

Minutes OF THE ANNUAL CHIGNAL PARISH MEETING
TO BE HELD MONDAY 9TH MARCH 2020 AT 20:00
IN THE VILLAGE HALL.

Welcome

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting 11 March 2019

Resolution *The Minutes were approved*

2. Chairman's Report

The vitality and strength of our small community and the quality of our rural environment were identified by residents in the Parish Plan as the most important things about living in Chignal. Over the last 12 months we have seen improvements to both aspects.

We had some lively discussions at the annual Community Meeting about new recreation facilities and as a result, we now have four car parking spaces, a gazebo, improved croquet courts and have opened up the view from the hall to the playing field. Support was given to the Chignal Cricket Club to repair the pavilion roof and to provide a mobile net. The community orchard has also seen some new facilities with a new larger shed, bench and additional apple trees. Sponsors came forward to support all the orchard trees and a small band of volunteers have continued to keep it well maintained.

The Community Group is still going strong with autumn Litter Picks, surveys of potential footpath walk and fund- raising events, such as a Tabletop sale and Quiz Evening. Exciting events to celebrate the 75th anniversary of VE Day involving several Chignal groups are being co-ordinated by the Community Group.

Coffee Mornings at the village hall and Chignal Chapel continue to be well attended and provide an opportunity to raise issues with Parish Councillors, such as planning applications and the state of the local roads. The parish email list continues to grow and is a useful channel of communication about parish matters. Chignal News is delivered to every household, including new residents at Little Hollows and Copperfield Place.

Our landscape and plant diversity have been enhanced with the maturing of the orchard trees, extensive wildflower and tree planting at the restored landfill site and the establishment of new trees along Chignal Road. Wildflower identification events at the landfill site, The Green and in the orchard have highlighted the importance of conserving these habitats for pollinating insects, birds and animals. The Chignal Community Meeting on 25 April will major on community safety and crime prevention, including a session on using the new defibrillator in the village hall car park.

A fuller review of how we have implemented actions in the Parish Plan will be reported on 25th April. We hope to see you all there!

3. Club and Group Reports

a) The Chignals and Mashbury Community Group

Ve day celebration – on the Parish News.
Footpath Walks and a Facebook page that is running. (closed group)
Very Successful Quiz night - £518 raised towards VE celebrations.
Another quiz night is being planned.

b) The Chignals and Mashbury Village Hall

The Village Hall continues to be a very popular venue and we have had nothing but very

complimentary feedback from hirers. The number of external hirers has increased again, presumably as word gets about since we do not carry out any form of advertising, and our regular clubs continue – Bowls Club, Wine Discovery Group, WI, Gardening Club, Table Tennis Club and the Croquet Club who use some of our facilities. The Parish Council use the Hall for their meetings and to hold monthly Coffee Mornings and the Community Group use the Committee Room for their meetings. There have also been some ad hoc events such as a Table-Top Sale and a couple of very successful Quiz Nights.

We have resurfaced the overflow car park and that has made a tremendous difference to the quagmire that we used to have in the winter (and sometimes in wet summers!)

The fete went well again, we were lucky with the weather and we have received positive feedback. Our profit was down a little but still substantial at £2,316. Please make a note that this year's fete will be 6th June and we need help to organise, set up and run it.

The Christmas Coffee and Mince Pie morning went well although attendance was a little down and that was reflected in a decreased profit of £219 compared to £266 in 2018.

We have acquired: five parasols with bases to use on the patio; three pop up gazebos mainly to use for the fete but which could be used for other events; a multi-purpose Audio System for use in meetings, presentations, background music, etc.; two clocks, one for the kitchen and one for the main Hall; a dishwasher; plates, bowls, glasses and cutlery for the kitchen, grateful thanks to the Community Group for these; a defibrillator in the car park, provided and administered by the Parish Council (so far not used and let's hope it stays that way).

Please note also that The Inner Wheel of Chelmsford have placed and maintain some Period Poverty packs in the Ladies' and Disabled toilets. We are pleased to support them.

The storage shed is on its last legs. We are going to replace it with a slightly larger structure which will have a separate area for use by the Parish Council. We are hoping to get CIL funding towards this. I must confess that sorting out the final design and cost is taking much longer than I would wish.

We have had a period in which we had a brand-new facility with new equipment and facilities. However, things are starting to wear. A working party was convened on 23rd September to correct some problems and we have repaired one of the heating units, one of the electric blinds and other sundry maintenance issues. We can only expect such issues to increase and so the Committee is keeping an eye on the situation. PAT testing has been carried out the items that need it.

Finance details are available if requested. In summary, the finances were stable and as a result we have not raised the hiring rates for 2020.

As Chairman, I must point out that keeping the hall running requires a lot of input from the Committee Members, most of which goes unnoticed. I would like to thank the Committee Members for their commitment, time and help during the year in keeping this hall running. This activity would be so much easier if there were a few more people to share the load. We need new members to take part in the running and management of this superb hall. The same applies to the Village Fete. As we stand now, there is a significant risk that we will have to cancel it because there are not enough of us to organise and run it. Just two or three more people on the committee would make all the difference.

Special thanks go to the secretary without whom, I don't know what we would do

c) Chignals and Mashbury Gardening Club

The club continues to be well supported by the Chignals gardening community and we are gradually attracting new members to join our longer standing members.

Our gardening year kicked off in May 2019 with a programme of 4 garden visits as

follows:

Wednesday 22nd May. The Gibberd Garden in Harlow is a grade II listed garden, created between 1957 and 1984 by Sir Frederick Gibberd, Master Planner of Harlow New Town and leading post-war architect. Acknowledged to be one of the most important 20th century gardens in the country, the garden occupies 9 acres of a 14-acre site. It is full of sculptures and has plenty of interest, including an arboretum and a moated castle with a drawbridge.

Thursday 20th June. Caynton Cottage in Boreham is a garden designed and planted since 2013 from a neglected and overgrown plot, surrounding a 15th century thatched cottage. Planted with a good selection of shrubs and perennials for maximum all year interest with a small wildlife pond and dry stream.

Wednesday 10th July. Keeway, near Burnham-on-Crouch is a large, mature country garden with stunning views over the River Crouch. Formal terraces surround the house with steps leading to sweeping lawns, mixed borders packed full of bulbs and perennials, formal rose and herb garden. Further afield there are wilder areas, paddocks and a lake. Also, a productive greenhouse, vegetable and cutting gardens.

Thursday 19th September. Field Cottage near Great Dunmow is a third of an acre plant lover's oasis reinvented in 2010 with good views across the valley. The borders are packed with herbaceous perennials and shrubs for all year-round interest with emphasis on drought and wind tolerance. A medium vegetable garden provides year-round crops.

The winter programme of talks in the Village Hall started in October last year. The December meeting had a Christmas theme and the meeting in February was well attended, with an interesting talk delivered by Lin Blunt called 'Plants of the world used for food'. In the March meeting later this month, our Chairman Jean Watson will be hosting a propagation practical workshop in a member's garden. The April meeting will host our annual AGM and quiz.

Thanks go to Janet Campen for hosting a wonderful cheese and wine evening in early July. All members that attended had a lovely time and the weather was kind.

The Gardening Club will host a plant stall once again at the Village Fete in June.

The garden visits programme for May to September 2020 will be circulated shortly and features a good mix of local gardens and some gardens a little further afield.

d) **Chignals and Mashbury Carpet Bowls Club**

The Carpet Bowls Club continue to meet twice a week in the Village Hall. However, times have changed. We still meet on Tuesday evenings from 7.30pm to 10.00pm but have swapped Thursday evenings for Thursday afternoons from 2.00pm to 4.30pm - except the 1st Thursday of the month when League matches are played in the evening. This has proved popular among members and cold dark Thursday evenings can be spent at home by the fire.

Membership remains at 21, with 1 new member who has joined on Thursday afternoons. For various reasons we will lose members during this coming year, so we really would like to see lots of new members joining us.

The Club enter the Essex League Competitions each year during the winter months and in 2019 finished 5th. During this current year we have just one more game to play. All games have been played well but unfortunately winning seems to have evaded us on

several occasions!

During the summer months friendly matches are played and enjoyed with other local clubs. These matches are always enjoyable and end with supper.

Throughout the year members play Internal Competitions against each other. These include singles, pairs, the Mike Bell Trophy, Bill Hawkes Trophy and For-get-me-not Trophy. These have all been won by various members of the club.

Essex Carpet Bowls Competitions at Braintree have also been entered by members, but we still have not yet had a champion amongst us.

Life is not all competitions and club nights are played for fun, practise and friendship. Social events, including lots of food feature highly in the club calendar. During the past year members have enjoyed two meals at the White Hart, Little Waltham, a Strawberry Supper, Hatters Tea Party, Christmas Social, New Year's Eve evening, a trip to the Theatre, Ten Pin Bowling, and a Ramble round Heybridge followed by lunch. Members also very kindly help at the Village Fete.

A very full and enjoyable year, we are sure you will agree. Come and join us!

e) **The Chignals and Mashbury Women's Institute**

The Chignals & Mashbury Women's Institute currently has a membership of 25 and all meetings are well attended.

During the past year we have had a variety of speakers on subjects as diverse as metal detecting and theatrical costumes.

Social events such as the garden meeting in July, the annual lunch in October and our Christmas party with musical entertainment were enjoyed by members, friends and guests.

Our knitting for charity group meets once a month with beautiful blankets and baby garments being forwarded to worthwhile causes.

The W.I. continues to show support for events held in the village including a very successful Tabletop Sale, the Village Fete and many other occasions.

We usually meet on the first Thursday of the month in the Village Hall at 2 for 2-30pm, forthcoming meetings are advertised on the Notice board in the Village Hall and in the Chignal Newsletter. Visitors are always welcome.

f) **Chignal Cricket Club**
No report

g) **Chignal Wine Discovery Group Report**

Continues 2nd Friday of each month. Organised tasting 6 wines and social. Increased to 37 members from 34. £10.00 per evening and a premium evening

h) **St. Nicholas Church**

No vicar since September 2019. Recruitment is ongoing. Monthly meetings continue as normal.

Needs new members.

i) **Chignal Chapel**

j) **Croquet Club**

The Chignals Croquet players (24 people all from the Parish) enjoyed their seventh year of good company, light exercise and friendly competition playing croquet on the village playing field once a month from April to October. We are looking forward to another year of the same with enthusiasm.

k) **Chignals & Mashbury Orchard and Orchard Friends**

The Orchard is beginning to produce a significant crop of quinces, apples and two varieties of pear. The fruit was eagerly collected by the parishioners at the fruit celebration. We held a wild-flower picnic and wildflower identification afternoon in the summer.

The trees have been mulched, pruned and well-watered so we are looking forward to a bigger crop this year.

Thank you to Orchard Friends who maintain the orchard; mowing in the summer, hedge cutting in the winter, pruning the trees and organising events.

The trees have been sponsored for a further three years and we have had generous donations at our events so financially the orchard is self-enough.

The Orchard is always open so please enjoy the blossom, wildflowers and wildlife when you would like to relax. There is a new bench being installed alongside the picnic table so if you wish you can enjoy your lunch in the orchard on a sunny day.

l) **Chignal Coffee Mornings**

No report

m). **Chignals Table Tennis Club**

16 people on the three tables on Wednesday afternoon 16.30. Play in pairs or singles.

n). **The Chignals with Mashbury Friends Group**

The Chignal with Mashbury Friends Group has continued to function during 2019, following the same pattern as in previous years.

It is made up of seven volunteers (more always welcome) who are willing to provide their telephone number which is made public-ally known through Chignal News , so as to enable any parishioner to make contact with them should they find themselves in need of a little help.

We realise that many people have a neighbour, friend or relative helping them in many ways, e.g. lifts, shopping, companionship etc. Parishioners and their families often express appreciation and gratitude for the service we offer, giving them peace of mind especially the families of parishioners who live some distance away.

If you would like to become a ' Friend of the Group' please contact Barbara 01245 440528 or Helen 01245 440241. It is a rewarding job and provides the volunteer with the opportunity to get to know people a little better.

Any other clubs

Meeting closed 20.25

Will adshead-grant

