

Chulmleigh Parish Council – July 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 Tuesday, 4 August 2025 in the Town Hall between 10am and 12 noon, subject to operational duties.

The Parish Council sends it's good wishes to Mr Michael Johnson, on his retirement as Executive Head Teacher at Chulmleigh Community College.

We hope that he will have a long and happy retirement and enjoy all the things he has planned.

A very warm welcome is extended to the new **Executive Head Teacher, Mr Neil Payne, from 1 September 2025.** Mr Payne is not a stranger to us and we look forward to welcoming him, and his colleague, Mr Martin Evely – Head of School at Chulmleigh Primary School, to future Parish Council meetings for a report to be given on the activities of the College and School.

Defibrillator Awareness and First Aid Course. This was delivered by Chaz of First Aid at Hand who gave a most comprehensive presentation, with the opportunity for all of us to have a go at CPR on the numerous mannequins she brought with her. It gave us the chance to see for ourselves just what it involved as the mannequin 'clicked' when we were pressing hard enough.

Chaz also covered other issues raised by the two dozen who attended, the maximum number for this type of presentation, including choking in adults, children and babies, anaphylactic shock and a person in a diabetic coma.

The feedback from those who attended has been very positive and rightly so, as the 2 hour session extended beyond the cut off so as to answer questions from attendees.

Cyber Security Presentation by a member of the Devon and Cornwall Police Cyber Team. Not so many people attended this, but nevertheless, it was an excellent presentation and those of us who were there learned how to protect ourselves, our families and friends and what to do if we are victims of a scam.

Attendees were told that by dialling the number 159, this is a UK-wide telephone number that you can use to contact your bank's Fraud Department. It works similar to how 111 is used for the NHS and 101 for non-emergency calls to the Police.

Calling 159 allows you to speak to someone from your bank's fraud team who can help you check on potential scams and verify the legitimacy of a call or message you may have received claiming to come from your bank. You can also use this number for added reassurance, prior to taking part in any new financial transaction.

If you receive a suspicious call or message, involving any type of financial transaction, including those claiming to be from your bank, your telecoms provider, HRMC, the police, STOP. Then call 159 to check on the call or messages authenticity. If you are making the call in response to an incoming telephone call, ideally dial 159 from a different phone to ensure the scammer can't intercept or redirect your call. If you only have one phone available to use, wait a short while, then phone a friend who's voice you will recognise. This ensures that you phone line is now clear. Then call 159.

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159 is a safe and secure way to contact your bank, helping to protect you from financial fraud. The service is supported by major UK banks and telecommunications companies.

159 will never call you.

If you wish to report a Fraud or Cyber Crime please visit: www.actionfraud.police.uk

Ladywell Meadows Development. There were a lot of people who came to the June Parish Council meeting, concerned about CCTV cameras which had been fixed in Ladywell Meadows when it was getting dark.

Apparently this is often done on behalf of developers ahead of putting in a planning application to carry out a traffic survey. Residents do not have to be advised that it is going to be done and it is not illegal to do it.

But, residents felt that it would have been courteous to have been advised, especially as some of the cameras were fixed to bedroom windows.

Devonshire Homes, who had originally said they would like to attend the Parish Council meeting, pulled out because there was certain information that had not been obtained and the plan is to come to a Parish Council meeting in the future, to answer questions on the proposed development.

The Parish Council will advise people of the meeting Devonshire Homes representatives will be attending.

Notice Boards. The main Parish Council notice board is in Red Lion Corner.

There are 4 others which are not in the ownership of the Parish Council, the funding for which was organised by the late and former District Councillor Mrs Sue Croft who gave them to the now defunct Jubilee Committee.

The Parish Council has, by default, been drawn into the number of out of date notices advertising events and the amount of now rusty staples and drawing pins, making it difficult to attach new notices.

Various Councillors have been allocated the task of trying to remove all the old staples – a total of 171 were taken out of one with the aid of a screwdriver with a magnetic tip. You will agree that it really shouldn't have to come to this – if the person who puts a notice up about an event would remove it after the event had been held, all this extra work could be avoided and it would keep the notice boards looking decent, rather than in a poor state which drags down the feel of the town.

Weed Spraying. The Parish Council has arranged for a large part of the town to be sprayed which some will welcome, others will not.

A polite ask: If homeowners weeded outside their properties, and we know that some do, there wouldn't be a problem and it wouldn't be necessary for a commercial weed spraying company to do it. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Next Parish Council Meeting. Not on the first Wednesday of August as usual, due to the Clerk's leave (from 30 July to 17 August).

It will be on Wednesday, 20 August at 7pm in The Studio of Chulmleigh Playing Fields, as the Town Hall isn't available on that day or time.