

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

Minutes of the Bi-Monthly Meeting of the Chignal Parish Council held on Monday 11th July 2022 at 7.30pm

Governance

2022/441 Chairman's Welcome

Chair: Ballard

Councillors Stainton (left at item 2022/457), Lewis and Elwick

2022/442 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Nelson and Towns

2022/443 Register of Declarations of Interests and any requests for dispensation

Cllr Ballard – Item 2022/466 – member of the croquet club.

2022/444 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.

Three members of the public attended the meeting.

Comment from the public - The Orchard is looking beautiful and an asset to the Community

2022/445 County and City Councillors' Reports

1. Essex County Councillor Report – Cllr Mike Steel

ECC

ECC have now produced a response as follows which strongly objects to the current proposed route:

Cllr Lesley Wagland OBE, Essex County Council Cabinet Member for Economic Renewal, Infrastructure and Planning, said: "Essex County Council intends to object in the strongest possible terms to the proposals being put forward in the non-statutory consultation in respect of National Grid's East Anglia Green project.

"The County Council, along with residents, districts and parishes have only had a short time to respond to the proposed scheme and have had little engagement prior to May 2022 on the proposals.

"We have clearly expressed our ambition to be net zero by 2050 and the production of power from windfarms is a critical part of this, however, we have serious concerns not only about the route, but also how carbon heavy the proposed scheme of overhead pylons is.

"We are of the view that there has been insufficient consideration of alternative approaches which would allow for the required infrastructure but without the sheer scale of the damage to the environment, landscape and the difficulties of this project going ahead, all at the same time as multiple large-scale infrastructure projects which have the potential to cause major disruption across the East of England.

"We believe that new offshore generated electricity should be transmitted offshore, which is why we need an offshore grid. This is firmly in the interests of business - both offshore windfarms themselves and wider interests e.g., our Freeports - and would help to futureproof the network. Such an alternative approach could avoid all the physical constraints of an above or below-ground solution, retain ease of access for ongoing maintenance and provide a more direct point of connection for any current or future off-shore wind farms.

This is a much better option and one which would be more likely to receive support from ourselves and residents. "We are collaborating with the leaders of the city, district and borough councils through forums such as the Essex Leader and Chief Execs forum to share our concerns so that we respond with one voice and align ourselves with our colleagues in Norfolk and Suffolk. We will also be asking to meet with National Grid to discuss our concerns directly. Cllr Peter Schwier, Essex County Council's Climate Czar, added: "We welcome plans for renewable wind farms off the East Anglian coast, however, we are completely opposed to the transmission of the power generated via the proposed 50m high voltage pylons. These would be in the sky for generations to come and have a long-term negative impact on our wonderful Essex countryside as well as the county.

“This pylon infrastructure is neither wanted nor needed considering the viable option of undersea power cables. These cables could transport power to where it is needed, helping future proof energy supplies and boost energy security, without adversely impacting on residents, businesses, and communities across Essex.”

Furthermore, ECC are proposing a motion to Council 12th July which outlines these objections and calls upon:

- *Both the Government and National Grid to refocus the East Anglia Green Proposals on an offshore solution and engage in discussions with Essex and its neighbouring County Councils to achieve this.*

And National Grid to:

- *Provide this Council with all the information asked for in our response of 16 June by 30 August 2022.*
- *Make publicly available full, open, and transparent information on all options, including offshore and undergrounding, to enable evaluation and comparisons to be made by Essex residents, businesses, Councils, and other stakeholders. This information to be publicly available for a period of at least 6 months before any Development Control Order (DCO) application is made.*

City Council

City Council have yet to respond and will do so before 16th July, having obtained an extension. The Policy Board of 14th July will determine the response. A draft response recommendation has been produced which should be agreed at the Policy Board:

Recommendation:

- Chelmsford City Council (CCC) strongly objects to the proposals, as the consultation is considered premature, and all potential options have not been fully explored and assessed. Notwithstanding the objection in principle, CCC also has serious concerns about the preferred route itself.
- City Council:
- Supports the transition towards a low or zero carbon economy in support of climate change and sustainability, including renewable energy production, where these are appropriately located and can be suitably mitigated
- Requests evidence to demonstrate that the proposed new reinforcement is needed beyond improvements, rationalisations, or extensions to the existing transmission network.
- Would like to see a focus on more locally generated sustainable power generation as well as a co-ordinated approach across the country to meet our energy needs. The proposals are about transmitting electricity supply across East Anglia to meet national energy demand.
- Supports efforts to find an appropriate corridor subject to all possible options being fully appraised and explained.
- Considers that the consultation is inadequate since only one final option is being proposed with limited information provided on other options not taken forward.
- Questions the suitability of overhead transmission lines long term compared with an offshore solution considering the anticipated impacts of climate change.
- Would have expected to see fully considered proposals for alternatives including: one. a strategic offshore link; 2. an onshore route containing a mix of overhead and underground cables in areas of high sensitivity

Homes for Ukraine Scheme Update 01.06.22

Key figures:

- In the Essex County Council area there are now 994 registered sponsors (34 new sponsors). The number of requests involves 2,250 individual guests.
- 1051 guests have now arrived, or 47% of those expected.

Member Led Carriageway Pothole Repair Programme

Of the thirty-six allowed, I have received notification from 5 Parish Councils for thirteen holes:

Great Waltham	3
Pleshey	3
Little Waltham	3
Writtle	3
Gt Leighs	1

I need to submit the first eighteen by w/c 11th July

Your identified potholes should provide us with road names and as much as possible, precise locations. You can use maps or ‘What3words’ or house numbers etc to help us identify locations.

These must be carriageway potholes, and pavement defects are not included

- If possible, include at least two good photographs of each defect. It would be most helpful if one photograph is a close-up of the defect, and the second one shows the position of the defect in the road, relative to

adjacent properties and identifying landmarks. Please do not put yourself or others at risk when taking photographs.

- Please be as accurate as possible – include road and village/town name but also, where possible, details of house number(s) or business(es) that the defect is adjacent to.
- Please note any other useful information that you think might help us. For instance, if the road is narrow or parking is tight; and so on.
- Please note if the defect is outside a 'higher risk' area – for instance if there is a children's nursery, school, college, or care home adjacent. Local intelligence will help us plan to do the works safely.

The work will be done in two tranches, starting 11th July and 10th Oct, for my division

RideLondon 2023

Update from Highways Cabinet member Cllr Lee Scott:

I wanted to take this opportunity to personally make you aware that the decision to re-enter a 1-year partnership with London Marathon Events as host county for Ride London 2023 has been published this week on the forward plan (ref FP/456/07/22). This proposed decision is for ECC to be host county for the **1-day** mass participation event held on a Sunday in May 2023 and we have asked that changes are made to the route in line with feedback already received. London Marathon events are currently undertaking a full review into the 2022 event with an operational review and full discussion with stakeholders at the end of the month. London Marathon Events have also released a public survey which is live now and has been circulated to all Parish and Town councils (see link below), the closing date for this survey is 5pm 18th July so please share the below link with your communities to help ensure we have the widest possible reach. Be assured that I have committed Ride London to complete a full review of the 2022 route and LME supported by Essex County Council officers are producing a full engagement plan to ensure all communities are engaged in this process before a 2023 route will be signed off. Please see below the link to the public feedback questionnaire now live on the Ride London website.

<https://forms.office.com/r/XxKjiMCRVP>

Highways Issues

I am pleased to report that Persimmons have fixed the clattering drain cover

Our MP has referred a complaint to me about the closure of Hollow Lane. I have copied my response to the complainant to both Broomfield and Chignal PC as follows:

“When I became the County Cllr for the area, the decision to close Hollow Lane had already been taken as part of the application to build the new houses. This went through the normal planning process so any members of the public could have made objections at the time.

When I became a County Cllr, both Broomfield Parish Council and Chignal Parish Council were keen to get the closure implemented as soon as possible.

My understanding is that the main objective of closing Hollow Lane is so that the 260 residents on the new estate are forced to use the Copperfield Road route to get to School Lane or Broomfield. To me, that seems sensible. Hollow Lane is an unclassified Road, whereas Woodhall Lane through Chignal Smealy is a PR2 (Priority Route 2). I am copying in Broomfield PC and Chignal PC as they both supported this closure.

In respect of Woodhall Lane through Chignal Smealy, the last time we did some speed measurements through Chignal Smealy in 2018, the average speed was recorded as 33 mph and the 85th percentile 39mph, in a 40mph zone. Prior to those measurements in 2016 were 36mph average, 42mph 85th percentile.

I have been working with Chignal PC to address the issues of Chignal Smealy (and Broads Green and Larks Lane) being a cut-through. I have managed to get sanction for Village Gateways, which will be designed this year and should be implemented next year. Following this, we will conduct another speed survey.

Beyond this, I cannot add any more than the ECC Customer Services have said.

As our MP says, your next step would need to be to complain to Local Government & Social Care Ombudsman”

2. Chelmsford City Councillor Report – Cllr Nicolette Chambers

Overview and scrutiny committee – Cllr Chambers now sits on it. Cabinet meeting Tuesday night.

Treasury overruns. Constitution update annually. A1060 at Boyton cross reduce 40mph to 30 mph.

Policy Board looking at the National Grid proposals on the 14th. The City Council felt the consultation was premature. The City Council have concerns about the preferred route. There should be some new choices on micro routing. Ride London – lots of complaints from small business. Beaumont Otes meeting on site with Cllr Elwick.

2022/446 Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council on 09 05 2022

Resolution: The minutes were confirmed

2022/447 Note the Orchard sub-Committee minutes of 06.07.2022

Resolution: ***The Minutes were noted***

2022/448 Review and Adopt the Standing Orders – Clerk.

Resolution: ***Adopted.***

Resolution: ***Cllr Ballard to review for 2023.***

2022/449 Adopt the Financial regulations – Clerk.

Resolution: ***Adopted***

Resolution: ***Cllr Towns to review for 2023***

2022/450 Review and approve the asset register – The Clerk.

- Add in the Projector at purchase cost
- Add in the trail cameras at purchase cost

Resolution: ***The register was approved with the changes above.***

2022/451 Review and approve the risk assessments – The Clerk.

Resolution: ***The policy was reviewed and approved***

2022/452 Review of the Council's complaints procedure– The Clerk

Resolution: ***The policy was reviewed and approved***

2022/453 Review of the Council's policies, procedures, and practices in respect of its obligations under freedom of information and data protection legislation– The Clerk

Resolution: ***The policy was reviewed and approved***

2022/454 Review of the Council's policy for dealing with the press/media. – The Clerk

Resolution: ***The policy was reviewed and approved***

2022/455 Review of the Council's employment policies and procedures– The Clerk

Resolution: ***The policy was reviewed and approved***

Planning

2022/456 Planning Decisions:

<u>Reference</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Status</u>
18/00001/MAS	Land North of Warren House Roxwell Road Writtle Chelmsford Essex	Application	Pending Decision
21/01545/OUT	Land North of Warren House Roxwell Road Writtle Chelmsford Essex	Application	Pending Consideration
22/00549/FUL	Woodside Chignal Road Chignal Smealy Chelmsford Essex CM1 4SU	Application	Application Permitted

2022/457 Planning Applications:

1. Reference: 22/01150/FUL Address: The Old Rectory Chignal Road Chignal Smealy Chelmsford
Description of works: Single storey link extension between the house and existing garage and outbuilding

The **Chignal Parish Plan**, 2016, includes a Key Task to “support residents to improve their homes and stay in the village” and this is amplified in Objective 20, “to support opportunities for local residents to improve their homes or move to other properties in the Parish as a result of down-sizing, setting up new households or requiring additional care in line with the **Chignal Villages Design Statement (VDS)**”.

The VDS gives guidance on house extensions, Page 20, “extensions should be sympathetic to the property and in harmony with the surroundings”. In addition, “extensions should not unduly affect adjoin residents and

should not completely fill the available space, as it is important in a rural community to provide views of the countryside beyond and thus avoid the urbanisation of the street scene.”

Chelmsford Local Plan Policy DM11 Extensions to existing buildings within the green belt, green wedge, and rural area. Within the Rural Area the extensions must not adversely impact on the identified intrinsic character and beauty of the Rural Area. In all designations, the extension or alteration must not be out of keeping with its context and surroundings or result in any other harm.

The extension and alterations to the interior of the house give additional office space to this property which also alters the external appearance, but from the rear elevations which will not be seen from the road / front elevation, and only from the owner's garden.

The only visible changes to the front elevations are alterations to the existing garage roof line and pitch with additional timbers being fixed to match the house. It is also proposed to remove the existing shed which is replaced with a glazed link "corridor" building with timber boarding to the front, so visually little front elevation change.

Overall, the design of the link extension “blends in” well with the existing property apart from the choice of material for the glazed link roof. The addition of the “Metal Standing Seam” roof over the glazed link will look very modern and almost "industrial" in this residential location. The use of small clay tiles to match the existing tiles on the house, garage and garden room would look better and complement the original building. However, it is noted that as most of this glazed link is at the rear, it will hardly be seen from the front elevation and lane.

Resolution: Recommended for APPROVAL but suggest that the choice of roof covering for the new link section be reconsidered.

2. Reference: 22/00904/FUL Address: The Thatched Cottage Chignal Road Chignal Smealy Chelmsford

Description of works: Construction of a detached outbuilding to form an annex ancillary to the main dwelling.

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The Parish Council recommended approval of the original planning application in November 2021 to convert an existing garage and outbuilding to form a one bed annexe, which incorporated all the same details to match the original thatched cottage and complimented the old buildings.

This application was refused. The current proposal is for a timber boarded, flat roof, poorly designed “shed style” building located at the bottom on the garden and away from the main building. Whilst the application notes that this will be hidden from view by the existing hedge, which may apply in the summer months, in the winter this will be seen directly from the road that it adjoins.

The Parish Council considers that the original application which was refused would have resulted in a much better refurbished annexe building than the current proposal which is neither sympathetic to the property nor is it in harmony with the surroundings.

Resolution: Recommended for REFUSAL

3. Reference: 22/00974/FUL and 22/00975/LBC Address: Crows Farmhouse 189 Chignal Road Chelmsford CM1 2JE

Description of works: Demolish existing garage and build two storey side extension on a listed building. Oak porch canopy

Resolution: No Comment

4. Reference: 22/01188/FUL Address: Stevens Lodge Mashbury Road Chignal St James Chelmsford
Description of works: Single storey side orangery extension. Alterations to existing fenestration

Resolution: This kitchen extension is being constructed at the rear of the property and as such will not easily be seen from the front elevation or the road, some minor internal alterations are also included in the scheme to relocate some of the rooms and give an improved access / entrance hall. The new extension is being constructed over the existing swimming pool area and is a single storey flat and part pitched roof extension with matching blue / black slates and black timber boarding on the external elevations.
The new windows and doors are also to match the existing property and decorated in black, and with all these matching features being included in the scheme this will blend in with the existing building.
We consider this to be a well-designed scheme with the attention to the external appearance and for these reasons would recommend full approval.

2022/458 Update on the National Grid East Anglia Green Consultation

The Parish Councils response was sent in on time and shared with our MP, National Grid's land agents, Fisher German, The Rt Hon Greg Hands MP, Minister of State for Energy, Clean Growth and Climate Change, Ofgem, Chelmsford City Council (Leader of the Council) and Essex County Council (Leader of the Council).

2022/459 Chelmsford Local Plan Review

Discussion around the Issues and Options and noted that the public consultation is deferred to mid-July – September 2022

2022/460 Update on the Conversion of barns west of Beaumont Otes

The planning officer wrote - I have spoken to my enforcement colleagues and to our heritage officer about the tiles. To deal with the issue of the orange tiles we have asked them to artificially weather the tiles. This will involve covering them in a soot wash. This work should currently be taking place. Once the artificial weathering work is complete, we will assess if it has had the appropriate impact. If it is deemed acceptable then we will take no further action. If it is still not acceptable then we will request that they change the tiles. Below I have set out our current position on each of the buildings.

Building A (units 1 and 2)- Conversion works are currently underway on this building. We are content that the works taking place are within the scope of the planning consent and can therefore continue.

Building B – This building is the modern agricultural building towards the rear of the site and was approved to be used for purposes ancillary to units 1-4. The developers wish to demolish this building and construct four new detached garages to serve units 1-4. This work would require planning permission.

Building C (units 3 and 4)- This building has collapsed. The developers want to rebuild the two units. They will require planning permission for this.

Building D (unit 5)- The conversion of this building is virtually complete. The developers seek to make minor changes to window positions which we expect to be included either within the new planning application or within a separate minor amendment application.

Building E (unit 6)- Work on this building is currently underway. Our heritage officer has visited the site to assess this building and is satisfied that they can conduct the conversion works in line with the approval.

Building F (unit 7)- This building has also been demolished. The developers wish to construct a replacement building. This would require planning permission.

Building G (Unit 8)- The conversion of this building is almost complete. The roof tile matter is being dealt with as I have set out above. The developers have also constructed a new double garage which requires planning permission.

Building H- This building is being converted into an annexe in association with Unit 8. We are of the view that this falls within the scope of the permission and conditions if it is not used independently from unit 8. Work is currently underway on this building.

In summary a new planning application is required for.

- the demolition of Building B and replacing it with garages,
- the rebuilding of buildings C and F (units 3,4 and 7) and.
- the new garage for unit 8

We are expecting the planning application to be submitted shortly and it should cover all the elements above. The applicants may also wish to include any other amendments that they are seeking to make. The Parish Council will have the opportunity to comment on any new planning application that is submitted.

Finance

2022/461 Finance:

Account Balances:

Cheque Account £ **6,740.64**

Included in figures above:

Orchard Account £2,012.71

Saving Account £ **39,452.06**

- Interest Payment £2.97 to move to current account
- General Reserve £21,094
- Cil £18,279.31
 - Community Group Meetings £120

Total £ **46,192.70**

To approve the following payments:

Date	Item	Payment Value	Budget Heading
Budget 2022-23			
11.07.2022	Cllr Lewis - Orchard parts	£9.95	Orchard
11.07.2022	Cllr Lewis-Tea & Coffee- Community event	£9.67	Reserve
11.07.2022	HMRC - PAYE	£38.60	salary
11.07.2022	Essex Pension Fund - Clerk Pension	£147.31	salary
11.07.2022	Clerk - Wages - July	£160.88	salary
11.07.2022	Parishioner Expenses for Jubilee	£19.20	Reserve
11.07.2022	Parishioner Expenses for Jubilee	£397.66	Reserve
11.07.2022	Internal Auditor Cost	£125.00	Auditors Internal
		£908.27	

Resolution: The payments were approved.

2022/462 Review of the Bi-monthly bank reconciliation

Resolution: The accounts were checked to the cash book with zero difference.

2022/463 Update on the Current Budget performance 2022-2023

Budget Heading	Staff Costs	All Other Payments											
	salary	Expenses	training	IT & Web	insurance	EALC RCCE	Auditors Internal	Play field Maintenance	Bank charges	Hall hire	newsletter	S137-Grants	Total Precept Expenses
	£4,000	£200	£200	£500	£300	£220	£440	£700	£30	£500	£750	£160	£8,000
Spent	£1,089	£11	£0	£1,095	£212	£185	£0	£211	£6	£70	£0	£0	£2,875
Forecast Spend	£3,267	£32	£0	£0	£0	£0	£180	£200	£18	£200	£750	£0	£4,648
Forecast Balance	-£356	£157	£200	-£595	£88	£35	£260	£289	£6	£230	£0	£160	£478

Resolution: The performance to budget was noted.

2022/464 Discuss the Internal Auditors Report – The Clerk
Defer to next meeting as the report was not available at the time of the meeting

REPORTS AND UPDATES

2022/465 Representatives' Reports: to discuss and debate any items.

- A) Little Hollows / Copperfield Place Liaison - Cllr Elwick
- Landscaping is not finished and needs to be maintained for 5 years.
 - Cllr Elwick to contact the site management team to resolve the lack of landscaping works.
- B) Playing Field - Cllr Elwick and Cllr Towns
- No issues
- C) Village Hall Liaison - Cllr Towns
- No issues
- D) Community Engagement - Cllr Nelson and Cllr Stainton
- New parish Website Presentation
 - The new website was show that is much more interactive and colourful.
Resolution: Working Group to be created to discuss the content of the new website and keeping it updated. VH Committee, Community Group, Cllrs Ballard, Elwick, Lewis, Stainton, Towns, Nelson, and the Web master. Content, Feedback, Updates, E-mails and launch date.
 -
 - Newsletter - The last physical issue to be prepared to coincide with the launch of the new website.
- E) Community Safety – Cllr Lewis
- First Aid Course – ATH ran the training course, very engaging. Nineteen people able to attend.
 - Sign required for exact location of the defibrillator unit –
Resolution: A spend up to £200 for signage and fixings approved.
 - Potential for a Saturday Morning course.
 - Update on Cameras and warning signs
 - Five warning signs have been installed.
 - **Resolution: The Clerk to check the CCTV policy is on to the website**
- F) Highways (include Hedges) - Cllr Towns, Cllr Ballard, and Cllr Elwick
- ECC Members Led Carriageway Pothole Repairs Programme: Nominations
 - Three potholes have been submitted to Cllr Steel.
 - Overhanging Roadside Hedges
 - Reminder it's all-landowners responsibility to maintain both sides of their hedges.
- G) Footpaths/Bridleways – Cllr Nelson and Cllr Towns
- Review bridleway to Pengy Mill – the Bollard causing a problem
- H) Tree Warden - Cllr Ballard
- No update.

- I) Countryside Conservation - Cllr Ballard, Cllr Lewis, Cllr Nelson, and Cllr Stainton
- Management of The Green – request a Meeting with Chelmsford City Council Parks and Green spaces to discuss grass cutting regime and tree care.

2022/466 Cil Applications

- Grant Application request for the Parish Council to purchase a mower to manage areas of the playing field not cut by the contractor i.e., the croquet courts, football goal, around the gazebo, car park edges and along the roadside edge. Guideline cost of £4,000

Deferred until next meeting

2022/467 Items for the next Agenda

- Feedback from the Working groups
- Beaumont Otes
- Local Plan
- Agree date for the community meeting October
- The internal Auditors report for 2021-2022
- Playing field mower purchase and future maintenance of amenity areas in the parish

Meeting closed 21:28
W. Adshead-Grant

Next meetings:

Monday 12th September 2022

Monday 14th November 2022