

Chulmleigh Parish Council – August Newsletter

If you would like to have this Newsletter by email, please contact Sue Squire .

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The next Police Surgery will be on Monday, 4 August 2025 in the Town Hall between 10am and 12 noon, subject to operational duties.

Please note that the Clerk is on annual leave from Wednesday, 30 July (the reason why this Newsletter is out earlier than usual) to Sunday, 17 August and Friday, 22 August. Her out of office message will be on for emails received during that time, and they will be dealt with on her return in the order they were received.

This month we bid farewell to Councillors Grant and Mrs Shelley Sherman who will be resigning from the Parish Council due to a house move from Chulmleigh.

We would like to take this opportunity for thanking them both for all their interest and involvement while they have been Parish Councillors, and for bringing attention to a number of issues, including the railway line from Barnstaple to Exeter and in particular trying to bring a change to the timetable so that trains stop at Kings Nympton not just on a request basis; care of the public footpaths, environmental issues and checking the play area equipment in Davy Park.

Grant and Shelley, we will miss you and send you both our warmest wishes for the future in your new home, closer to your family.

The above news means that there will be two vacancies on the Parish Council.

The procedure is that the Clerk will advise North Devon Council (NDC) Election Department of the vacancies and they will issue a vacancy notice which gives the electorate the opportunity to request a by-election. This would have to be paid for by the Parish Council, and the cost is between £1,500 to £2,000.

To trigger a by-election, 10 members of the public have to request one and it has to be for a valid reason. If 10 people did write into NDC and a by-election was announced, more than 2 people would need to put themselves forward to fill the vacancies. If the maximum of 2, being the number of seats that are vacant, nominate themselves, then there wouldn't be an election.

If after 3 weeks, when the period for the public to request an election has expired, 10 people have not written to request an election, it is then down to the Parish Council to co-opt people to fill the vacant seats.

It isn't possible to advise NDC about Grant and Shelley until they have moved as they can continue as Councillors, and even afterwards actually as they have been elected for the life of the Council, up to May 2027, but in practical terms, once they have moved, it will not be possible for them to be involved.

So, on the Clerk's return from leave on 18 August, NDC will be advised. On or around 8 September, after the 3 weeks are up, the Parish Council will be advised if an election has or has not been requested. If an election has not been requested, the Clerk will prepare posters inviting people to apply for co-option which can take place at the October meeting on

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Wednesday 1st. That would give 3 weeks notice to publicise it which should be ample time for parishioners to consider if they wish to nominate themselves.

When the co-option item is discussed, the person wishing to be co-opted does not have to leave the room.

A local volunteer for the Westcountry Rivers Trust has advised that there had been a pilot of the Environment Agency online service for reporting water pollution. The pilot has now finished and the service is now live and available 24/7 with no access code needed.

Anyone can report water pollution via www.gov.uk/report-environmental-problem

They have also published a blog and have set up a Community Engagement HQ page, which has more information about the online service.

https://engageenvironmentagency.uk.engagementhq.com/report_an_environmental_problem

Damage to manhole cover in Davy Park.

The Parish Council is aware that a vehicle drove over this and caused significant damage. Work is being put in hand to repair the damage and the vehicle driver's relatives have been in touch with the Parish Council regarding the incident.

Road Closures.

4 - 10/08/25. Daytime.	East Street, Chulmleigh, near Wren Cottage to near The Vicar's Stalls. Lead replacements to resolve water quality issues.
13 – 15/8/25 8am – 6pm.	Airband – utility cabling and splicing works for customer connection – road from Chulmleigh Bridge to Hill House, Chulmleigh.
18 – 22/8/25. Daytime.	C485 Kings Nympton Huxham Cross – Charneymoor Cross, South Molton. Resurfacing.
1 – 5/9/25 Daytime.	Road from Stone Moor Cross to Cheldon Cross, Chulmleigh. Near Sheepsbyre Cottage. Supply new water source.
9 – 11/9/25. 8am – 6pm.	East Street, Chulmleigh, junction of South Molton Street to outside Greenacres. Locate and clear blockages.
12 – 16/9/25 Daytime.	Road from Cutland Cross to Spittle Cross, Chulmleigh. Excavate to lay duct and build joint boxes / clear potential blockages.
16/9/25. 8.30am – 3.30pm.	Leigh Bridge Cross to Cheldon Cross, Chawleigh. Pole Replacement
18 – 24/9/25 Daytime.	Road from Bealy Court Cross to Affeton Moor Cross. New pole installations.
24/10/25. 8.30am – 3.30pm.	Rock Hill. Pole Replacement.