

## **Chelmarsh Parish Council**

**The Annual Parish meeting held Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 7pm, prior to the Parish Council meeting in Chelmarsh Parish Hall.**

**Present were 7 Cllrs, 1 new Cllr, Clerk and 1 resident and 2 speakers.**

Guest speakers for the meeting were Ceri Burgess, Service Manager and Chris (finance) from Blossom Barns, Lower Sutton Farm, Chelmarsh, who will discuss the future plans for Blossom Barns and possibly one or two members from Bethphage, who are leading on different aspects of this project. Hopefully, any questions will be able to be answered.

**01. Apologies:** One from a member of Blossom Barns, who could not attend. Police.

**02. Minutes of last meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2024:**

These had been circulated with the agenda and proposed, seconded, and **RESOLVED to sign these as a true record.**

**03. Chairman's Annual report:**

**Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave his report.**

Hard copy available.

**The Chairman welcomed the guest speakers Ceri and Chris to the meeting.**

Ceri pointed out that Blossom Barns used to be located at Oak Farm, Ditton Priors and that she had worked there for 35 years and Chris since 2016.

Ceri explained that Blossom Barns is for people with learning disabilities, where they come to learn new life skills such as horticulture, woodworking, working with animals, etc. They have a total of 36 people at present, some there Monday-Friday and others just one day a week, with referrals coming in.

Sutton Farm (now named Blossom Barns) was purchased as the lease at Oak Farm was ending and due to restrictions, an agreement could not be met.

Once planning permission being granted, they closed for 2 weeks in order to transport everything from Oak Farm to Chelmarsh, which was a great challenge. Ceri and Chris went on to explain their objectives for Blossom Barns, which sounded very exciting.

At present they have 20/25 per day on site with a ratio of 5/6 per 1 staff member. They are at present planting fruit orchards, with the hope of having PYO for the community as well as jams etc being made on site. They held a coffee morning and hope to do more community projects soon.

Ceri will be opening Chelmarsh fete, and they will have a stall there.

Chairman thanked Ceri and Steve for attending and offered any help the PC might be able to give, if required.

Ceri and Steve left the meeting.

**04. Shropshire Councillor's report – not available.**

**05. Organisation reports:**

a) Cricket Club:

Darren Strong reported on behalf of the cricket club that they have managed to recruit 8/9 new players after most of their first team were poached by other teams.

They have 2 teams plus spare players and won this weekend.

Darren has resigned as Treasurer but remains at present.

Chairman thanked Darren for his report.

b) Bowling Club – no report received.

c) Parish Hall:

Chair, Sue Jackman gave her report.

Hard copy available.

Parish Hall Lease – Sue Jackman, confirmed that discussions are ongoing with the Diocese on the renewal of the lease due January 2026

d) Chelmarsh PCC – no report received.

e) Chelmarsh Friends Club – no report received.

f) Chelmarsh Toddlers – Theresa Cole understood this was running well with many toddlers attending.

Sue Jackman confirmed that all 13 Parish Hall committee members are from the parish.

**06) Parish problems – none raised.**

**07. Chairman's closing comments:**

Chairman thanked everyone for attending. Blossom Barns were very interesting to listen to and it was positive that they want to integrate with the Parish.

Chairman thanked David and Sue Garrett for their contribution to the Parish Council as they had decided not to stand for re-election this time. Both David and Sue appreciated the comments.

**08. Date of next meeting – 20<sup>th</sup> May 2025 7.30pm in Chelmarsh Parish Hall.**

Sue and Darren left the meeting and the Parish Council meeting commenced.

**Meeting closed at 8.15pm.**

**Signed: Chairman**

**Date:**