

WEST HANNINGFIELD PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER April 2022 *Issue 11*



ANNUAL MEETING



WEDNESDAY 25th MAY 2022
WEST HANNINGFIELD VILLAGE HALL
DOORS OPEN 7pm • MEETING 7.30pm





WEST HANNINGFIELD PARISH COUNCIL



The Parish Council meet on the second Wednesday of each month; agendas are available on the website or notice board or by contacting the clerk three days prior to each meeting. Members of the public are very welcome to attend meetings and may address the Council at the start of the meeting during the public session.



Cllr Karen Jones (Chairman & Planning Officer)

Tel: 017484 274674

Email: karen.jones@whpc.org.uk



Cllr Steve Tatum (Vice Chairman & Planning Officer)

Tel: 01750 564415

Email: steve.tatum@whpc.org.uk



Cllr James Sims

Tel: 01245 403833

Email: jm.sims@whpc.org.uk



Cllr Thelma Alexander

Tel: 01277 840529

Email:



Cllr Paul Galey

Tel:

Email: paul.galey@whpc.org.uk



Cllr David Myers

Tel: 01277 630183 or 07887 653227

Email: david.myers@whpc.org.uk



Cllr Paul Brand

Tel:

Email: paul.brand@whpc.org.uk



Mrs Lucy White (Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer)

Tel: 07703 170612

Email: clerk@whpc.org.uk

Articles not written by the Parish Council are not necessarily the opinion of the Parish Council and they accept no responsibility for their content

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – SPRING 2022

For my latest report I thought it would be helpful to explain the Parish Council's stance on funding the proposed building of the new village hall in West Hunningfield.

One sure you will recall (that a public consultation took place in November 2021) is firstly, ascertain the level of support in the Parish for the building of a new hall, and secondly, to secure agreement to a proposed increase in council tax to fund the hall by way of a Public Works Loan. On the basis of the responses that were received at the time, the Parish Council authorised by the Village Hall trustees to secure a Public Works Loan.

Whilst the Parish Council is generally supportive of this project and has the power to borrow money from the Public Works Loan Board and make a grant to the Village Hall to fund the building of a new hall, a borrowing approval is required from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC) formerly the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and this must be in place before the Parish Council can make a loan application. An approval to borrow must be made via the Parish Council's County Association of Local Councils; however, we cannot apply for borrowing approval until all negotiations have been completed and all other considerations planned have been obtained.

If the Parish Council intends to increase the council tax precept for the purpose of repaying a Public Works Loan then it must show evidence of support from residents in order to get the loan approved by the DLUHC. It is the opinion of the Parish Council that evidence of residents' support can only come from a council tax precept increase survey/poll plus a general project consultation, which has to be carried out by the Parish Council. This is a mandatory requirement and so it cannot be avoided. However, as a public consultation was carried out in November 2021, the Parish Council are currently attempting to contact the Public Works Loan Board directly to discuss with them the details of how this consultation was conducted to see if it meets with their criteria, as well as initiating a discussion with them around the cost of borrowing and any anxiety.

The Parish Council remains personally accountable and increasing the precept is not something to be undertaken lightly, particularly during these difficult times. Please be assured that the Parish Council will continue to act at all times in the best interests of residents and we undertake to keep you fully informed of the progress and developments concerning this project.

Sending my best wishes to all – Karen Jones, Chairman



Clerk's Report – Lucy White

Spring has now sprung! Hopefully we will get some lovely weather to blow away those Winter cobwebs. Covid19 still remains a worry though and the Parish Council have been taking precautions to 'stay safe'. Since June last year, virtual meetings are no longer allowed as resolutions are unlawful and can be challenged. But to get round this and stay safe, the Parish Council has been conducting its normal meetings on Zoom and holding an Extraordinary Meeting in the Village Hall Carpark to resolve motions. It's legal and it's safe!



Staying resilient locally

Crime

My heart goes out to all those parishioners who were burgled recently. I got in touch with the Chatterford and Malden Community Policing Team asking if they would come to a public meeting to talk about Crime Prevention and take Q&As but not surprisingly, they do not have the resources to facilitate this at this time. However, in response to my question asking what action had been taken following the recent spate of burglaries, I was advised as follows:

On 14th January 2022, there was a 50 report crimes to Essex Police in the West Hunningfield and Broomfield area (this is the Policing ward for the area). There are five dwelling burglaries reported within this area. Four have been closed due to insufficient evidence to identify the suspect and one is still ongoing. Any dwelling burglaries are dealt with by our CID department who are a Department of trained detectives. More about crime prevention on page 6 of this newsletter



Website

Sadly, Bob Massey who hosts the Parish Council's website is retiring soon, but I'm delighted to say the council has appointed Sue Lees Consultancy to host a new website. Sue hosts many council websites in Essex, including Dantbury, Ingatestone & Fryerning, Bonnam and Colli Nodon to name but a few, so we know she is well versed on the legal requirements of a council's website. I would like to feature some photos on the new website, so if you would like to send me any snaps of the village, we will add them (and acknowledge them if you so wish)

Jubilee Celebrations

The parish council has resolved to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee by planting a jubilee tree near the tree celebrating the visit of Prince Charles back in December 2014.



That's all for now! – Take Care
Lucy White—Parish Clerk



News from St Mary and St Edward's Church

We are making progress towards appointing a new priest. It is a very long process. So far, after much discussion with the churches in Stock, South Hanningfield, Downham and Ramsden Bellhouse we have all agreed that the best way forward is to employ one full time priest for the 5 parishes. There is still a long way to go.

It is wonderful to hear our bells again. Our team of trainee bellringers will be practising on Friday evenings and then ringing for at least some of our Sunday services. We will also be organising bell ringing days for experienced bell ringers to come and enjoy our rare set of bells. If you are interested in learning to ring or can already ring please contact Mary Aymon 01245 400541 or marychurchfriends@btinternet.com.

On 21st May we will be having a celebration of all the hard work that has gone into our bell project and an opportunity to ring the bells for experienced ringers and for novices to pull the bell ropes under supervision.

You may have noticed our small new fence and gateposts and the old wrought iron archway that has been languishing in the belfry for very many years. The gap between the gatepost and the fence is exactly the same size as it was but now that everything is standing straight again, it looks smaller! However, the big gate is much easier to open.

Work is underway to install our new refreshment facility. This is being financed by a grant from RCCE and other costs are being covered by our wonderful Friends group.

For more details on anything to do with our church contact Ann Usher, Churchwarden 01245 400532 or ann_usher@hotmail.com

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The following planning applications have recently been considered by the Parish Council:

22-00221/FUL

Rectory Cottage Church Road West Hanningfield Chelmsford Essex CM2 8UJ

Erection of out lodge garage building. — **SUPPORTED**

22-00220/FUL

Rectory Cottage Church Road West Hanningfield Chelmsford Essex CM2 8UJ

Single storey side & rear extension. — **SUPPORTED**

22-00289/FUL

Half Acre Church Road West Hanningfield Chelmsford Essex CM2 8UQ

Single storey front porch canopy extension. Part single storey and part two storey rear extension with first floor terrace area.

Alterations to foundations. Alterations to front and rear existing dormers. — **SUPPORTED**

21-01907/FUL

Land Adjacent Dingleton, Stock Hill Farm Stock Road Stock Ingershoe Essex.

Demolish existing barn and construct new dwelling. New formation of access. — **NO COMMENT**

The following applications are due to be considered at the next meeting of the Parish Council on the 13th April 2022:

22-00253/FUL. Construction of a stretch tent within the rear grounds of the existing public house garden.

The Ship Inn Stock Road West Hanningfield.

22-00362/FUL & 22-00363/FUL. Retrospective application for the construction of a timber sealed area cover and an attached pergola structure. The Ship Inn Stock Road West Hanningfield.

22-00471/FUL. Loft conversion with rear dormer. Part single storey, part two storey rear extension.

5 Middle Mead Close West Hanningfield.

Please refer to Chelmsford City Council's Planning Page for further applications that maybe received after publication of this newsletter:

<https://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/view-or-comment-on-planning-applications/>



Essex County Council

The A12 and New replacement programme continues to progress but sadly as slowly! Following the public consultation, it has now been agreed to go ahead with the so called "Hammer" option. The Department of Transport has granted us £1.8m which is great, and we are now finalising this option into a full business case for final government approval. Following this we will be seeking planning permission in 2023 with construction from 2024 through to 2026/7. Extra funding has also been secured to progress the North Chelmsford by-pass which includes the new railway station at Braintree. Planning permission for this project is expected shortly.

Not only are the above projects contributing to the Essex economy, but we also have the widening of the A12 and of course the Essex Thames Crossing. Following Covid the Council is placing a strong emphasis on job training and encouraging investment into the county.

The events in the Ukraine are appalling and very upsetting. As a Council we are doing all we can, you may well have seen County Hall lit up in blue and yellow and the flying of the Ukraine flag. Having seen the suffering of the Cold War in Eastern Europe myself, I am very worried for the months ahead and the way it is going.

As from the 1st of April the running of the Recycle Centres will change. They are currently managed by Veolia, but the contract has changed, and a decision has been made to bring the operation in-house. All staff are being transferred and you should see no change. However, having said that the Council has had to purchase new bins, skips, compactors, and other equipment so there maybe a few hiccups. Let me know if you experience any problems and I will pass on.

If I can help in any way, please let me know.

Ian Grindy

Email: ian.grindy@essex.gov.uk

Tel: 07920286394

FINANCE

2021 – 2022

Unit's Trust Bank Reconciliation: 2nd April 2022 – 20th March 2022

Opening Balance:	£21,472
Less Debits:	£19,208
Plus Credits:	£30,236
Closing Balance:	£32,500

Expenditure

How have we spent £19,208?

Running Costs:	(Staff / Stationery / Expenses)	£10,138
Maintenance:	(General Village / Grass Cutting)	£3,258
Training:		£1,810
Insurance:		£1,011
Publications:		£1,330
Professional Services:	(Audit / IT Support / Subscriptions)	£690
Section 137	(Remembrance Day)	£30
VAT:	(To be reclaimed)	£591

Income

Where did £30,236 come from?

SN's Precept:		£13,311
Chermsford City Council:	(Community Infrastructure Levy)	£1,188
SN's Precept:		£13,311
Chermsford City Council:	(Community Infrastructure Levy)	£2,333

CRIME PREVENTION

Keep burglars out of your property- Keep it visible

You'd think that it would be best to make a property less visible from the street, and to keep it hidden from prying eyes behind overgrown bushes, trees, high fences or walls. In reality, all that this serves to do is make it easier for a burglar to get close to a home unnoticed, and provide somewhere to hide while carrying out a burglary or theft from the property.

- Lower fences at the front around one-metre high are preferable to high fences as they allow for a clear view over the top and don't provide cover for anyone wishing to hide.
- At the rear and sides, taller fencing is recommended to prevent easy access.
- Trellis, thorny plants, or a suitable anti-climb topping such as plastic spikes make it difficult for anyone climbing over a fence or gate.
- Planting prickly or barbed shrubbery along boundaries and fence lines acts as an effective natural barrier.
- Gravel driveways and paths will make sure you hear anyone approach.



Keeping your shed or garage safe and secure

Many people don't secure their shed or garage in the same way they do their homes - often using an easy-to-break lock or padlock to protect valuable contents such as a car, bike or lawnmower. An opportunistic burglar will try a shed or garage first because they can find the tools they need to break into the main house.

First off, check that your insurance covers the contents of your shed or outbuildings from theft.

Think like a thief

Take a look at your shed and consider how you would break in. It's worth having a good padlock on the door with no exposed screws. Pay attention to hinges, as these are sometimes easily removable. If you have windows then these could be vulnerable unless they're secured with wire mesh or grills. And keep it locked at all times.

Alarm it

Consider a battery-operated shed alarm. They look low key but they respond to movement or door contact with an extremely loud siren.

Lock it, hide it or mark it

Don't give them the opportunity or the tools to commit a crime. Lock everything away securely. Tools can be locked inside a locker or box or secured with a chain.

Secure your bike to the ground on a lockable stand within a locked shed or garage. Use Google to search for ground anchors and other locks designed to fit to floors and walls.



It's always worth draping an old sheet or blanket over the top of mowers or bikes to keep them covered from view.

Although it might sound like stating the obvious, never leave your garage or shed door unlocked if you're not around. Property marking your items is advisable and some tools can be painted with your name or postcode. Systemic marking is also an option.

The top five most common items stolen from sheds

- Bikes
- Mowers
- Sports equipment
- Power tools
- Garden tools

This article follows advice from Essex Police. Further advice can be sought at www.essex.police.uk/co/slime-growerbox/protect-home-crime/

**West Hanningfield Village Hall
News From the Village Hall**

It is with sadness that we begin this item with the news of the passing of Jean Hayden. Jean, with Ralph are the reason the Village Hall is still one of the main centre points of our lovely village. Their tireless work for the hall, and in turn for the village will be remembered for many years and we plan to honour them in some way when the new hall is finally built. It is the community spirit of people like Jean and Ralph that continues and will ensure we will eventually have a new hall to do them, and us, as a village proud.



Christmas at the Hall—Our Christmas celebrations started with a community get together on the evening of December 4th where we showcased our new Gazebo which were purchased with a grant. The evening was a brilliant success with friends and family enjoying mulled wine, hot punch and Turkey Rolls. We even had a visit from the man himself - Father Christmas - who took the children's letters back to the North Pole with him. It was also a glimpse of what was to come with our SantaVox! on show.

Although we still had our Christmas Afternoon Tea Club, the planned visit from the school singing carols had to be cancelled due to the Covid Virus. This didn't dampen spirits and a great time was had by those who attended.

Father Christmas made his new annual visit to the village on December 19th, the Sunday before Christmas. He was driven through the village where he greeted children and adults alike - it was a wonderful evening full of fun and the perfect start to Christmas week.



2022 and the Hall—With the resurgence of the covid virus we decided to postpone the Afternoon Tea Club until March where we hope both the virus will have abated and the weather will be more clement so we can have better ventilation. This will be on the last Tuesday of the month, March 29th. All are welcome, we are a really friendly group and it's great to get together with old and new friends. How great to be part of this community.

Bookings for the hall is growing and growing, with new groups (Theatre Club and Yoga) and parties and celebrations. This further shows how the hall is such an asset to our village.

The effects of the recent storm meant many of our residents were without electricity. Luckily the hall still had power. So we opened it up for anyone to come and get hot water. One lovely villager came and was delivering a flask and a hot water bottle to a number of her neighbours - it is times of adversity that true neighbourly spirit shines! I can only see this happening more and more, both with the climate changing and our infrastructure not standing up to the elements. As long as we have a village hall we will do all we can to support the residents - it is a community space for our community.

We have a varied and full year planned from our plant sale on May 21st (please remember us and plant a few extra seedlings!), the Platinum Jubilee where we will be joining with the church to deliver a fun filled day of celebration on Sunday June 5th and our Dog Show (date to be arranged) - all of which we will be able to use our amazing new Gazebo.

If you have any fund raising ideas, or would like to join us in anyway please do get in touch.
Lesley Martenson—for the Village Hall Trustees, M 07777 637343



Sunday 8 May 2022
12km & 24km routes
Register today
farleighhospice.org/walk

SCAN ME
to register



ANNUAL MEETING



For the first time in two years, the Parish Council are delighted to be able to host the Annual Parish Meeting again!

Wednesday 25th May 2022

West Hanningfield Village Hall

Doors open at 7pm for refreshments

Meeting commences at 7.30pm



The Parish Council has invited a variety of guest speakers... Further details to follow once confirmed.

This is YOUR opportunity to find out more about the Parish Council, connect with local groups and address the guest speakers.