

Chelveston-cum-Caldecott News

Parish Council & Village News – February & March 2021

Elections: The next ordinary elections will be held on Thursday 6th May 2021. The Government is keen for these to proceed, in a Covid secure manner, so if you intend to vote in person in the village hall polling station, you will need to bring your own pencil!

More practically, if you are worried about voting in person at the Village Hall, you can apply for a postal vote by phoning **01832 742119** or emailing elections@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk.

At least one of our longer serving Parish Councillors will be standing down in May and expressions of interest **are welcomed** from anyone who is over 18 years old. (See over for excuses!)

As a Councillor representing your community you will help keep it a great place to live and work. You will be supported in your role and will be expected to **undertake training**. You should **be comfortable working electronically**. You should **have a positive outlook** and a **can-do attitude** and be willing to **work as part of a team**.

If you are interested in joining the Council **please contact** the Clerk Mark Hunter for more information at clerk@chelveston-pc.gov.uk by 26th March 2021.

New Parish Noticeboard: If you have walked past the Village Hall recently, you will have noticed that the parish noticeboard looks rather tatty. That will change over the next month when a new enclosed noticeboard replaces it.

Our local **ENC ward Cllr Harriet Pentland** used her Members Empowerment Fund to make a £820 grant to fund most of the purchase. The new noticeboard will have two bays, one side locked for parish notices and one keyless for public notices and events.

Allotments: As the *Star & Garter* is highly unlikely to be open before the annual tenancy renewals are due at the end of February, the allotment holders will be invited to pay on-line where possible.

A reminder to tenants that once the landowner cuts back the hedge to create the new parking area, no cars will be permitted in the allotment field, as it is being seeded as a wildflower meadow.

Events Team: Lockdown has meant the Team can't hold any events at the moment, but they are planning on the second annual scarecrow competition and the fun dog show later in the year.

Parking on Pavements: The Council has received complaints about vehicles parking on the pavement. Drivers are reminded to park considerately, as it is an offence to obstruct the free passage of the highway (which includes the both the carriageway and the footway).

Visitor parking at Chelston Rise: The visitor parking area is currently closed, as it is being used as the construction site compound for the new housing. The other parking bays are all assigned to the householders and so residents of Caldecott and Chelveston are requested not to visit until visitor parking is restored.

Unfortunately the developer has cut down some trees that were due to be retained. The ENC enforcement team has been involved and the developer will now be providing replacements (3 -3.5m high).

Cross of Sorrow restoration (1920-2020): You, the parishioners, raised **just over £3,000** in public donations between December 2019 and the start of Lockdown 1, and Robert Farrow stonemasons undertook the works in time for the annual (socially distanced) Remembrance Service.

The base of the cross was found to be in a worse condition than expected, incurring additional costs, so the Council has successfully applied to the Windfarm Trust for balance of £650, thus ensuring that no taxpayer funds were used.

Street Light replacement: The Council is currently obtaining quotes for a major project in the parish to replace all 60 street lamps with a low energy and low maintenance alternative. This will see the return to white light after several years of sodium orange.

During the surveys, it has been discovered that three of the concrete lamp posts in Duchy Close are suffering from cracking, and these will be replaced with steel columns as part of the project.

One of the options with the newer lighting is the ability to **dim the lights between midnight and dawn**, to further reduce the energy use, and the Council would welcome feedback from the villagers as to their views on this.

Dog fouling: This seems to be on the increase on grass verges in Water Lane, between the ford and *Barnbrook*. It may be the fields are too muddy at the moment so dog walkers are using the roads more. If so, there is a free to use dog bin by *Spinney Barn*.

Thank you 1 - to Michael Farrow, James Pentelow, Cllr Mandy Hill, Chris Lennard, Barry Parsons and Ray Knight for clearing the debris by the Water Lane ford following the Christmas floods.

Thank you 2 – to Charlotte, Andrew and Zoe Kemp for delivering these newsletters from 2013 to 2020!

Next Issue: The April & May issue of the Newsletter should be delivered in the first week of April, so if you want to publicise a parish event, please let me know before the end of March.

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Events – February & March 2021

The Chelveston Parish Church of St. John the Baptist (contact Arthur Wright - 624530).

We are looking forward to our usual **9am Sunday Service** resuming once we are out of lockdown. Keep an eye on the noticeboard, St John's Facebook page and our website for details.

In the meantime, our **Online Service** continues which you can access on the website; www.stmarystjohnunited.co.uk. The church is open daily for private prayer and for space and time for quiet and reflection. Please wear a mask and use the hand sanitiser as you enter and place the appropriate coloured card on your seat when you leave to signify someone has sat there for those who may visit after you.

For any further information about any of the above, check out our website www.stmarystjohnunited.co.uk or contact Brenda on 07816 771702, brenda@elldred.co.uk, or Rev Michelle on 07961 003352, michelleacd@hotmail.co.uk



Excuses (not to join the Council!)

1. "I'm too young."

If you are 18 and over you are old enough (and see point 5 below.)

2. "What's the point of just joining a talking shop, they don't do anything."

Have you ever been to a meeting? Basing your judgement on watching 'The Vicar of Dibley' is definitely not valid.

3. "I haven't got any planning applications in at the moment."

Putting in for planning permission has got nothing to do with sitting on the Council, whatever may have happened years ago. In fact, if your own application is discussed by the Council, you would have to follow the Council's Code of Conduct and national ethical standards, and the restrictions on participating in such circumstances.

4. "I'm too busy, and couldn't commit to attending every single meeting".

Meetings are rarely more frequent than one evening a month, and missing the occasional one is acceptable. Most meetings only take a couple of hours.

5. "I'm concentrating on finding a job or furthering my career."

Being a local Councillor is a definite plus point to add to a CV – it shows you can make decisions, work in a team, are community minded and proactive. Prospective employers will be impressed.

6. "I haven't lived here very long and don't know the area well."

If you have lived or worked in the parish for a year or already have your name on the electoral roll, you are eligible.... Your views as an 'incomer' should be welcomed, as you will probably see things more objectively.

7. "I'm worried that I won't get many votes, and look silly."

Even if you are not voted on this time, you may well be approached if a vacancy occurs in the future and have to opportunity to be co-opted to the Council.

8. "Our parish council is full of old fogeys."

Join up and change it then.

9. "I'm too lazy, and not interested in my community."

An excellent reason for not joining.



The **Parish Council** usually meets on the second Monday of the month at **7.30pm**. Due to the Covid-19 restrictions, the Council is holding its meetings virtually on Zoom. The meeting codes can be found on the published agendas. Members of the public are welcome to attend and may speak on any agenda item at the Chair's discretion.

The agenda and meeting papers are posted on the website (www.chelveston-pc.gov.uk) and the agenda is on the parish noticeboards at least 3 clear days before the meetings.

Parish Council Members & Officers

Chair: Andrew Seaman, Rosemoor, Raunds Rd.

Vice: Jennifer Harwood, 7 Britten Close.

Neil Chambers, 6 Hillside.

Clinton Hill, 52 The Crescent, Chelston Rise.

Mandy Hill, 15 Water Lane.

Patricia Mommersteeg, Church House, Caldecott.

Carol Parsons, 5 Pokas Cottages.

Clerk: Mark Hunter Ashbury, Caldecott (626039).

E-mails to the Council on clerk@chelveston-pc.gov.uk

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