

WEST HANNINGFIELD PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Winter 2021 Issue 10



To All Our Residents





WEST HANNINGFIELD PARISH COUNCIL



The Parish Council meet on the second Wednesday of each month in the village hall. 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: 07484 274676

Email: karen.jones@whpc.org.uk



Cllr Steve Tatum (Vice Chairman & Planning Officer)

Tel: 07990 564615

Email: steve.tatum@whpc.org.uk



Cllr James Sims

Tel: 01245 403437

Email: jim.sims@whpc.org.uk



Cllr Thelma Alexander

Tel: 01277 840529

Email:



Cllr Paul Mitchell

Tel: 01245 400201

Email: paul.mitchell@whpc.org.uk



Cllr Paul Galley

Tel:

Email: paul.galley@whpc.org.uk



Cllr David Myers

Tel: 01277 630183 or 07887 633227

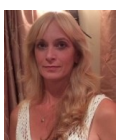
Email: david.myers@whpc.org.uk



Cllr Paul Brand

Tel:

Email: paul.brand@whpc.org.uk



Miss Lucy White (Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer)

Tel: 07703 170512

Email: clerk@whpc.org.uk

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



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT—DECEMBER 2021

As we continue to live in uncertain times with a new Covid19 variant now becoming a prominent feature in our lives at the moment, I hope that in spite of this, everyone is managing to remain well.

As Cllr Dobson has reported elsewhere in this newsletter, Chelmsford City Council has recently refused the large Solar Farm planning application, which was sited North and South of Canon Barns Road. This was very welcome news. We now await the outcome of the other two applications.



The topic that is currently occupying both my mind, and the minds of my fellow councillors, is the project to rebuild our Village Hall. You will all no doubt remember the public consultation that took place recently to ascertain the level of support in the Parish for the building of a new hall and to the 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, the Parish Council has been asked to secure a Public Works Loan to be payable by an increase in the Council Tax precept.

In order to progress this, the Parish Council will first need to seek approval to borrow from the Secretary of State for the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC).



*If a parish council intends to increase its council tax precept for the purpose of repaying a Public Works Loan then it **MUST** show evidence of public support for this in order to get the loan approved by the DLUHC. The evidence of public support can only come from a council tax precept increase survey/poll and a general project consultation, which needs to be run at the earliest possible opportunity by the Parish Council. Careful consideration and consultation with our residents is a required process with regards to any borrowing through a Public Works Loan. The Parish Council is personally accountable and increasing the precept by a considerable amount would not be a favourable outcome.*

Although the Parish Council has a way to go before we can be confident that we are in a position to submit an application to the Public Works Loan Board, we will, as we do with any project we undertake on behalf of our residents, keep you fully informed of developments and progress.

That's all for now - except to wish everyone a happy, healthy and safe Christmas.

Karen Jones, Chairman



Clerk's Report – Lucy White

Although the impact of COVID-19 still affects some of the things we can and can't do, I believe that we still have many things to be positive about and look forward to including a better Christmas than we were 'allowed' last year.



The most exciting news of late has been seeing the progress of the Village Hall Project. Members of the Committee and Working Group have toiled endlessly and on pages 6 & 7—the centrefold, you can read further details of their immediate plans for obtaining planning permission and funding.

Community Special Constables

On the back page, you will see an advertisement for Community Special Constables. You probably care most about the places where you walk, cycle or drive; where you exercise the dog, go for a jog, let your kids out to play etc and you might have thought that you don't see any "Bobbies on the Beat" in these places? Well, why don't you volunteer as a Community Special Constable and be that bobby? Community Special Constables will:

- Be integrated into a Community Policing Team.
- Start and end their duty as close to their community as possible.
- Spend the majority of their time within the council area's neighbourhoods.
- Be visible and accessible in local communities on uniformed patrol.
- Help address local issues and priorities as informed by the local council and police intelligence-led tasking.
- Patrol hot spots identified through intelligence or deemed to be priority areas.
- Respond to police-related incidents within the council area.
- Engage with local communities and support further recruitment of Specials.
- Attend suitable local council meetings where available to do so.
- Have regard to the Council's aims and objectives in their voluntary service.



With the increase in anti-social behaviour seen in some parts of the village, I would like to urge anyone interested in becoming a Community Special Constable to contact me.

Covid-19

We are being advised that regular self-testing is vital to stop the spread of the virus and the Essex Public Health team is asking everyone in Essex to self-test twice a week, and whenever you mix with lots of people. You can order test kits on line at <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>. If you have trouble ordering one, I will do my best to assist, so please do not hesitate to contact me; my contact details are on page two.



Additionally, we are advised that vaccination is our best defence against Covid-19. Each dose tops up your protection and further reduces your risk of serious illness if you catch the virus.

Don't delay— if you are eligible, book your next dose today by following this link:
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination>

And Finally...

I wish everyone a Happy & Healthy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any trouble accessing the links above, or do not have access to the internet. Always here to help.

Lucy White—Parish Clerk

Telephone: 07703 170512

Email: clerk@whpc.org.uk



STOP PRESS: We have just heard that the large solar farm application around Canon Barns has been refused by Chelmsford City Council. This is great news; congratulations to the Parish Councils of both West and East Hanningfield who worked hard together to draw up an extremely good case for refusal which has paid off. Merry Christmas!

Cllr Sue Dobson—Chelmsford City Council



FINANCE

2021—2022

Unity Trust Bank Reconciliation 1st April 2021—30th November 2021

Opening Balance:	£21,472
Less Debits:	£12,952
Plus Credits:	£30,236
Closing Balance:	£38,756

Expenditure

How have we spent £12,952?

Running Costs:	(Staff / Stationary / Expenses)	£6,475
Maintenance:	(General Village / Grass Cutting)	£1,948
Training:		£1,370
Insurance:		£1,011
Publications:		£935
Professional Services:	(Audit / IT Support / Subscriptions)	£667
VAT:	(To be reclaimed)	£546

Income

Where did £30,236 come from?

50% Precept:		£13,313
Chelmsford City Council:	(Community Infrastructure Levy)	£1,288
50% Precept:		£13,313
Chelmsford City Council:	(Community Infrastructure Levy)	£2,322

West Hanningfield Village Hall

News From the Village Hall Working Group

Well, Christmas is fast approaching and the Trustees and Working Group had an early Christmas present in the form of the results from the Public Consultation. In short the majority of the households that made returns on the formal consultation documents, voted in favour of a new Village Hall on the recommended Reduced Scheme 1 design, indeed it was a Yes vote on all three questions.



The results of the Consultation as run and audited by the Rural Communities Council for Essex (RCCE) were as follows:-

Number of questionnaires posted to residents:	558
Number of returns:	172
(Note: Only one questionnaire per envelope was received)	
Percentage returns:	31%
(Note: All percentages are rounded up)	
Total number of YES votes:	141 or 82%
Total number of NO votes:	30 or 18%
Number of spoiled papers:	3 or 1%

Following the consultation, we have carried out a Pre Application Planning Meeting and received a positive response from the Chelmsford City Planner who has asked us to ensure we include a number of thoughts in our formal application to ensure our proposals will meet their requirements to achieve the required consent. The architects have already started working on the formal submission and we hope to let you know in the New Year that things are moving forward.

Once we have Planning Consent and a completed Business Plan (the Plan is almost complete) we will be able to apply for funding.

We will keep you all fully informed on our progress.

As always please do keep yourselves safe by observing the social distancing rules and have a very Merry Christmas!!

Derek Paxman

derek.paxman@btinternet.com

07802 535481



West Hanningfield Village Hall

News From the Village Hall

This last quarter of the year has been a quiet one for the hall. With Covid numbers rising we decided to postpone the Quiz night and Cheese and Wine Evening until we could welcome numbers back to the hall.

Writing this, we are busy arranging our Christmas Village Hall Celebration. As we envisaged there may have been restrictions in the winter, we had always planned for this to be in the car park under our new Gazebos which were bought by the successful application of a grant. We will be serving Turkey Rolls with Stuffing and Cranberry Sauce, Mulled Wine, Winter Pimms, Mince Pies and Chocolate Log. Plus a Win-a-Bottle stall and a chance to secure your Village 2022 Calendar. We are hoping to welcome many residents to start their Christmas Celebrations.

We have produced a lovely 2022 calendar with scenes of our beautiful village with the proceeds going to the village hall. To order, you can follow this link: <https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/westhanningfield/10> or contact Lesley Masterson on 07777 637343 or message through the Hall WhatsApp page. Alternatively, you could scan the QR code below.

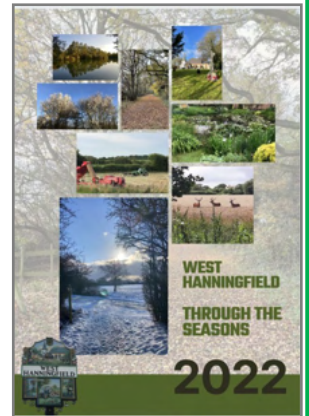
The Afternoon Tea events have continued as the ratio of the size of the hall to the number of people attending made it safe. Each month has seen more and more attending with November topping them all when Brian Carline joined us and entertained all with his talk of bygone days in "Our Street". It brought back many



memories for many who attended. Our next meeting will be our Christmas Afternoon Tea on December 14th at 2pm - 4pm where, COVID restrictions allowing, we will be joined by the children of St Peter's School who will be singing carols.

Next year will hopefully be the last year we will be holding events in the current hall, after the result of the consultation with a majority of residents wanting to go ahead with the new hall build. We hope to make it a year to remember, a year in which we are able to say goodbye to the old and welcome a new era for our village.

The trustees of the Village Hall wish everyone a Happy and Healthy Christmas and 2022





ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL—COUNCILLOR IAN GRUNDY

DECEMBER 2021



The tragic death of Sir David Amess has raised many security issues but I am pleased our MP has publicly stated he will continue to hold face to face surgeries - any dilution of this would be a blow to our democracy and I totally agree.

COVID sadly does not go away and at Chelmsford City Council we have returned back to some virtual meetings following the increases in cases. You are eligible for the booster six months after the second dose and if you haven't received your invitation by then, please contact the national booking service on line or call 119. It is so important we support the vaccination programme.

The LED street light replacement programme is going well. More than 10k, mainly in residential roads have now been upgraded with Chelmsford leading way. It is estimated they save some 60% energy use and thousands of tons of carbon emissions. The complete programme covering all Essex should be completed by 2024.

Climate Change issues continue to dominate our news and will for the foreseeable future. At Essex we have a target to be zero carbon by 2050 and to achieve that will mean changes to planning, agriculture and transport. It will be no surprise that transport is a major contributor to Essex's emissions. With our ports and airports and HGVs supporting these centres making major contributions to Essex's emissions, it is going to be quite a challenge. There will be announcements on what we will be doing over the next few months and I will of course update you in future articles.

The Gritter crews are all ready to keep our key roads safe this winter. Take care and let's hope for a mild one.

Have a very Happy Christmas and my best wishes for the New Year.

Ian Grundy



CHELMSFORD CITY COUNCIL—COUNCILLOR SUE DOBSON

DECEMBER 2021



I have been kept very busy with West Hanningfield matters this year – and looking back at the article I wrote for the newsletter this time last year, unsurprisingly some of the issues still remain.

Firstly Middlemead – along with the Parish Council we have established regular meetings this year with Essex Highways, Essex and Suffolk Water, Chelmsford City Council officers and the Police and whilst there is still no easy answer to the problem, the Police operations have been stepped up and we are looking at funding for CCTV in that area. Technology in this field is improving all the time and the opinion is that this, coupled with ANPR, will be a deterrent, along with regular speed checks and Police presence. There is no 'quick fix' for this but we have the commitment of Chelmsford officers to co-ordinate this along with the Police, so things are moving on.

Last year I mentioned the possibility of three solar farm planning applications being lodged within the East and West Hanningfield areas. These three applications have now been lodged and are in the process of being determined, and as soon as we know the outcome we will let everyone know. Because of the impact on the areas affected, Chelmsford City Council have produced a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) which gives guidance and policy requirements on applications for solar farms and this was adopted by the Council earlier this month. This is good news as it sets out the requirements that applicants need to adhere to and will give some protection to areas – for example in the event of several applications in one area.

I was pleased to attend the open weekend at the Village Hall recently where the plans for the new build were on display. I have to say the proposed new building looks amazing and congratulate the Hall team for their hard work to have got to this stage. I attended a meeting with the village hall team and Chelmsford Planning where pre-application advice was sought, and the outcome was very positive. It is good to see that the village residents are supporting the hall rebuild as it will be a great asset to the village. I look forward to seeing the project developing over the coming year.

Lastly, the decision by Chelmsford City Council to commence charging for parking at Hylands Park, although very unpopular with residents and other users, meant that charging started on 8th November. It is hoped that the extra funding will help balance the budget which is under considerable pressure because of Covid. It is possible to pay by phone or at the machines located around the park or residents can apply for a season ticket which works out cheaper if you use the park regularly. Go to the Chelmsford City Council website for more information – www.chelmsford.gov.uk/parking-and-travel/hylands-car-parks I aim to attend every Parish Council meeting if I can, and if there are any issues you would like me to look into on your behalf, please contact me on my email: sue.dobson@chelmsford.gov.uk.

I hope everyone has a safe and happy Christmas, and a healthy and successful 2022.

Sue Dobson

News from St Mary and St Edward's Church

Now that Rev Dr Stephen need has left, we are without a priest in charge. However, Rev Miranda Seaman, a non-stipended (unpaid) priest, has stepped in to cover many of the services and this means that for now we are able to continue with weekly services. More details about our services and events can be found in the Village magazine or on 'A Church Near You' <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/6669/>.



By the time this newsletter reaches you, we hope that the restoration of our bell tower, bell frame and bells will be complete. Early in the new year we plan to hold an event to bless the bells and we hope that you will enjoy the sound of them once more.

For more details on anything to do with our church contact Ann Usher, Churchwarden 01245



Rotted wood replaced on North side



Rotted plate before work started



Rotted wood replaced south side

Become a volunteer Tree Warden

Something a little different...

Chelmsford City Council's Tree Officer, Edd Gillan has contacted the Parish Council regarding the Tree Warden Scheme.

Tree Wardens designated local tree champions working with their Parish Councils and co-ordinate, plant and look after trees in their community. They are a valuable source of help and advice in all aspects of tree management for both the City Council and the Parish Council. Further information can be found at <https://treecouncil.org.uk/take-action/tree-wardens/>.

The City Council once had a successful scheme however as the co-ordinator retired and together with Wardens equally retiring or moving out of the parishes, the scheme has stalled. Edd therefore wishes to open a dialogue with the Parish Council, and in turn our parishioners to see how we can work together to build this network up again.

You may be aware that Chelmsford Council have undertaken a mass tree planting initiative, and with public awareness of green and ecological issues becoming increasingly more important, there is no better time then now to reintroduce or improve the Tree Warden network. Historically the City Council has been able to offer training and advice to Parish Councils and their Wardens and if this is something you would be interested in, please contact the Parish Clerk for further information. clerk@whpc.org.uk

Essex ACTIVate

Free holiday clubs for eligible families this winter!



Active Essex, Essex County Council and Thurrock Council are working with a network of locally trusted organisations to deliver *Essex ActivAte* clubs, on behalf of the Department for Education. These clubs are free for children and young people who are eligible for benefits based free school meals. Plus, Essex County Council have extended the offer to provide free spaces for children from low income working families who would benefit from this support.

Clubs will take place over multiple days of the Winter Break, predominantly from December 20th - 23rd.

Every club will be inclusive, with trained SEND and Mental Wellbeing ambassadors at each venue.

Each club will provide it's own unique variety of physical and enrichment activities, as well as fun food education.

Children and young people will receive a tasty and nutritious meal each day that they attend a club.

Specialist SEND and Mental Wellbeing Hubs are available across the county, offering tailored sessions run by specialist coaches.

Book now!

4 Letter Words

BELL
SNOW

5 Letter Words

ANGEL
COCOA
ELVES
HOLLY

6 Letter Words

LIGHTS
SLEIGH
TINSEL
WINTER
WREATH

7 Letter Words

CHIMNEY
GARLAND
PAGEANT
RUDOLPH
SNOWMAN

8 Letter Words

CAROLING
DECEMBER
EXCHANGE
ORNAMENT
PRESENTS
REINDEER
WRAPPING

9 Letter Words

CHESTNUTS
CHRISTMAS
EVERGREEN
FRUITCAKE
MISTLETOE
NORTH POLE

10 Letter Words

POINSETTIA
SANTA CLAUS

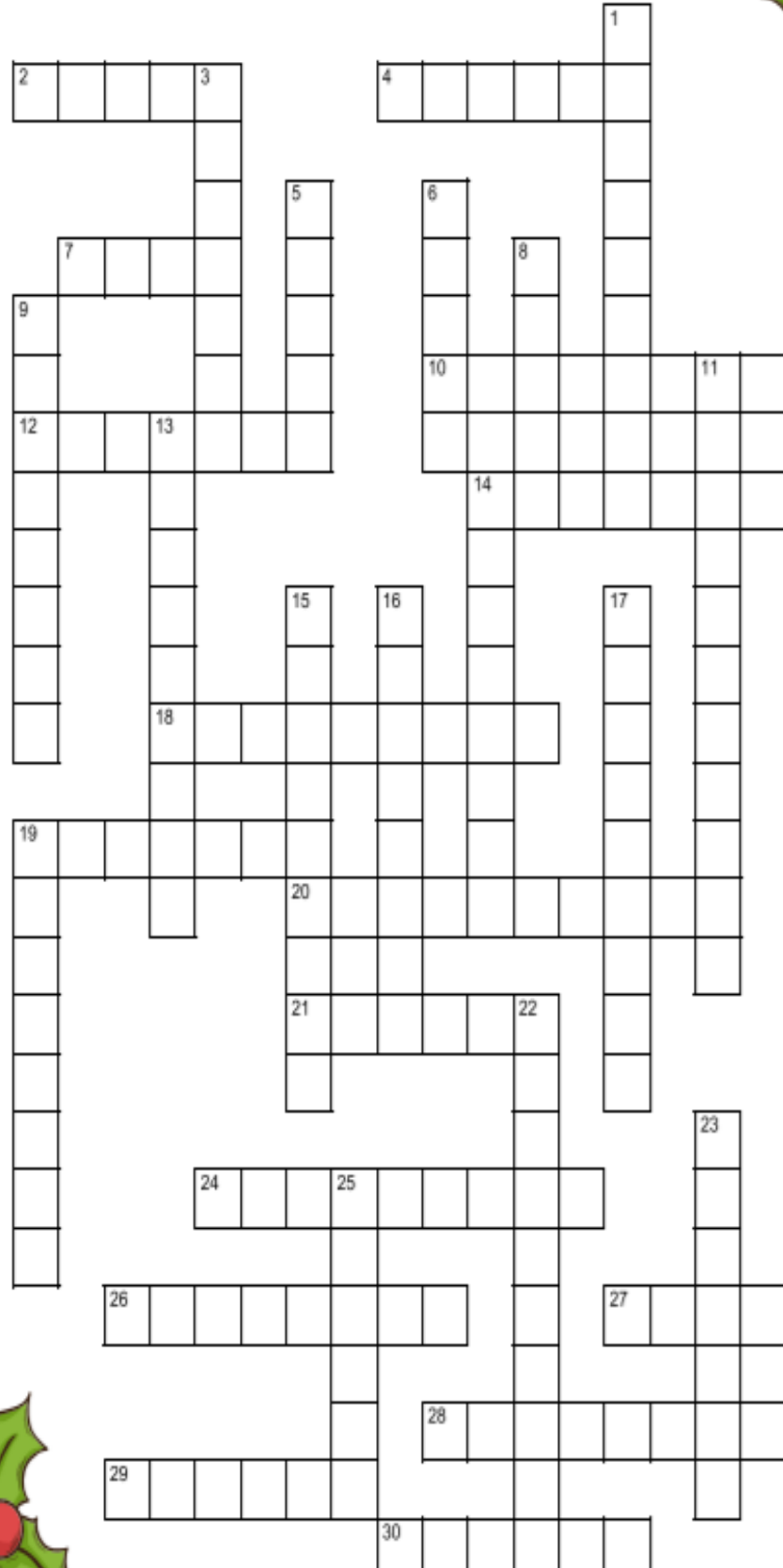
11 Letter Word

GINGERBREAD

Christmas Joy



DIRECTIONS: Fill in the crossword grid with the provided words.





Live your other life

**Volunteer as a Community
Special Constable in
West Hanningfield**

*my
Other
life*

Make a real difference in your town by volunteering as a Community Special Constable and play a part in keeping your neighbourhood safe. Find out more at the link below:

www.essex.police.uk/communityspecials



Special Constables are volunteer Police Officers. They have the same police powers, uniforms and equipment as regular Police Officers but sacrifice their free time on a voluntary basis, organising their busy personal lives, day jobs and other commitments around police duties. They do not get paid, but are reimbursed for expenses.