

No. 205
July
2021



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CHIGNALS WITH MASHBURY

Chignal News

Little Hollows - re - Wilding



Carpet Bowls Club

Meeting at Chignals and Mashbury Village Hall, Chignal St. James CM1 4TS

We guess like most of you we are looking forward to participating in some of our regular pastimes very soon and this includes playing Carpet Bowls.

We are making some changes to our bowls sessions. The Bowls Club will now be meeting on **Monday afternoons and Thursday evenings**. We will be adhering to Government, Bowls Association and Village Hall Association guidance regarding Covid-19 safe regulations. This will include distancing and sanitisation amongst others.

Our new meeting times will be as follows: -

Thursdays - 7.30pm to 10.00pm

Mondays - 2.00pm to 4.30pm

After having spent most of the last 15 months in lockdown in and around our homes now is the time to try something new and meet new people. Come along to the Village Hall and give bowls a try. All equipment is provided, and tuition will be given.

Please ring either Gordon on 01245 231406 or Yvonne on 01245 440189 first to make sure we will be at the hall when you intend joining us.

See you soon!

CHIGNALS & MASHBURY VILLAGE HALL

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Owing to the extension of the Government COVID19 restrictions this meeting has been postponed until further notice. The *revised date will be advised as soon as possible.

** Subject to Government Covid 19 guidelines in place at the time*

In Memorium

We have been informed of the death of one of the Chignals oldest parishioners. James Redman was 102, when he died at the Lawns Nursing Home on 7th June. It is hoped that we can publish a tribute to James and his life in the next publication. Personally, I remember James or, Jim as he was known, attending garden club meetings. I was always struck by his knowledge of plants, the Chignals and the countryside.

“FRIENDS OF THE CHIGNALS WITH MASHBURY”

Do you have an occasion when you need a helping hand?

If so, we can offer for example:

Assistance with Light Shopping

Help With Attending Appointments (Doctor, Dentist, Vets etc.)

Prescription Collection / Library Book Returns etc.

Help With Seeking Advice or Filling In Forms etc.

Companionship / Someone to Talk to

Light Domestic Duties etc., etc.

We realise that you may already have a kindly relative, friend or neighbour helping you in some way. However, on the odd occasion, there may be times that they are unable to be there for you. If so, please contact us between the hours of 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. on one of the following telephone numbers:

01245 440241 - (Helen), 01245 443497 – (Sarah),

07798 922219 - (Julia), 07856 951245 – (Maggie),

01245 440880 – Lynn),

01245 440339 – (Joan), 01245 440528 – (Barbara)

We will call you back as soon as possible to discuss your individual needs. Please leave your name and telephone number if we do not answer your call immediately.

Note: Please keep this notice handy as it might be useful one day.

Chignal Parish Council

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

Tel: 01245 360811 Email: Chignalpc@gmail.com

Clerk: Will Adshead-Grant

Chair: Lynn Ballard

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

Vice Chair: Linda Nelson

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting and the Bi-Monthly Meeting of the Chignal Parish Council held on-line on Tuesday 4th May 2021.

2021/258 Election of the Parish Council Chairman

Resolution **Cllr Ballard was elected.**

2021/259 Signing of the Declaration of office by the Chairman.

The declaration was signed.

2021/260 Election of the Vice-Chairman

Resolution **Cllr Nelson was elected.**

2021/261 Chairman's Welcome

Good mix of skills and experience in the Parish Council. Election for the County Council, Police, Crime and Fire Commissioner this week. Last online meeting as the Covid Act powers were not renewed. July Meeting will be face to face in the village hall. The Three Elms pub is up for sale as a business.

Chair Ballard

Councillors Nelson, Stainton, Lewis, Elwick, Towns

2021/262 Apologies for Absence

None

2021/263 Register of Declarations of Interests and any requests for dispensation

Cllr Nelson - neighbour – 2021/279 – item 1

2021/264 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.

9 members of the Public present at the meeting.

Gardening Express – The parking for lorries and staff has not been created. Parking is still on the road and creating safety issues for road users.
Concerns about the lack of progress.
Erosion of the road edge/verge is a constant problem. Police feel they have no jurisdiction, neither Chelmsford City Council nor Essex County Council have powers to control parking and obstruction on the highway. Way forward is to ensure the planning condition to provide on-site parking is fulfilled.

A statement was read out from the owner of Gardening Express that stated that the works would be carried out. Some preparation work has been completed. The delays were due to a steel shortage and low temperatures.

20/02039/FUL – Owner of the land is against the application and has not been served with any Notice.

The applicant is aware that they do not own the land.

Admiration for the Parish Council Budget, which is very tight, and the Chignal News is produced currently at no cost.

2021/265 Review and Adopt the Standing Orders.

Resolution **The standing orders were adopted.**

2021/266 Adopt the Financial regulations.

Resolution **the Financial regulations were adopted.**

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2021/267 To confirm membership of the EALC and NALC for a year at a cost of £153.79.

Resolution **Membership Approved**

2021/268 To confirm membership of RCCE and pay the subscription in June when it falls due.

Resolution **Subscription approved**

2021/269 Reappoint the internal auditor – Maurice Howard.

Resolution **Approved**

2021/270 Review and approve the asset register.

Resolution **Approved**

2021/271 Review and approve the risk assessments.

Resolution **Approved**

2021/272 To Review and approve the Terms of Reference and Membership of the Parish Council Committees.

- a. Orchard Committee. *Members: Chairman and one councillor*
Cllr Ballard, Cllr Lewis
- b. Staffing Committee. *Members: Chairman, Vice-chairman and one councillor*
Cllr Ballard, Cllr Nelson, and Cllr Towns
- c. Planning Committee. *Members: Four Councillors*
Cllr Ballard, Cllr Elwick, Cllr Towns and Cllr Stainton

2021/273 Review representative areas of responsibility

| | |
|---|---|
| Little Hollows / Copperfield Liaison | Cllr Elwick |
| Playing Field | Cllr Towns, Elwick, and Nelson |
| Village Hall Liaison | Cllr Towns |
| Community Engagement | Cllr Nelson and Stainton |
| Community Safety | Cllr Lewis |
| Highways (include Hedges) | Cllr Ballard, Towns and Elwick |
| Footpaths/Bridleways | Cllr Nelson and Towns |
| Tree Warden | Cllr Ballard |
| Countryside conservation and climate change <u>(Inc Friends of Nature Park)</u> | Cllr Ballard, Lewis, Nelson, and Stainton |

2021/274 Confirmation of arrangements for insurance cover in respect of all insurable risks.

Resolution **Approval to accept up to 10% of a change in the premium. Additional sums above this requires a meeting of the Parish Council to approve.**

2021/275 Review of the Council's complaints procedure

Resolution **Approved**

2021/276 Review of the Council's policies, procedures, and practices in respect of its obligations under freedom of information and data protection legislation

Resolution **Approved**

2021/277 Review of the Council's policy for dealing with the press/media.

Resolution **Approved**

2021/278 Review of the Council's employment policies and procedures

Resolution **Approved**

2021/279 Planning Decisions:

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1. **20/02039/FUL.** Woodfall, Chignal Road. Chignal Smealy. Two storey rear extension with a further single storey extension with balcony above. Construction of new 1 bedroom bungalow to rear of property.

The Parish Council submitted detailed comments on the original application 20/02039/FUL in March 2021. In this amended application all the drawings and information remain the same, however we understand that the description of the proposed works was revised for clarity and to allow the correct assessment to occur. Our comments have been amended to reflect the change of description but the recommendation for Refusal still stands.

The property "Woodfall" is situated close to Grade 2* listed St Nicholas Church and a picturesque cricket ground. Twenty-five per cent of the buildings and structures in this small rural hamlet are listed, creating a distinctive period feel with many of the properties owing much to Chignal Smealey's brick making heritage.

This application is for a rear extension to the property to form a large kitchen area, 7m x 7m, providing an additional 50sqm of accommodation on the ground floor, with a large en-suite master bedroom and a same sized rear roof terrace, (with high brick sides) above.

In addition, there is a proposal for the demolition and removal of a double garage at the rear and to one side of the garden, to be replaced by a much larger detached one-bedroom dwelling, (now described as a residential annex rather than a detached bungalow), 15m x 4m, providing an additional 60sqm dwelling space.

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 residents to improve their homes or move to other properties in the Parish because of down-sizing, setting up new households or requiring additional care in line with the (VDS)". However, no evidence is provided by the applicant to support the need for such a significant increase of dwelling space in this rural area. The application only indicates that the bungalow would provide an additional 1-bedroom unit of Market Housing.

Two storey rear extension with a further single storey extension with balcony above

The Chignal Villages Design Statement (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".

The property "Woodfall" has already been extended to the front and rear. These extensions and square dormer window have resulted in a lack of harmony in the overall appearance of the house, (particularly the side elevations). This lack of design balance would be exacerbated by the proposed rear extension to the ground floor and the large amount of brickwork that would be added to the side elevation to enclose the sides of the terrace above it. This is to give an element of privacy to both the occupants and neighbours. To lessen the impact of this unrelieved brickwork, alternative and softer materials could be considered, such as boarding or cladding, obscure glass balustrade, or with some relief details included in the brickwork, which would improve the view from the neighbouring properties either side of "Woodfall".

It is that noted that, as would be expected, all materials used for the rear extension would match the existing building. The existing glass block panel in the dining room and on the East elevation of the main house is removed and replaced with a glass window to match the others. As this window is only 1m away from the boundary of the neighbouring property, "Hunters End", obscure glass should be fitted to prevent overlooking.

Construction of a residential annex to rear of property.

The proposed detached one bedroom dwelling now described as a residential annex is more than double the size of the concrete garage which it would replace and would be sited only 2.8m from the boundaries of two adjoining Victorian properties: "Ivy Cottage" and "Church View". The new bungalow has two windows at the side, (kitchen and bathroom) that will overlook the small rear gardens of these adjoining properties. These windows are not noted as obscure glass. All the other windows face the adjoining field but are close to its boundary.

The bungalow's location is at the rear of the house and squeezed into the side strip of land, being only 1.5m from the boundary on two sides. There is no indication of services, drainage routes or future maintenance access. The application incorrectly states that the property is connected to main drainage. The site of the proposed new dwelling has several inspections covers; this could indicate that this is the location of Woodfall's septic tank. If the existing septic tank is located on the footprint of the new dwelling, a new drainage system should be provided in a different location which would require planning approval. Details should be provided of the proposed drainage,

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especially as more bathrooms are being added and the bungalow would require a full kitchen / bathroom and rainwater drainage system to be installed.

The proposed building shoehorned into a small corner of Woodfall's rear garden is inappropriate in a rural location and not a long-term solution to providing additional housing to meet local need. As no reference has been made to the requirements or need for this additional residential accommodation, a condition should be attached to any planning consent to ensure this is not rented out separately to the main house or sold off independently.

The proposed building would also be visible from a very well used Bridleway (43) that passes in front of Church View and Ivy Cottage.

Vehicle Parking

The application states that there is no change in the number of parking spaces available at the property although this application necessitates the demolition of a double garage, (which is not being replaced). It would appear therefore that there would be a reduction in the number of parking spaces at the property. As part of this application includes the building of a separate one bed "residential annex", this could result in additional vehicles being kept at the site necessitating an increase the parking spaces available, especially as there are several vehicles in use currently based at the property.

Chelmsford Local Plan policies relevant to this application

Policy DM8 New buildings and structures in the rural area

Planning permission will be granted for new buildings and structures in the Rural Area where the development will not adversely impact on the identified intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside. B) Redevelopment of previously developed land (whether redundant or in continuing use and excluding temporary buildings). Planning permission will be granted where the proposed development would not result in harm to the identified intrinsic character, appearance, and beauty of the area. The Council will assess the development based on the following: i. the size, scale, massing and spread of the new development compared to the existing; and ii. the visual impact of the development compared to the existing; and iii. the impact of the activities/use of the new development compared to the existing; and iv. the location of the site is appropriate to the type of development proposed. C) Replacement buildings. Planning permission will be granted for the replacement of a building provided that: i. the existing building being replaced is of permanent and substantial construction; and ii. the new building is in the same use as the existing; and iii. the new building would not be out of keeping with its context and surroundings and does not result in any other harm.

Policy DM9 – Infilling in the green belt, green wedge, and rural area. B) Green Wedge or Rural Area. Planning permission will be granted for infilling in the Green Wedge or Rural Area provided that: i. the site is a small gap in an otherwise built-up frontage; and ii. the development does not detract from the existing character or appearance of the area and would not unacceptably impact on the function and objectives of the designation.

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.

Policy DM29 Protecting Living & Working Environments. Development proposals must safeguard the amenities of the occupiers of any nearby residential property by ensuring that development is not overbearing and does not result in unacceptable overlooking or overshadowing. Development must also avoid unacceptable levels of polluting emissions unless appropriate mitigation measures can be put in place and permanently maintained.

Recommendations

This amended application should be **REFUSED** on the following grounds:

The impact of the rear extension to Woodfall is out of keeping with its context and surroundings in the hamlet of Chignal Smealey and will impact on the views of the neighbouring properties (as described above), contrary to Policy DM11 and DM29. The application could be resubmitted with more design details included, especially with improvements made to the appearance of the side elevations of the house.

The construction of new 1 bedroom building, (now described as a residential annex) to rear of the property is contrary to:

Policy DM8 as the location of the site is not appropriate to the type of development proposed and the new building would be out of keeping with its context and surroundings.

Policy DM9 as the site is not a small gap in an otherwise built-up frontage and the development detracts from the existing character or appearance of the area.

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Policy DM29 as development proposals must safeguard the amenities of the occupiers of any nearby residential property by ensuring that development is not overbearing and does not result in unacceptable overlooking or overshadowing.

A local resident has informed the Parish Council that he owns land on which the proposed residential annex is to be sited but he has not been served with the required Notice by the applicant. We understand that if the Certificate of Ownership is incorrect that this can be a material matter in considering planning permission.

2. **14/01677/FUL:** Beaumont Otes, Chignal Road, Chignal Smealy - Construction of an agricultural steel portal framed building designed as a purpose made grain storage & drying facility.

Resolution: Request Landowner to plant trees to screen the grain storage buildings.

Resolution: Discuss with Chelmsford City Council on scope for additional verge side tree planting

3. **16/01155/AG:** Land North West of Pieces Cottage, Mashbury Road, Chignal St James, Chelmsford Agricultural building for the purposes of a horticulture business

Resolution: The planning consent expires on June 26th, 2021. Parish Council to monitor the provision of on-site parking and turning areas at Gardening Express. If in breach of the planning consent the Parish Council will highlight this to Planning enforcement.

Resolution Chairman to contact Planning enforcement to understand next steps.

2021/280 Planning Applications:

1. **20/00121/S73:** Land and Buildings West of Beaumont Otes Cottage, Chignal Road, Chignal Smealy. Description of works: Variation to condition 2 of permission 20/00121/FUL - (Conversion of existing buildings, including partial re-building of building G and roof alterations to buildings B, E and H, to form 8 dwellings and provide ancillary residential uses (in Building B). Construction of three detached single garages. Provision of three bin refuges, hard and soft hard landscaping, boundary treatment, car parking spaces and communal amenity spaces). Alterations to Unit 8.

The four new drawings submitted show the rebuilding of barn G/8 that faces the road. This amendment to condition 2 is required due to the collapse / demolition of this building. A photograph of the building in 2020 is attached which shows its condition.

The revised drawings show a proposed new building of the same size and layout having three bedrooms, bath and lounge on the original barn footprint and a kitchen constructed in a new extension at the south end of the building: all as previously approved. This amendment to condition 2 indicates that Unit 8 will be constructed from existing and salvaged materials, (bricks and roof tiles) from the collapsed barn.

The other 7 barn conversions are unchanged and are not mentioned or revised in this new application. We would wish to be consulted on any subsequent amendments to these buildings.

The Chignal Villages Design Statement guidance on change of use of redundant buildings is, "that when agricultural buildings are converted, they should retain their original 'barn' character".

As these revised drawings are virtually identical to the originals, the Parish Council would not wish to revise its comments on the approved full application apart from requesting that if the salvaged materials (brick and tiles) are limited, that they are used on the side of the barn facing the road to maintain the traditional and mature appearance from the lane. Before it was demolished, this brick barn was a prominent historic feature in the local agricultural landscape as shown in the attached photographs dating back to around 2007. We would wish to reiterate the importance of retaining the rustic character and aged brick appearance of barn G/8 facing the road. This could be achieved by utilising only the saved and salvaged bricks, using traditional lime mortar with the bricks laid in the same bond as the original and incorporating the brick features visible on the old photographs. Similarly, only the original pan tiles should be used on roof. Samples of materials to be used and close monitoring of the rebuilding of this barn will be required to ensure that the new building stays as true as possible to the original.

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In reconstructing this barn, a concern is that the walls may be built higher than the original to overcome the internal headroom problem which will result in taller more dominant building than the one it replaces. We should also like to reinforce our comments submitted on the original application regarding a suitable landscaping scheme and to request that planning / building control ensure the use of any salvaged materials where possible on all eight of the barn conversions.

Recommendation: Approval

2. **21/00526/FUL:** The Marin's, Mashbury Road, Chignal St James. Demolition of existing Conservatory. Single storey rear extension & single storey rear infill extension

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 residents to improve their homes or move to other properties in the Parish because 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 adjoining 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".

The existing glass conservatory with a pitched roof will be replaced by a single storey flat roof extension on the east side of the house. In addition, a single-story infill extension is proposed on the rear of the west facing side of the house. As both extensions are at the rear of the property, they would not be visible from the road, but it would be preferable to have a pitched and tiled roof on both proposed extensions. This would match the rest of the house and the general style of the other neighbouring properties.

Although the proposed building materials for both extensions will match the existing render used on the existing building, it is noted that the whole ground floor of the property is face brickwork and only the top section, (first floor) is an existing render finish.

It is not considered that the proposed rear extensions will affect the amenities of the adjoining residents.

Chelmsford Local Plan policies relevant to this application

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.

Policy DM29 Protecting Living & Working Environments. Development proposals must safeguard the amenities of the occupiers of any nearby residential property by ensuring that development is not overbearing and does not result in unacceptable overlooking or overshadowing. Development must also avoid unacceptable levels of polluting emissions unless appropriate mitigation measures can be put in place and permanently maintained. It is considered that the proposal for two rear extensions does not impact adversely on the character and beauty of this rural area and is in keeping with its context and surroundings. The development would not be overbearing or result in an unacceptable level of overshadowing.

It is recommended that this application be **APPROVED**.

3. **Reference: 21/00706/FUL:** Address: Woodhall House Chignal Road Chignal Smealy Chelmsford. Description of works: Construction of a single storey rear extension

The proposed works include a rear ground floor "family room", providing an additional 28sqm of living space attached to the rear corner of the house. This is connected to both the existing kitchen and lounge with openings to both rooms and double-glazed doors opening onto the garden.

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 residents to improve their homes or move to other properties in the Parish because 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 adjoining 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".

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It is noted that the extension is to be built with red face brickwork to match the existing house with a pitched tiled roof, again to match the existing roof tiles. The roof details include two glazed roof skylights and a raised brick parapet detail, which then forms two matching box gutters to each side of the new roof giving a balanced appearance from the garden.

The joinery is noted to match the existing windows and doors with a feature glazed elevation overlooking the garden and terrace.

This property sits on a large plot with trees and hedges along the Chignal Road. As the proposed extension is at the rear, it will not be visible from the road. It is a well-designed extension which is small in relation to the overall size of the house. It would be sympathetic to the property and in harmony with the surroundings.

Chelmsford Local Plan policies relevant to this application

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.

Policy DM29 Protecting Living & Working Environments. Development proposals must safeguard the amenities of the occupiers of any nearby residential property by ensuring that development is not overbearing and does not result in unacceptable overlooking or overshadowing. Development must also avoid unacceptable levels of polluting emissions unless appropriate mitigation measures can be put in place and permanently maintained. It is considered that the proposal for a rear extension does not impact adversely on the character and beauty of this rural area and is in keeping with its context and surroundings. The development would not be overbearing or result in an unacceptable level of overshadowing.

It is recommended that this application be **APPROVED**.

4. Discuss Gardening Express and recent complaints from residents in the Parish.
Duplicated item.

2021/281 County and City Councillors' Reports

- i. Essex County Councillor Report – Cllr John Aldridge
This is his last meeting due to his retirement after 16 years' service. More broadband consultations to reach the more difficult areas. County Council is taking donation of laptops – these will be wiped before issue. Covid -19. Letters sent to each household. Little Waltham Park&Ride reopens on the 17th of May. Tindall Square will be closed to allow conversion to a pedestrianised area. Hollow Lane decision is imminent, but this may be delayed by the new make up of the County Council. Gardening Express delivery lorries are using Writtle parish roads which is breaking both weight and potentially speed limits.
The time limit is running down on the planning permission.
- ii. Chelmsford City Councillor Report - Cllr Nicolette Chambers
Apologies

2021/282 Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council on 8th March 2021

Resolution **The Minutes were confirmed.**

2021/283 Note the Orchard sub-Committee minutes of 1st April 2021.

Resolution **The minutes were noted.**

2021/284 Review the Accounts for 2020/2021 and the final position of the budget.

Resolution **The position of underspend of £2998 due to covid noted.**

2021/285 Finance:

| | | | |
|-------------------|----------------|---|-----------|
| Account Balances: | Cheque Account | £ | 19,508.56 |
| | Saving Account | £ | 37,618.11 |

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Total £ **57,126.67**

To approve Cheques to be signed and issued:

| | | | |
|------------|--------|--------------------------|---------|
| 01.04.2021 | 100973 | orchard rent - via clerk | £200.00 |
| 01.04.2021 | 100974 | ealc annual payment | £153.79 |
| 09.04.2021 | 100975 | clerk - April wages | £110.51 |
| 09.04.2021 | 100976 | Essex pension fund | £127.67 |
| 09.04.2021 | 100977 | HMRC | £25.80 |

Resolution *The payments were approved.*

Total Payments £617.77

2021/286 Review of the Council's expenditure incurred under s.137 of the Local Government Act 1972 or the general power of competence.

Resolution *Spend £0 2020-2021*

2021/287 Review of the Bi-monthly bank reconciliation

Resolution *The account reconciliation was approved.*

2021/288 To confirm and sign the Annual Governance Statement which forms section 1 of the Annual Return for Local Councils, Internal Drainage Boards, and other smaller authorities in England for the year ended 31st March 2021.

Resolution *The Annual governance was confirmed and signed.*

2021/289 To adopt the Annual Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2021 – Pre-Audit and to sign the Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2021.

Resolution *The Annual accounts were adopted.*

2021/290 Representatives' Reports: to discuss and debate any items.

A) Little Hollows / Copperfield Place Liaison - Cllr Elwick

Over the next few weeks, the development of the houses in Chignal parish will be complete.

The completion of the roads and signage is slow.

The area in front of the Blue House has been rotavated and grass seeded by the owner of the house.

Concerns raised over the new junction approved by Essex Highways and the 40MPH signage – suggest a site meeting with the new County Council representative for the ward. A briefing paper of highways issues to be produced.

B) Playing Field - Cllr Elwick and Cllr Towns

Follow up on the new information board.

Football goal being well used.

Some croquet games have now been held.

Concerns about some trees at the bottom of the field.

C) Village Hall Liaison - Cllr Towns

Village hall is open for the elections.

Following the Covid road map Carpet Bowls will restart in May.

The Hall will be open for booking from the start of July.

Work to commence on the base of the shed in late May.

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Shed is due to be completed end of June.
Coffee Mornings to start again on 7th July.

D) Community Engagement - Cllr Nelson

Chignal News: May edition – Hardcopy – items by the 17th of May.
Meeting to be arranged with Cllr Stainton to improve the website content.

E) Community Safety – Cllr Lewis

Approve policy for collecting and using data from security cameras to deter fly tipping and other crimes. Cllr Nelson and Lewis will progress the policy. 12 sites within the Parish.

Additional camera to be purchased.

Defibrillator at the Village Hall Car Park has had new pads installed.

Plan a litter pick in March 2022.

Potential litter pick towards the end of the year (discuss in September).

F) Highways (include Hedges) - Cllr Towns

Call for any photographs that anyone may have to show blocked drainage areas.

Update on permanent extension of 40mph signs on Chignal Road, north of Hollow Lane. Decision deferred until after ECC elections.

Update on proposal to restrict vehicle access to Hollow Lane. Decision deferred until after ECC elections.

Discuss actions on the incorrect road names being used in the Parish. This has been passed by Chelmsford City Council to Sat Nav mapping company.

G) Footpaths/Bridleways – Cllr Nelson and Cllr Towns

Consider measures to promote the Countryside Code and support landowners.

Some overhanging trees have been cut back.

Surface of the bridleway is improving for horse users but not a good surface for walkers.

G) Tree Warden - Cllr Ballard

Suggestion for additional trees between Woodside and Beaumont Otes grain storage buildings. See item 2021/279 (2).

Dead elms on Mashbury Road between Britton's Hall and Braddock's – Local Landowner will remove.

2021/291 Consider local actions to mitigate the impact of climate change and improve biodiversity: report of meeting with the City Council's Climate Change and Ecological Emergency Ambassador.
Resolution Discuss a plan for the Community Meeting in October on these topics.

2021/292 Update on the "Friends of Nature Park" scheme to manage access to the restored landfill site, Chignal St James.
Signage is in place. Locks are on the two gates. Forms have been created for permissive bridleway usage. 15 or 16 members.

2021/293 Update on renovation and repairs to the Telephone Box in Chignal Smealey by BT.
No update

2021/294 Discuss and explore options for a provider of online banking.

Resolution Clerk to present options at the next meeting.

2021/295 Confirmation that the Cricket Ground has been confirmed as an asset of community value for the next 5 years.

2021/296 Items for the next Agenda
Community Group – Grant

Chignal Parish Council AGM & May Minutes continued P10

- Update on the Three Elms Pub.
- Beaumont Otes Planning update
- Update on Meeting with New Essex County Councillor
- Update on Gardening Express works on parking
- Community Meeting

Next Monthly Meeting Wednesday 28th July 2021 7.00pm in Chignal Village Hall
13th September 2021,
8th November 2021.
Community Meeting date to be confirmed.

Meeting Closed 21.28
Will Adshead-Grant
Clerk to the Council

The Chignals Parish Bird Feeder Study

As part of the parish wildlife survey that was completed early this year, we looked at what birds visited garden feeders. We had eight households who helped us out in this study and got a variety of birds visited the gardens.

There were big differences as to which birds visited which garden, even though the gardens seem to be similar.

We would like to understand why there is such a difference and would like you help by extending the survey to the whole of the parish.

To study the birds, we would position a small trail camera in front of the garden feeders to photograph the different birds as they visit.

The camera would only be in place for 2 to 3 days and we will let you know what we see, how it compares to other gardens and send you pictures of the birds if you want.

If you would like to help, please contact me via chignalnestbox@aol.com. You do not need to do anything regarding the setting up the cameras etc., but you need to be feeding the birds during the summer.

Thanks for your help, Jon Lewis

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Come and visit North Melbourne Library where we have a wide range of books to loan, DVD's, spoken word, reference titles, and a photocopier. Connect to the Internet on our Public Network computer. This service should be pre booked and has use of a scanner and printing facilities, or use our Wi-Fi enabling you to connect with your own laptop, tablet or smart phone.

Visit www.essex.gov.uk/libraries for any information or phone 03330 132682

NEW OPENING HOURS

Tuesdays 9.00-5.30pm

Fridays 9.00-7.00pm

Saturdays 9.00-5.00pm

Although a lot of our normal meetings and children's sessions are still closed due to covid restrictions, we are hoping to go ahead with our Summer Reading Challenge for children of all ages which will start from July 10th, 2021.

Women's Institute

Our last meeting was held in March 2020 and shortly after that it became apparent that we would not be able to meet again for quite some time.

The Committee took the decision to publish a monthly newsletter to maintain contact with our members. One of our members, Gloria Nichols, took on the role of Editor and every month produced a ten page newsletter containing information from the National and County Federations as well as letters and articles from our members.

Many members have written to say how much they looked forward to receiving the newsletter as it helped to lift their spirits during these difficult times.

We are currently planning an informal outdoor gathering for our members in July and, Government guidelines permitting, we hope to resume meetings in the Village Hall in August. Details of future meetings will be posted on the notice board in the Village Hall, our meetings are usually held on the first Thursday of the month, 2 p.m. for a 2-30 start, visitors are always welcome.

Wendy Steele.

Chignal Cricket Club

CM1 4TA



League Team Div 8,
New players welcome

14+ Mon night 6.00 pm
Adults & experienced players
Friday night after 6.00 pm

Contacts Alastair B-S - 07979 344662

abevittsmith@gmail.com

Club Sec Matt Porter - 07842 116801



Chignals Wine Discovery

Maybe with a nod to International Women's Day (which fell a few days before the March wine group evening), but definitely with a hint of nostalgia for past holidays, three of the ladies joined forces to present wines from places they'd enjoyed visiting.

Accompanying the notes about the wines sent out in advance, were recipes for people to prepare for eating at home whilst tasting the wines.

So for a starter, the proposed paired dish was a Jamie Oliver sticky onion tart with salad and the wine was a Chenin Blanc from South Africa. It was also suggested that this would accompany goats' cheese well for people who wanted to focus on wine and cheese combinations.

The main course was accompanied by a Sardinian wine made from the Cannonau grape, which is the local name for the Grenache. Roughly one bottle in five of Sardinian wine is Cannonau so if you've been there, you've probably sampled it. A baked mushroom risotto was the main dish with the option of pecorino cheese.

The most popular wine of the evening was a dessert wine from Australia – De Bortoli Botrytis Semillon 2016 which was universally enjoyed. Some participants had made a chocolate mousse to go with it and others tasted it with blue cheese or Brie.

Many thanks to Sue, Lynn and Sandra for all their research and to Joan for the home grown bay leaves supplied for the tart recipe!

We are hoping to be off Zoom and back in the village hall for the September meeting.

Sue Davies



Mike Steel - New County Councillor for Broomfield and Writtle division

After 16 years of being the County Cllr for Broomfield and Writtle, John Aldridge has retired. I would like to thank John for his dedicated service over that time. I was fortunate to be elected in his place on the 6th May 2021. I have a history of addressing ECC issues and now I can deal with them from the inside as a County Cllr.

My background includes being a Parish Cllr for the last 20 years and I am also a City Cllr for Broomfield and the Walthams. The Broomfield and Writtle County Council division is physically large and covers a number of rural parish areas, namely Writtle, Broomfield, Great Waltham, Little Waltham, Great and Little Leighs, Chignal, Good Easter, Highwood, Pleshey, Roxwell, Mashbury and the new developments in Broomfield, Little Waltham and Chignal. I intend to join the many Parish Council meetings when I can, and have already started. I am a great believer in Parish Councils and their knowledge of the local issues. Like John, I will continue to send information on ECC initiatives and issues to future editions of your parish magazine.

If you have problems about County Council issues, such as highways, flooding, overgrown verges, public rights of way, fly tipping etc, I would encourage you to report them, in the first instance, on the ECC website, <https://www.essexhighways.org/tell-us>

If you need to contact me, email me on cllr.mike.steel@essex.gov.uk

“Sid” The Chignal Swan



The Chignal Swan

Hi everyone. Did you happen to see a mature 'Mute' swan in the fields around the Chignal Smealey area recently? It was first noticed some weeks before Christmas, in the field diagonally opposite Maple View. At first it was thought that it may be injured so the R.S.P.C.A. were called out to inspect it. An officer soon arrived and tried to catch the swan to inspect it but it managed to escape and she had to give up. She left, informing me to keep an eye on it and to report back if the swan appeared to be stressed in any way.

Some weeks and three calls later to the R.S.P.C.A., I informed them that the swan was still there. I was told not to worry as this is common practice for swans. Apparently if a swan loses a mate it starts to mourn its loss and either stays behind if cygnets are involved or moves to another lake/pond to carry on its grieving. They can be there for weeks until they decide to move on to find another partner. Mute swans usually mate for life if they can.

A Chignals Community Group member informed me that a swan had died on the lake behind 'Maple View' and a cygnet was taken away by the R.S.P.C.A. So it was assumed this must be the male member of the sad swan family.

"Sid", as he was now called, decided to stay and appeared quite happy to stay in the same field. He adopted the use of the deep ditch between the field and the lane. Swimming up and down it quite happily. I often saw his rear end sticking up the air when he was retrieving weeds etc., from the bottom. He appeared to be very intelligent. As soon as he heard my front door open to bring some food he would start to waddle towards the field entrance. He would then follow me to a safer distance further up the field for me to feed it. He gave a snort almost to say thank you. Feeding times gave me the opportunity to 'look him over' and he appeared to be okay. He became like a friend and was not afraid of me. The feeling was mutual. He was most appreciative on the very icy cold mornings.

Well, he became quite a celebrity. Families and the odd rambler would stop and take photographs of him. Joggers would stop and jog on the spot just to look at him. He must be the most photographed swan I know. A herd of deer, hares etc., would visit his feeding spot. It was quite educating watching all this going on from my upstairs window with my binoculars. People should try this from their windows, it is so interesting.

I am pleased to say that "Sid" has been away from the field for 2 days now.

I happened to observe 2 mature swans flying across the field towards the Chignal lake from the direction of Broads Green. So I am hoping that it is Sid and his new partner he has found and it will be a happy ending. I will continue to watch out for him as I hope everyone else will. I hope you have enjoyed this true story.

Best Wishes...Barbara Miller, Maple View, Chignal Smealey. X

Photos from the Orchard



Cowslips or peggles as they are known in Essex



Viola Hirta - "Hairy Violet" a new colonizer of the orchard - discovered this spring



Plum Blossom

Chignals and Mashbury Jubilee Community Orchard

We all know that bees pollinate flowers and are vital to fruit production in our orchard, but did you know that most flowers are pollinated by solitary bees? Jon Lewis, one of our orchard committee members has been delving into the fascinating world of bees for us.

There are at least 267 species of bees in United Kingdom, only one species of honeybee, 25 species of bumblebees and the remaining 241 species are solitary bees.



Honeybees (*Apis*) form a collective group with a single queen who lays eggs and the male drones and female workers who collect pollen or feed the growing larvae respectively. Man has learnt to utilise the colony forming activity of honeybees by providing hives as a home for the queen and drones. In the wild, honeybees will form colonies in holes in trees and sometimes buildings. The worker bees form a network of hexagonal cells or comb using a wax secreted by glands in their abdomen. The queen lays an egg in the cell and this develops into a larva and is initially fed a specialised food known as royal jelly by worker bees. Later the larvae will be fed either pollen and honey, so they develop into workers or drones or royal jelly if the larvae is to develop into a queen. The colony or hive of bees

Honeybee can be as big as 60,000 individuals but they act in concerted way to the benefit of all the insects. Bees pollinate flowers as they use their glossae (the equivalent of tongues) to reach into flowers to collect the nectar and brushing the pollen onto the hairs on legs or abdomen. Honeybees have a specialised area on their hind legs called pollen baskets where they collect pollen for transport back to the hive. Honeybees are generalised flower pollinators as their glossae are short and cannot reach into some flowers, also they visit many different species of flower.

Bumblebees (*Bombus*) can also form groups or colonies but are less well organised than honeybees as each bee will have multiple roles. There is a queen who lays the eggs and other bees who collect pollen and nectar, there are wax cells for the larvae but not an organised honeycomb as seen with honeybees. Bumblebees form their nests in holes in the ground or sometimes in tree holes, colony size is normally between 20 and 200 individuals. We have found Bumblebee nests in the hay piles along the side of the orchard. Bumblebees have a longer glossae and reach deeper into flowers to collect nectar so will pollinate certain flowers such as red clover which honeybees cannot.



White tailed bumblebee

Solitary bees are the largest group and pollinate more flowers than honeybees or bumblebees. These bees do not have pollen baskets on their legs, but

specialised hairs called scopa. The reasons they are such good pollinators is: their glossae are often longer and therefore they are able to feed on nectar from a variety of flowers; some bees have a specialised choice of flower but many are polylectic meaning they collect pollen from a number of different flowers; pollen does not fix on to the scopa on their legs as well as honeybee pollen baskets so more pollen can become detached as they move from flower to flower; and, finally they are very active compared to honeybees. Solitary bees do not sting unlike honeybees when annoyed.



Red mason bee

They live solitary lives and lay their eggs in hollow stems, holes in walls or in the ground. The female lays an egg and surrounds it with pollen and nectar then builds a partition wall, lays another egg adds pollen and nectar, builds a partition wall and repeats until the whole of the tube or hole is filled. The end of the tube or hole is sealed with leaves, or hair, or mud depending on the actual species of bee. The larvae develop by eating the pollen and nectar and then hibernate until Spring when they pupate and leave to collect nectar and pollen and lay eggs. Adult solitary bees are only flying around for about 4 to 6 weeks, different species of bees will be out at different times of the year from Spring, Summer and Autumn.

Solitary bees as a species are divided into further groups such as mining, carder, leafcutter, cuckoo bees. Species are often described according to their abdomen colour, banding or shape. In appearance, some species of solitary bees can look like honeybees, bumblebees, wasps and even flies, so easily confused with other insects. There is also class of bumblebee and solitary bees called cuckoo bees. These bees do not build nests but lay their eggs in other bee's nests and the larvae eat the stored pollen and nectar, hence the name cuckoo after the predatory bird.



Solitary Bee hotel in our Orchard

Numbers of all bee species are in decline, probably because of the use of insecticides, more intensive farming, changes in environment due to climate change and increasing urbanisation. But there are things that can be done to improve the chances for bees: planting a variety of flowers, building or buying (solitary) bee hotels and leaving areas of the garden undug to allow bumblebees and solitary bees to nest underground.

Tawny Mining Bee



To become an Orchard Friend and receive regular updates on the orchard, please email: chignal.mashburyjubileeorchard@hotmail.co.uk

Gardening Club

Sadly all club activities in the Village Hall are still currently on hold due to the Coronavirus restrictions, but as some restrictions have been eased, we have now been able to organise our first summer visit to Fudlers Hall, Fox Road, Mashbury, CM1 4TJ on Wednesday 14th July at 2 p.m. The price is £8 person to include tea and cake.

As the Village Fete was cancelled, the club held a plant sale on the playing field on 29th - 30th May

Thanks to all those that helped with set up and take down, donated plants and also rehomed some plants. The sale raised £185, of which the Club Committee agreed to split as follows:

£50 to the Chignals Community Orchard

£50 to the Gorkha Development Scheme (a charity that supports rural communities in Nepal and who donated some of the plants to the sale. For further information see <http://www.nepal.co.uk/>).

£85 towards Gardening Club funds.

If you are new to the Village or may be considering joining the club once restrictions ease, we normally meet at the Village Hall in Chignal St James at 7.30pm on the 3rd Wednesday of each month from October to November and January to April for interesting talks on a wide variety of topics.

We also organise four garden visits during the summer months (May to September) and the plant stall at the annual Village Fete in June. We are a very friendly club and welcome new members. You don't need to be an expert to enjoy the varied talks, demonstrations and visits.

Notes from the Editor

As I collated articles for this edition of the Chignal News – the first one to be printed in over a year, I was struck once again by the number of people that are active in our community, how much you care about both the people and the flora and fauna that inhabit our parish.

The need for all of us to take an active role in trying to improve our environment was the subject of the service at St Nicholas' Church on what we could do as Christians to try to make an impact in reducing climate change. Similar services were held across the country.

In November 2021, the UK government will chair the COP26 United Nations summit on climate change in Glasgow, which will be the most significant climate event for years. All the countries will be asked to make big reductions in their carbon emissions, and it is vital for the world's future that they do. St Nicholas' is joining with other UK churches in a "Make COP26 Count" programme, which will highlight the churches' own commitment to climate action, and we will be urging the government to give it top priority.

As Chair of Chignals parish council, Lynn Ballard, told the congregation, what our parish is already doing, this included the Orchard with its wildflower meadows and over 70 heritage trees, which encourage and support wildlife. Trees and wildflowers have also been planted around the parish and more recently in the Little Hollows development. As individuals we all need to try to make a difference; for example, using our cars less, recycling, especially clothes and buying less new clothes. We also need to involve the young, as they are often very passionate about the impact adults are having on their future planet. If we start now, we can all make a difference!

Chignals & Mashbury Village Hall



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Reverend Diana Garfield (on right)



Revd - Diana Garfield Introduces Herself

It is an honour and privilege to be called to serve as your new Associate Priest in the parish of Chignals with Mashbury. I already feel quite at home here as I know the parish well having assisted with worship at St Nicholas from time to time as both Reader and Priest over the last 20 years. I also live close to the parish boundary in Pickwick Avenue in Newland Springs and walk my dog daily around the fields and footpaths of the parish.

I was ordained in September 2017 after many years as a Reader and served my curacy at St Mary's Broomfield. As well as serving here I continue to work as an Associate Priest in Broomfield and I hope that we can build relationships between the two parishes to our mutual benefit.

I am what is known as an SSM (Self-supporting minister) and I have committed to giving pastoral support in the parish one half day a week and leading worship in church. We will continue with our monthly services in St Nicholas' church on the third Sunday of each month at 11 am, and I hope to be able to offer other less formal opportunities for worship in our church as we go forward. I will also try to attend some village meetings and functions and hopefully get to know all of you in the coming months.

A little about my life outside church – I retired from working as a librarian at Anglia Ruskin University in 2012. In that year I also received my doctorate for research about the self-identity issues faced by Christians working in a secular workplace. Do ask me about this if you want to know more but be prepared for a long conversation!

I am blessed with a lovely family – 3 grown up sons - one in France, one in Sussex and one currently in Chelmsford. I also have 2 beautiful granddaughters in Sussex, aged 3 years and 6 months, whom I try to see as much as possible.

I am looking forward very much to working with you all to discover what God has in store for us here in the next year. My contact details are below. Do email or phone if you wish to speak to me. My most important job here will be to pray for you all and I will be doing that every day. Usual rest day - Monday

Best wishes, Diana

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