

Chelmarsh Parish Council

Minutes of Chelmarsh Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 24th September, 2025 at 7.30pm in Chelmarsh Parish Hall.

Present: Cllrs R Woods (Chairman), T Cole (Vice-Chairman), A Cadwallader, R Bebb, D Garrett, D Strong.

Shropshire Council Cllr G. Hollyhead

Parishioners: 2

Speakers: 2 – R Bozwell (South Staffs Water, Ian Childe (Contractor to SSW)

Clerk: Mrs F Morris

0) Parishioner's time:

The Parish Council had invited South Staffs Water to attend due to the number of complaints received when they move sludge from their Hampton Loade works into fields at Chelmarsh.

A parishioner expressed his concern regarding the speed of the tractors and trailers and questioned the weights of the trailers. He also commented that he has documentation which states that following the compulsory purchase of the land for the reservoir and that the road being used was not a 'haul' road but a link to the two sites.

The contractor provided a printout of all the speeds/weights of the tractor/trailers being used which proved that everything was above board.

Another resident complained regarding the amount of dust, which was horrendous and covered cars, tables at the pub where people were trying to eat/drink on a nice summer's day. As soon as this was reported activities stopped. The tractors /trailers also deposit mud onto the road, which was not as much a problem as the dust, due to the dry weather. Photographs were provided.

The contractors try to stop working at 6pm. Road sweepers are used but at times these have little effect. It appeared to the contractor, that as soon as this work starts complaints come in, but farmers using the roads doing their work do not generate complaints.

Rob confirmed that nothing contaminated is put onto the land, it is just dirt.

To sum up South Staffs were asked to:

1. Investigate an alternative way from the treatment plant to the fields be found (via woods). He will walk this route to investigate.
2. Investigate if improvements to the tracks into the fields could be made (tarmac/grass creep) to prevent mud being deposited onto the roads.
3. Improve use of the sweeper. and a better sweeper used?

It would be helpful to notify residents when the work is planned to take place. They used to be notified but this stopped and only the Clerk is emailed who puts this on the Facebook page.

When the weather is hot, dust is as much a problem as mud when it is wet.

South Staffs want to solve this problem and will provide contact details to the parishioners present for them to be able to contact them directly.

Clerk had some leaflets from the Police regarding mud on the road and the responsibilities to clear this up. Warning signs should be put up but if there was a serious accident, i.e. loss of life, whoever caused this could face manslaughter charges.

South Staffs will work through the points raised and will be in touch with the Parish Council before their meeting on 25th November.

Robert, Ian, and resident left the meeting and were thanked by the Chairman for attending.

Parish Council meeting began at 8.30pm with one resident remaining:

1) Apologies for absence: Noted from Cllr Thomas, Police and Ella Shelley from South Staffs Water.

2) Declaration of Interests

The Localism Act 2011, Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012.

Members are reminded that they are required to leave the room during the discussion and voting on matters in which they have a disclosable pecuniary interest, whether or not the interest is entered in the register of member's interests maintained by the Monitoring Officer.

3) Ella Shelley and Robert Burgoyne from South Staffs Water. Already dealt with under parishioner's time.

4) Minutes of last meeting – 22nd July 2025. These had been circulated with the agenda, and it was proposed, seconded, and **RESOLVED to sign these as a true record.**

5) Matters arising from minutes:

a) Clerk's update:

Sutton Sign:

I have tried so many times to contact the contractor with no success. I have today left a message on his mobile asking him to contact me as it was my last meeting tonight and I wanted an update

Both Cllr Woods and Bebb have also tried getting in touch, but no luck.

Clerk's salary:

The new pay rates came out and should be backdated to April 2025. I checked this all out and I was entitled to receive this and this is included in my salary this month.

I have always been entitled to holiday pay but have never taken it. I checked this out with the Chairman prior for asking for this to be included. I have now cancelled the standing order.

Unicorn Inn- defib

Email was received thanking the PC for providing this.

Fix My Street reports:

Many reports have come back fixed/action scheduled. They are working on filling potholes.

Registration of car park:

I checked this again a couple of weeks ago, but first registrations take longer. I will check again before the end of the month.

Thanks!

On a sad note, this is my last meeting, but although it was a hard decision I think that I have made the right decision and that my replacement is as happy as I have been.

Thank you all, past and present Cllrs, for the help and support you have given to me in my 10 years at Chelmarsh. I hope that I have made a little difference.

I will be taking the accounts, after the end of the month, to the Internal auditor to have these checked and all other paperwork etc. will be handed over asap.

Clerk has also been in touch with NatWest regarding changing bank signatories and has the information on email to do this once the new Clerk is appointed.

b) Any others - nothing raised.

6) Planning applications/permissions/refusals received:

a) Reference: 25/02183/FUL (validated: 14/07/2025)

Address: Lower Brock Hall Farm, Chelmarsh, Bridgnorth, Shropshire, WV16 6QA

Proposal: New agricultural building

Decision: **Grant Permission**

b) Any received after issue of agenda - none received.

7) Reports: (if available):

a) Shropshire Councillor's report:

- Cllr Hollyhead had been in contact with The Astbury regarding the fireworks and had passed the details onto the Clerk. If he receives more dates he will pass on to new Clerk.
- Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) – urged Cllrs to look at this.
- Could the PC nominate a representative to join a group with a coordinated effort re: planning. Tasley Garden Village for consideration in November. Cllr Woods offered. Clerk will forward his details to Cllr. Hollyhead.
- Highways – Andy Keyland will look after this area – no technician yet.
- Council hardly has any money.
- Andy Begley has left Shropshire Council.

Cllr Hollyhead thanked the clerk for her help and support and making him feel welcome since he joined the Council.

b) Police:

It is hoped that PC Nolan is back on light duties shortly.

c) Parish Hall:

Neither representatives could attend the last meeting, but understand that it is possible that the lease was being discussed.

8) Finance:

a) Accounts for payment:

- Clerk's salary – standing order - £xx – this has now been cancelled.
- HMRC PAYE £188.35
- E-on £35.68 Half yearly maintenance account payment – not required as overpaid by this amount last year.
- Wicksteed Leisure invoice - £180
- Information Solutions - £30 (domain name renewal)
- Clerk's expenses/final salary adjustments - £172.40
- Any other accounts received after issue of agenda.
- Chelmarsh Parish Hall - £18 Clerk interviews.

It was proposed, seconded, and **RESOLVED to pay all these accounts.**

9) Parish problems:

Problems raised by Cllrs.:

- ✓ 2 x drains along Ingram Lane need cleaning out as road was flooded during the heavy rain.
- ✓ Drain outside The Mere Oak needs cleaning out – road floods.
- ✓ Three accidents in approximately 10 days along the B4555. Police ought to be around 10-11pm when cars are speeding along Ingram Lane.
- ✓ Cones run over down Hampton Loade Road.

Any others:

Nothing else raised.

10) Correspondence: including Emails sent to Cllrs: *Taken as read unless comments made.*

- SALC Information Bulletins
- Electoral Roll alterations
- Parkinson training programme

- Public Procurement for Town and Parish Councils - online training - Thursday 6th November 2025, 6pm - 8pm
- SH0036: Receipt of documents – notification of exempt status, 2025
- SC - A New Way of Working Together – *Advised not to complete this by another PC Clerk.*
- SALC AGM - Wednesday 29th October 2025, 4pm - 7pm at Shrewsbury Football Stadium (Sovereign Suite). Bookings required.
- Feedback from consultation session 1.9.25 – SALC Area Committee
- The Astbury – reply from Cllr Holyhead re: fireworks.
- Wicksteed Leisure – Playground Inspection and report. Chairman pointed out that they were only low risk items. Clerk usually had notification of this taking place but did not, otherwise she could have given them the code to open the locked gates. SC installed the kissing wicket. A printed copy of the report will be on file.
- Any other after issue of agenda:
- Clerk said that she had joined the Parish On-Line session today regarding.gov.uk email addresses and websites. Once the session is put onto YouTube, she will let Cllrs know as it was interesting.

11) Exclusion of public and press:

“To resolve: That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item(s) due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.”

At this point, the parishioner and SC Cllr were asked to leave for the following item, which they did.

12) Confidential Session To consider the appointment of a new Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer following interviews held on 10th September 2025. The Chairman reported on the interviews held on 10th September to recruit a new Clerk and RFO to the Council.

There were three applicants, all were invited for interview. The clerk and Cllr Cole first had an informal chat to each of the applicants by giving them an insight into the job and answering any questions the candidates had.

Cllrs Woods and Strong then interviewed each applicant.

All interviewers gave a rating for each applicant.

It was proposed, seconded, and **UNANIMOUSLY agreed** to appoint Gillian Bailey as Clerk and RFO to the Council on salary scale SPC 17.

13) Date of next meeting: 28th October 2025

The Chairman made a presentation to the Clerk on her retirement and thanked her for all her help in keeping everyone updated and the work she had done in the 10 years as Clerk.

Clerk thanked everyone for the gifts and card.

Payments made:

Clerk's salary – standing order - £xx –

HMRC PAYE £188.35

E-on £35.68 Half yearly maintenance account payment – not required as overpaid by this amount last year.

Wicksteed Leisure invoice - £180

Information Solutions - £30

Clerk's expenses/final salary adjustments - £172.40

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

Signed: Chairman

Date: