Parish Council also continues to have concerns regarding access to this site as it has limited sightlines on a blind bend, on to the Chignal Road. The Parish Council made similar comments in relation to a previous planning application for a house on this site (14/01320/OUT).

Recommended for Refusal:

The proposal to convert the existing timber structure on the site would result in substantial reconstruction amounting to a new build which would not retain the original barn character.

2. New premises licence under the Licensing Act 2003: Boyton Hall Farm.

The licence application is for the annual 'Clockstock' two-day event to be held on 28th & 29th June 2024 and thereafter, on a weekend in June or July in subsequent years.

Finance

2023/641 Discuss and agree the proposed budget for 2024-2025 of £7,800 (decrease of £780 on the previous year)-The Clerk.

2022/642 Review and confirm the precept demand on Chelmsford City Council for 2024-2025 of £7,000. The impact is approximately £2.04 per annum decrease on a Band D

2023/643 Finance:

Account Balances:

Cheque Account £ **10,221.68**

Orchard Account £ **1,575.34** (Included in cheque account)

Saving Account £ **41,577.66**

- General Reserve £21,280.
- Cil £20,297

Total £ **51,799.34**

2023/644 To approve the following payments:

Date	Item	Payment Value	Budget Heading
13.11.23	Essex Pension Fund - Oct payment	£159.77	salary
13.11.23	Taylor Agricultural - Grass cutting	£192.00	Play field Maintenance
13.11.23	Cllr Lewis - marine plywood	£36.07	Orchard
13.11.23	HMRC -Paye November	£43.80	salary
13.11.23	clerk salary & expenses - October	£184.42	salary
13.11.23	HMRC - Paye - October	£43.80	salary
13.11.23	clerk salary & expenses - November	£194.37	salary
13.11.23	Essex Pension Fund - Nov payment	£159.77	salary

Totals **£ 1014.00**

2023/645 Review of the Bi-monthly bank reconciliation

REPORTS AND UPDATES

2023/646 Bus Network Consultation 2023 - Essex County Council - Citizen Space

Bus Network Consultation 2023: comments submitted.

The Parish Council has been made aware of this Bus Network Consultation by our County Councillor Mike Steel. Paper copies of the survey booklet have been distributed at our monthly parish Coffee Mornings and the proposed change to services 17/18 operated by Lodge Coaches was also raised by residents during the Public Open Session of our Parish Council meeting on 11th September.

As far as we are aware at least 20 people who live in the villages of Chignal St James and Chignal Smealey use the local buses. These residents have voiced concerns to the Parish Council about the proposal to withdraw the 17/18 bus service which provides a vital scheduled and direct transport link with Chelmsford city centre and the railway/bus station interchange.

This bus service is used largely by older residents who may not have access to a car or who find it difficult to use the digital car park payment systems in Chelmsford. Others use it to reduce their carbon footprint and to access other bus services and Chelmsford railway station.

There is another very important mental health aspect to this rural bus service as many regular passengers have got to know each other and enjoy the social interaction during the journey. The Lodge Coaches drivers have also got to know their passengers and are particularly welcoming and helpful, providing assistance to people who may need some assistance mounting and dismounting the vehicle.

The proposal to replace this timetabled bus service with Digigo is unsatisfactory for several reasons:

1. Digigo is still being trialled and therefore it is not guaranteed that it will continue following evaluation of its effectiveness as a rural public transport alternative.
2. Residents have reported problems downloading the Digigo App and have been redirected to the website with no-one answering the phone number to provide assistance.
3. The Digigo minibus does not connect directly with Chelmsford city centre and the bus/railway station which are the most popular destinations for the retail market, other shopping, leisure, social and health appointments and onward travel.
4. Digigo is not a substitute for a scheduled rural bus service such as 17/18 which picks up and drops passengers anywhere along its route through the villages between Great Dunmow and Chelmsford.

An on-demand minibus service such as Digigo should be regarded as a supplement to, not a substitute, for a rural bus network which links isolated rural communities with each other and with urban service centres such as Chelmsford.

The Parish Council would wish to be consulted, along with neighbouring parishes on the future of public transport services in the rural areas of Essex.

2023/647 Chignal Community Meeting: Saturday 11th November, outcome reports:

2023/648 Ride London, Sunday 24th May 2024: invite organisers to address 8th January meeting

2023/649 Representatives' Reports: to discuss and debate any items.

- Little Hollows / Copperfield Place Liaison - Cllr Elwick
- Completion of Copperfield Place landscaping work

- Playing Field - Cllr Elwick and Cllr Towns

- Village Hall Liaison - Cllr Towns

- Community Engagement - Cllr Nelson
 - Community laptop – setup but need to purchase appropriate software.
 - Community printer not yet installed – needs setup.
 - Update on parish website launch and publication of the next edition of Chignal News.

- Community Safety – Cllr Lewis
 - Update on options for siting and managing a Defibrillator in Chignal Smealey.

- Highways (include Hedges) - Cllr Towns
 - Update on LHP funding for village entry gates and validation for steps to the community orchard.
 - Update on ECC Member-led pothole repair scheme.
 - Clearing and jetting blocked road drains.
 - Directional sign to Chignal Smealey: Hollow Lane/Chignal Road junction

- Footpaths/Bridleways – Cllr Nelson and Cllr Towns

- Tree Warden - Cllr Ballard

- Countryside Conservation.

2023/650 Items for the next Agenda

Next meetings:

Monday 8 th	January 2024	Monthly Meeting
Monday 11 th	March 2024	Monthly Meeting & Annual Parish Meeting
Monday 13 th	May 2024	Monthly Meeting and AGM
Monday 8 th	July 2024	Monthly Meeting
Monday 9 th	September 2024	Monthly Meeting
Monday 11 th	November 2024	Monthly Meeting