

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 Chignal Parish Council held on Monday 8th January 2024 at 7.30pm.

Governance

2023/651 Chairman's Welcome

2024 is a year of opportunity. The Parish Council has a new website and is planning a new look newsletter. Potential community projects funded by CIL are being reviewed. The Community Group has a sell-out racing night with a waiting list. The Community Group will also help with the orchard. A new edition of the Welcome booklet is being arranged.

There are also some challenges. Flying tipping – Chelmsford City Council have cleared several instances in the last few weeks very quickly. The next Norwich to Tilbury Pylons consultation will be held in 2024. Chelmsford Local Plan Review – Preferred Options consultation expected in first half of this year.

Chair: Ballard.

Cllrs: Elwick, Nelson, Lewis, Towns and Stainton.

2023/652 Apologies for Absence

All members present.

2023/653 Register of Declarations of Interests and any requests for dispensation

Nothing was requested.

2023/654 Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 13 .11. 2023.

Resolution: These were confirmed.

2023/655 Note the Orchard sub-Committee minutes of 3rd January 2024.

The planned meeting was deferred due to ill health.

2023/656 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.

3 members of the public in attendance.

2023/657 County and City Councillors' Reports

i. Essex County Councillor Report – Cllr Mike Steel

- **LHP**

The 24/25 budget has not yet been allocated, so I do not have a view on whether the Gateway is funded, but I will be promoting its inclusion.

- **Update on the Member Led pothole scheme.**

If you have any issues with the repairs, please email me with it and a photo, and I will raise with the Member Led scheme manager.

In terms of the repairs opposite Gardening Express, if you send photo, I will investigate, but it is possible that Highways will have the view that such pothole repairs on the edge of the road are difficult.

- **Outcome of subsidised Bus Services Consultation**

Supported local bus routes are commissioned where commercial bus routes do not provide a service and where the conditions of the Local Bus Service Priority Policy are met. This includes a £5 cost per passenger journey (CPPJ) measure which is used to assess value for money for taxpayers.

Cabinet considered a report in summer 2023 which agreed that there should be consultation on the future of currently subsidised routes, dividing them into three categories: 'successful', 'at risk' and 'low use'. The consultation ran from July to October 2023.

The majority of the bus network in Essex is operated on a commercial basis, but historically 15% of the network has been subsidised by the County Council where bus operators are unable or unwilling to provide them commercially. The supported services are known as the 'supported local bus network.'

Recommendations that affect Bromfield and Writtle division:

Agree to procure the services listed at Appendix D using the ECC Dynamic Purchasing System for a period of two years with the option of two one-year extensions.

10 Temple Grove to Pleshey Monday to Friday	To procure the service for 2 years with extension opportunities for 1 year plus 1 year with the fixed timetable retained and the flexible element removed.
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Agree to enter into one-year contracts with the current provider for those contracts for the services listed at appendix E.

17/18 Great Dunmow to Chelmsford Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday	That the service be procured on the current basis until 2026 with extension opportunities for a further 1 year plus 1 year.
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Agree Digigo for a further two years and note that ECC may extend this arrangement for two further one-year periods.

- **Digigo**

Digigo is extending the service beyond the pilot for an extra 2 years! Digigo is a fully electric shared public transport service which offers on-demand or pre-bookable travel in parts of Essex. There is no fixed route or timetable, which puts you in control of your journey. Digigo is booked through the [TravelEssex](#) journey planning app. Digigo covers much of my Broomfield and Writtle Division and extends into the northern part of Writtle. Digigo operates 7 days a week, from 7am until 10pm. Fares are capped at £2 per journey, or concessionary passes apply. www.digigo.uk

- **Fibre to the Premise – FTTP**

Essex County Council recognises the benefits digital can bring – from enabling economic growth and supporting people in getting the best start in life, to helping to create a great place to live and work. We're driving forward plans for Essex to become a digital-first county and have launched a strategy which aims to boost digital connectivity and tackle digital exclusion. As part of that strategy, Gigaclear are rolling out FTTP to Writtle, Great Waltham, Gt Leighs, Highwood and Roxwell with speeds up to 900Mbps. You can find out more and register your interest at gigaclear.com.

- **National Grid (NGET) – Pylons**

Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk councils jointly commissioned an [independent report](#) which questions the timings of the projects and questions NGET's preferred land-based pylon line. All 3 county councils have said that this option will harm the local economy, environment and the health and wellbeing of their communities. The report challenges the delivery date of 2030, and instead suggests 2035 which would reduce the cost of an integrated offshore alternative. The 3 Councils have "a clear preference is for a coordinated, offshore centred approach, delivered at pace to minimise onshore works" In addition, our MP Kemi Badenoch, is writing to the Minister for Nuclear and Networks at the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero to share this report and make it clear that the three councils: [County Councils remain united against Norwich to Tilbury onshore option](#). I recently hosted Kemi at the Great Waltham/Little Waltham "pinch point" to emphasise just how close the pylon route is to the residential area and known heritage sites.

Also, ESO (separate to National Grid Electricity Transmission) have begun their study - which will analyse onshore and offshore options. The review, which will be part of the ongoing Norwich to Tilbury pylon proposals, will take around 3 months and more information on its scope can be found here: <http://www.nationalgrideso.com/.../offs.../east-anglia-study>

- **ECC Boundary Review:**

To be in place for May 2025 ECC elections. Objective is to ensure each Cllr represents approx. the same number of residents. Now in second round of consultation ends 13th Feb 2024. Final recommendation will be published June 2024.

Increase of ECC Cllrs from 75 to 78 and policy of 1 Cllr per division. Each Cllr covering around 15,848 (11% increase even with 3 more Cllrs) including forecast population growth. Impact on Broomfield and Writtle division is loss of Gt Leighs, and addition of Margaretting and Stock. i.e., some shrinkage to the North, but large expansion to the South. Individuals or Parish Councils can respond to the consultation - <https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/essex>

- **Reducing speed limits on residential roads** – motion to full ECC Council on 12th December - to implement a Council-wide 20mph speed limit on residential roads as soon as is practically possible. Having been put to the meeting the motion was lost. I have since spoken to Safer Essex Road Partnership (SERP) Chair. They are still preparing the Road Hierarchy Review, and Speed Strategy. I know that they favour 20mph in appropriate locations – e.g., past schools, or where road layout encourages lower speeds.

ii. Chelmsford City Councillor Report - Cllr Nicolette Chambers

- LGA is running a course entitled Personal Safety for Councillors, this is via Zoom platform and is set for 28th February.
- Local plan review and minerals proposals.

Planning

2023/658 Planning Updates:

- National Grid – Norwich to Tilbury transmission options – update on public consultation and government funding for offshore coordination. See Mike Steel’s report 2023/657 regarding a study commissioned by the 3 County Councils and the ESO review of onshore and offshore options. In addition, The Department for Energy Security & Net Zero has recently announced funding for three offshore projects to consider if they could deliver a coordinated offshore connection. Once all of these studies are published National Grid state that they will back-check and review their proposals for Norwich to Tilbury and present conclusions at the next stage of consultation.
- Planning enforcement from CCC. See item 2023/676, landscaping at Copperfield Place.

2023/659 Planning Applications:

<u>Reference</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Status</u>
18/00001/MAS	Land North of Warren House Roxwell Road Writtle Chelmsford Essex	Pending Decision
21/01545/OUT	Land North of Warren House Roxwell Road Writtle Chelmsford Essex	Pending Consideration
23/01421/FUL	Barn South Hillcroft Chignal Road Chignal Smealy Chelmsford Essex	Application Permitted
23/01092/FUL	The Three Elms Mashbury Road Chignal St James Chelmsford Essex CM1 4TZ	Application Refused
23/00972/FUL	Woodhall Farm Chignal Road Chignal Smealy Chelmsford Essex CM1 4SU	Application Permitted

Finance

2023/670 Implementation of community projects – consider feedback from residents / clubs / groups.

- Table tennis – turned down the opportunity for another table as it was felt it would be unsafe to add another table.
- Village Hall various projects – Village Hall Committee to consider at their March meeting.
- Village Fete Committee – Pop up gazebo – no update.
- Parish Council – secure storage of community laptop and printer – options to be considered by the Village Hall Committee.
- Community Orchard – Bid for CIL money, see next item.
- Parish Council – tree planting scheme – lack of land available for planting that is owned by the parish council. Other land to be considered, such as the Nature Park.
- Defibrillators – see agenda item 2023/676.
- Flood warning signs – Essex Highways will not allow signs to be put up.
- Parish Council – Playing field – pétanque court – investigate the demand for a court.
- Parish Council – Car Park – review other options for locking the gate.

2023/671 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) – Consider applications for funding community projects.

- Community Orchard – Ladder, kneelers, forks, and hoes. Quotes up to £626.

Cllrs Ballard and Lewis did not take part in the vote as they are members of the committee.

Resolution: This was approved.

- Community Group – funding for hiring the village hall for their meetings around £120 per annum.

Resolution: This was approved.

- Reprint of the Footpath Guide.

Resolution: Approved to delegate to Cllr Lewis to spend up to £150.

2023/672 Chignal welcome / information booklet – consider updating and re printing in 2024. Using the current framework. Booklet for handout and a pdf for the website. Potential funding by creating a trade directory.

Resolution: Cllr Ballard will undertake a co-ordinator role.

2023/673 Finance:

Account Balances:

Cheque Account £ **8,840.98**

- Community Event £140 (Croquet Club pitch hire)
- Interest receipt £135.90

Orchard Account £ **1,558.27** (Included in cheque account)

- Community Event £150 (included in orchard account above)

Saving Account £ **43,930.91**

- General Reserve £21,280.
- Cil £22,650.25
 - Cil (Beaumont Otes) £2353.25 (included in Cil total above)

Total £ **52,771.89**

Resolution: Clerk to review other banking options to maximise our interest earning potential.

2023/674 To approve the following payments:

Chignal & Mashbury Village Hall - annual storage hire	£20.00	Reserve
HMRC- Paye- December	£80.60	salary
Essex Pension fund- December	£219.73	salary
clerk salary & expenses - December	£328.77	salary
Cllr Ballard - Orchard Rakes	£107.50	Orchard
Essex pension fund - January	£166.43	salary
HMRC PAYE - JANUARY	£47.80	salary
DM Payroll	£60.00	salary
CLERK SALARY & EXPENSES - JANUARY	£197.75	salary

Totals £ **1,228.58**

Resolution: The payments were approved.

2023/675 Review of the Bi-monthly bank reconciliation.

Resolution: The account is aligned with the cash book.

REPORTS AND UPDATES

2023/676 Representatives' Reports: to discuss and debate any items.

- Little Hollows / Copperfield Place Liaison - Cllr Elwick.
 - Completion of Copperfield Place landscaping work.
 - Poor quality landscaping work. Trees damaged, out of the ground, snapped stems. Minimum 50 trees that are dead.
 - Hedging lying dead. Extensive hedge around the field does not exist.
 - Estimated as a £100m housing scheme when Persimmon built the development.
 - Update from CCC Planning Enforcement.

Resolution: Awaiting response from CCC before escalating.
- Playing Field - Cllr Elwick and Cllr Towns
 - Nothing to report.
- Village Hall Liaison - Cllr Towns
 - Additional locks fitted.
 - Successful Coffee and Mince Pie event in December.
- Community Engagement - Cllr Nelson
 - Community laptop and printer – update on storage options.
 - Waiting on VH having a meeting to discuss.
 - Parish website launch - progress report and training.
 - Waiting on the web designer to create some space in his diary for final training sessions.

Resolution: Cllr Nelson to be trained up and then train the clubs and groups.

 - Chignal News – proposed new format, content, frequency, and circulation.
 - Linked to the website launch using mail chimp.
- Community Safety – Cllr Lewis
 - Update on options for siting and managing a Defibrillator in Chignal Smealey.
 - No update.
 - Clockstock festival, Boyton Hall Farm, June 2024 – feedback from CCC licensing committee.
 - Average age of the music festival attendees is 49. All tickets must be purchased in advance. One day event. Noise monitoring. Expected 15,000 attendance. Suggested the potential for an annual event. Music 11am to 10.30pm. Bar closed by 11pm.
- Highways (include Hedges) - Cllr Towns.
 - Update on LHP funding for village entry gates. See Mike Steel's report 2023/657
 - Potholes- inadequate repairs on Mashbury road opposite Gardening Express entrance. See Mike Steel's report 2023/657 requesting new photos.
 - Road Flooded – Update on clearing blocked road drains.

Resolution: Cllr Ballard to raise directly with Cllr Steel.

 - Directional sign to Chignal Smealey: Hollow Lane/Chignal Road junction
No update from Persimmon or ECC.
- Footpaths/Bridleways – Cllr Nelson and Cllr Towns.
 - Footpath 30 Chignal - Unofficial Diversion.
 - Monitor over the next month.
- Tree Warden - Cllr Ballard.
 - Nothing from CCC on re-establishing the Tree Warden network.
 - No trees reported blocking the roads following storms.

- Countryside Conservation.
 - Essex Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS). Report on briefing for Parish Councils.
 - This will impact on the Chelmsford Local Plan. Essex County Council are leading the strategy with input from Essex Wildlife Trust and a range of other partners.
 - The LNRS will make recommendations for a series of actions for nature recovery and opportunity maps for the county indicating the best locations to bring about maximum benefit for nature. The LNRS will collate local opinion and recognise the existing treasures and success stories within the biodiversity of the county.
 - The Parish Council has submitted a list of existing projects to the LNRS Co-ordinator that contribute to enhancing biodiversity in Chignal, such as wildlife surveys, the Community Orchard, tree planting and the Nature Park. Other opportunities will be researched and efforts made to engage more residents.

2023/677 Items for the next Agenda.

- Basic Generic IT training offer – Cllr Nelson.

Next meetings:

Monday 11 th	March 2024	Monthly Meeting 7pm & Annual Parish Meeting 8pm.
Monday 13 th	May 2024	Monthly Meeting and AGM at 7.30pm
Monday 8 th	July 2024	Monthly Meeting 7.30pm
Monday 9 th	September 2024	Monthly Meeting 7.30pm
Monday 11 th	November 2024	Monthly Meeting 7.30pm

Meeting Closed: 21:35
 Will Adshead-Grant
 Clerk to the Council.