



Clerk: W.J. Adshead-Grant

Minutes of the meeting of Pleshey Parish Council held at Pleshey Village Hall on Wednesday 8th March 2023 at 8pm.

2022/829 Chair's Welcome

Chair: Loudfoot

Councillors: Groves, Kenning, Holland, Howeson and Sommerville.

2022/830 Apologies for absence

Cllr Gunn.

2022/831 Declarations of interests (existence and nature) regarding items on the agenda.

No declarations of interest.

2022/832 Public participation session for anyone with an interest in the Parish

2 members of the public attended– They highlighted that the drainage works have not been completed. Highways visited and worked on the drainage, but they came with the wrong equipment. They were investigating a culvert. They drained the area. A digger is needed to try and excavate to find a head wall. However, the water is still gathering on the road and creating a hazard.

2022/833 Confirmation of the Monthly meeting Minutes held on the 8th of February 2023.

Resolution: The minutes were confirmed.

Planning

2022/834 Local Planning Authority updates

Reference: 23/00159/CUPAQ

Address: Barn North of Bury Farm Bury Road Pleshey Chelmsford

Description of works: Determination as to whether the prior approval of the local planning authority is required for the proposed change of use from agricultural buildings to 3 dwellinghouse (Class C3).

Resolution: The Parish Council welcomes the addition of three dwelling houses in the parish.

Finances:

2022/835 Update on accounts:

- **Current Account £10,748.13**
- **Reserve Account £20,011.15**

2022/836 Payments for Approval:

<u>Payments from Cashbook 2022-23</u>		
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Date	Details	Chq	Total	Budget Header
05.03.2023	Grass Cutting - Viewing Point	101055	£500.00	Open Spaces
05.03.2023	Clerk - March Salary		£127.36	Salary
05.03.2023	HMRC - PAYE		£61.20	Paye
05.03.2023	Essex Pension Fund		£135.03	Pension
05.03.2023	JCM – Grounds works at Playground		£1,848.00	GJPA Refurbishment
05.03.2023	Sovereign Invoice		£8004.48	GJPA Refurbishment
05.03.2023	100 Parish Society		£10.00	Subscriptions

2022/837 Review and approve Monthly Bank Recon

Resolution: ***The reconciliation was approved at zero difference.***

2022/838 Community Funding request – Youth Club of Pleshey.

Resolution: ***The Parish Council wishes Russ well and defers the item to next month.***

Reports and Updates:

2022/839 Clerk's Report and actions to be undertaken.

- Clerk to Digitise the records of any loose-leaf minutes – this slowly continues.
- Clerk to Book training days for Councillor Groves – cancelled as elections in May.
- Bridge at Rooters Hill – LHP request on signage of a shared space Motor traffic and pedestrian – Clerk to chase up the paperwork.
- Update on banking online. -Members to try and access accounts.

2022/840 Update on the Golden Jubilee Playground equipment refurbishment and fundraising

All the work to date has been done well by sovereign. All works have been started. The Archaeologist did not find anything of interest. The gate has had the soil level raised by JCM. The swing seat is to be fitted and the temporary fences taken away.

2022/841 Risk Register.

Road diversions due to utilities works and risk of harming roads.

Extra signage required for the playground.

2022/842 External authorities report.

Coronation

ECC have received correspondence from the Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, stating that the Coronation will see people across the UK and the Commonwealth come together to celebrate. The Coronation program will include the procession and service at Westminster Abbey on 6 May, the 'Coronation Big Lunch' across the country on 7 May (with a concert taking place in Windsor in the evening), and 'The Big Help Out' community activity on the bank holiday, Monday 8 May. The letter goes on to say that councils should encourage events and relax road closure rules and offering guidance on street meets. National Lottery funding is available of up to £10,000 for events and activities through the National Lottery Awards for All program and you can encourage community groups to apply. The awards for All do not have a deadline, but it can take up to 12 weeks from the point of application submission to receiving funding, which means applications for the Coronation weekend should be made before the middle of February

Ukraine

The hosting scheme is now a year old. I have received correspondence that says that Govt continues to support Ukraine refugees with £150 million of new UK-wide funding in the 2023/24 financial year to local authorities and devolved governments to help support Ukrainian guests move into their own homes and reduce the risk of homelessness. There is a launch of a £500 million Local Authority Housing Fund, which will provide capital funding directly to English councils in areas that are facing the most significant housing pressures as a result of recent Ukrainian arrivals.

However, the reality is slightly different. Many District Councils, including Chelmsford City Council, have a long waiting list for social accommodation. Private rental requires Guarantors which District Councils are unwilling to provide because of the onerous and open ended commitment(although they setting up rent deposit guarantee funds). In my opinion, continuation of hosting is the easiest option, but some hosts, having provided accommodation for a year, are limited in what they can continue to do. I am aware of some hosting coming to an end, and difficulties in obtaining their own homes, and would ask anyone to contact me if they can commit to being a host.

Member Led Pothole Scheme

I have now entered in all my 36-pothole allowance – actually entered 51 locations:

- 38 completed.
- 3 works issued.
- 1 referred to water company.
- 9 accepted but awaiting response.

I have thanked the Cabinet Member, Cllr Lee Scott, for the scheme and expressed how successful it has been. On several occasions I have suggested a similar scheme for footpaths. I am pleased to say that Cllr Scott has announced a further £4M for a similar scheme in the new FY which will also include pavement defects.

SID Poles

LHP requests for additional SID poles require a speed survey to show speeds in excess of the speed limit by 10mph. Alternatively, the Parish Council can fund these. I previously reported that a cheaper option will soon be available whereby the Parish Council can request existing lampposts to be audited to assess if they can be used to mount a SID. Cllr Cracknell and I have discussed this and decided this is a potential option for Bridge Street. I was hoping the process would be in place by march, but it is delayed and I do not have a date yet..

Recycling Centers Booking system.

ECC have decided to implement a booking system for the Recycling Centers from Monday 13 March. This was a Cabinet decision and I have to admit that I am not fully on board with it! I understand this is to help manage waiting times, reduce congestion, and improve the customer experience. The booking process has already been trialed using the Rayleigh Recycling Centre. I am a member of the Scrutiny Committee that reviews this decision and I will ensure that the decision is well scrutinised. - in terms of benefits and drawbacks (e.g., impact on fly tipping). Some sites do suffer queues, sometimes backing onto major roads. I am told that just applying the booking system to these, could result in residents travelling to other sites and creating queues there. There is no restriction on the number of bookings you can make as long as the waste you are disposing of is household waste. I understand that same day booking will be introduced. More info at <https://www.essex.gov.uk/news/booking-system-planned-for-essex-recycling-centres>

2023 RideLondon-Essex

RideLondon will return Sunday 28th May along the same route as last year. This route goes through 3 of the Parish's in my division, but also effects all the others. Because of the issues last year, I insisted on being on the Steering Group and particularly wanted to make sure that the businesses that were badly affected last year, do not suffer the same issues. More info at ridelondon.co.uk/community-info including info on how local access will operate.

There will be two Public Meeting/Consultations in my division:

- 13th March at Writtle College
- 6th April in Great Waltham

Highway Rangers Service:

The Chelmsford Highway Rangers service is administered by Chelmsford City Council but funded by ECC. ECC have given notice that they intend to cease funding the service as part of budget savings. Given that the service addresses County Council, City Council and Parish Council tasks, the Conservative group proposed an amendment to the City Council budget for City Council to continue the service and to be funded by freezing members allowances and better projections on the refurbished theatre income. Unfortunately, the amendment was defeated at the city council budget meeting. All parties accept that the Highway Rangers offer a valuable service that address those tasks that generate pride in our environment that otherwise can only get done by a more elongated enforcement process

City Council Matters:

Parish and City Council Your vote matters on 4 May 2023

This May, local elections are happening to elect councillors to all wards across Chelmsford City Council, as well as some parishes. Councillors make important decisions about your local area so make sure to vote and have your say! Everything you need to know about the elections can be found at www.chelmsford.gov.uk/elections.

Registering to vote - You need to register before you can vote in UK elections and referendums. You can do this at <https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote>. The deadline to register is Monday 17 April 2023. You don't need to re-register if nothing has changed since you last voted, such as your name or address.

Voter ID - You now need to bring photo ID to vote in person. There are lots of different versions of ID that will be accepted, including passports, driving licenses, bus passes and blue badges. If you don't have any ID that you can use, you can apply for a voter authority certificate for free before Tuesday 25 April. Visit <http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID>.

Postal and proxy votes - If you will be away or can't make it to your polling station on 4 May 2023, you can apply to vote by post or by proxy on the Chelmsford City Council website: www.chelmsford.gov.uk/elections. The deadline for a postal vote is Tuesday 18 April, and the deadline for a proxy vote (appointing someone to cast your vote for you) is Tuesday 25 April.

Could you be a councillor? - If you want to get involved in local democracy, then you can either stand as a representative of a political party or as an independent candidate. The deadline for nominating yourself is Tuesday 4 April. A briefing session will take place in early March. Find out more at www.chelmsford.gov.uk/voting-and-elections/stand-for-election/.

2022/843 Coronation Event to coincide with the 6th of May.

An organising meeting was held last month. There are 7 volunteers in the organising committee. The plans are proceeding at a good speed.

2022/844 Grange Road drainage.

The clerk to contact Cllr Steel for an update.

2022/845 Parish Elections May 2023.

The clerk to send the link to Cllr Loudfoot who will print off the forms.

2022/846 Items for the next agenda – All

- Staff appraisal.
- Annual assembly – guest speaker – Village agent ?
- Plaque for the coronation.
- Paperwork from Russ for the grant.
- Update on playground works.
- Footpath works by ECC – farmers burn back.
- Report on the litter picking.

12.04.2023	Monthly Meeting @ 8PM
04.05.2023	PARISH ELECTIONS
10.05.2023	Annual Assembly @ 8PM
17.05.2023	AGM & Monthly Meetings @ 8pm
14.06.2023	Monthly Meeting @ 8PM
13.09.2023	Monthly Meeting @ 8PM
11.10.2023	Monthly Meeting @ 8PM
08.11.2023	Monthly Meeting @ 8PM

Meeting Closed 21:17
Will Adshead-Grant