

Save Our Chelmarsh Parish Hall from Closure

Dear Parishioner

Chelmarsh Parish Hall is in danger of closure if no one comes forward to take on the senior roles of the Charitable Trust which runs the hall.

All people over the age of 18 living in Chelmarsh Parish are invited to a meeting on **Monday 9th November 2026 at 7:30pm** in Chelmarsh Parish Hall to discuss the potential permanent closure of the Parish Hall.

The Parish Hall is managed and operated by Trustees of Chelmarsh Parish Hall Charity (Charity No 515078) under a Deed of Trust. The Hall itself is leased from Hereford Diocese by Chelmarsh Parish Council because a charity is not allowed to hold lease directly and there is a 3 month notice clause in the lease agreement.

The Trustees of the Charity ("Hall Committee") is made up from representatives from the Parish Hall user groups, up to 4 elected members and up to 4 co-opted members. The Hall Committee is appointed annually in March and has a number of key positions which are already vacant or will be vacant by the next term of the Hall Committee. The key positions and approximate time commitment are:

Chairperson	approximately 2 hours per week
Treasurer	approximately 3 hours per week
Bookings Secretary	approximately 1 hour per week (currently merged with treasurer)
Fete Organiser	variable

Unless these roles can be filled, the Hall Committee is unable to fulfil its duties to the Charities Commission (CC) and under CC rules the Charity must be wound up. Members of the Committee have asked the user groups, advertised the roles and asked interested parties. At this present time no one has come forward to take on any of these roles leaving the committee in a position where it will no longer be able to function. The Hall Committee is happy to talk to anyone interested in taking these roles and to help with training and handover.

This meeting will be the last opportunity for anyone in the Parish to come forward to fill these roles and join the current committee to keep the Parish Hall open. Outline of the roles and what is involved will be available at the meeting. Anyone who is unable to make the meeting, but would like to know more about the positions should make contact with the Clerk of the Parish Council (clerk@chelmarshparishcouncil.gov.uk).

If a committee cannot be formed to run the charity, the meeting shall be asked to vote on the permanent closure of the Parish Hall with surrender of the lease and if approved the process of winding up the charity and surrender of the lease of the building to Hereford Diocese will commence. Regrettably Chelmarsh will lose this valuable community asset forever.

Richard Woods
Chairman Chelmarsh Parish Council