



Mrs. Marie Zizzi
 Clerk to the Council
 Cheswick Green Village Hall
 Cheswick Way, Cheswick Green
 Solihull B90 4JA

Tel: 01564 700168
 clerk@cheswickgreen-pc.gov.uk
 www.cheswickgreen-pc.gov.uk

CHESWICK GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Thursday 14th September 2023 7pm Cheswick Green Village Hall

Present: Cheswick Green Parish Councillors: Simon Coles, Margaret Gosling, Linda Heslington, Michelle Smith and Mick Swain (Chairman).

Clerk: Marie Zizzi

4 members of the public

88. Apologies for Absence and to approve, if thought fit, the reasons if any given, for absence from the meeting.

88.1 There were none all Councillors present.

89. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations.

89.1 There were none.

90. Public Participation (15 Minutes).

90.1 A resident referred to bushes still not being cut back by Solihull MBC. It was stated there were many trees and bushes in Cheswick Green, which needed cutting back. Various locations were noted, including by the cricket ground, where people were having to walk with prams in the road, to avoid over hanging overgrowth. It was pointed out some areas were 8 feet tall and people had to bend/duck down to pass, in certain places.

90.1.1 It was stated the weather over the recent months had made the trees/bushes worse. Borough Cllr. Ken Hawkins commented about SMBC possibly needing to look at investing more money into dealing with this.

90.1.2 Cllr. Swain said he would draft something to send to SMBC about this, if possible, he would arrange to meet an officer, to carry out a site visit.

90.2 Cllr. Hawkins said he had met with representatives from Taylor Wimpey, Persimmon and Richborough Estates, in relation to proposals for Tythe Barn Lane.

90.3 Cllr. Hawkins spoke about the Boundary Commission, he said the Councils position would be published next week, it would be shared with the Parish Council; two Wards – Bickenhill and Blythe were far too big, some of their parts need to go into another Ward; he referred to Blythe having 12,200 electors and Dorridge/Dickens Heath only having 1100-1300; he said this would not affect Cheswick Green.

90.4 Cllr. Hawkins said the parking around the school needed to be discussed. He said they needed to talk about where they were with this and what they wanted; he added this would not wait until the annual traffic orders were discussed in November, it would be dealt with outside of that meeting.

90.4.1 Cllr. Swain said this issue had been raised at the annual parish meeting, residents had been informed that members of the Parish Council had met with the relevant officer from SMBC, however this officer had now left SMBC, it was queried who had taken their place.

90.5 Cllr. Hawkins said he had been contacted by a resident of Illshaw Heath, about the speed of cars. He said he had suggested the Parish Councils speed sign was located there, to monitor the issue. He said Dickens Heath and Tidbury Green Parish Councils were getting speed signs.

90.5.1 There were comments about evidence of speeds being down to 30-36mph; that even if the speed sign reduced speeds to 25-26-27mph, this was still a win.

90.5.2 Cllr. Smith said in relation to Illshaw Heath, Kineton Lane - 85% drove over 20mph. She said she had seen people coming out of the new development, putting their foot down and going to 50mph.

90.5.3 Cllr. Hawkins said most people that speed were locals, he referred to them cutting through to go to the gym. He said it was brilliant that the Parish Council had with speed camera, but it was no good if nothing was being done with the data. He said the police and the Councils highways authority, were responsible for dealing with this.

90.6 Cllr. Hawkins said another issue was the boy racers on the Tesco car park, they had returned, big time. He spoke about re-establishing the injunction, which had been renewed three or four times, he said it was a Borough wide injunction.

90.7 There were comments about Creynolds Lane not having the 30-40 signs removed from the road, it was stated these needed to be removed.

90.7.1 Cllr. Gosling said if you drove to the Stratford Road from Cheswick Green, her car stated the limit was 5mph, on the return it didn't state anything.

90.8 There were comments about weeds by Creynolds Lane growing back; it was stated the Creeping Canadian Thistle needed to be removed.

90.9 Cllr. Swain enquired about the issue of the burning manure. Cllr. Hawkins said he had some information to send about this.

90.10 Cllr. Heslington said Foxland Close had become a one-way traffic system, people drove with their wheels on the pavement, because there was nowhere to go if a car was coming the other way.

Note: at 7:20pm Cllr. Hawkins left the meeting; he was thanked for attending.

90.11 A resident referred to parking outside the shops, he said there were four cars there all day. It was suggested these belonged to people that worked there or lived above the shops. It was queried if the area could be made 30 minutes only parking.

Action item: Clerk to ask SMBC about this.

90.12 There were comments about the bus stop signs being put back.

90.13 Cllr. Swain referred to Vicarage Road and the hedges being cut back as part of the phased development work.

91. To resolve to accept the Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 8th June 2023 (*circulated to Parish Cllrs. with the agenda*).

Resolved: proposed Cllr. Swain, seconded Cllr. Gosling – these were accepted as a true and accurate record.

92. To resolve to accept the Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 13th July 2023 (*circulated to Parish Cllrs. with the agenda*).

Resolved: proposed Cllr. Swain, seconded Cllr. Gosling – these were accepted as a true and accurate record.

93. To receive a report on the finances of the Council and to approve any payments made since last meeting and any payments to be made (*circulated to Parish Cllrs. with the agenda*).

Payee	Reason	Total
M D Hamer	To segregate weeds from naturalised plants and wild flowers on Village Green	£85.00
SMBC	2023 Christmas lights	£2790.00
Marie Zizzi	Reimbursement for M&S voucher purchased for Exercise class instructor	£50.00
Countrywide GM	Grounds maintenance July 2023	£786.89
M. Zizzi	Reimbursement for Instant ink 25/05-25/6	£16.49
DM Payroll Services Ltd.	Administration of payroll April – September 2023	£90.00
Countrywide GM	Grounds maintenance August 2023	£786.89
M. Zizzi	Reimbursement for Instant ink 25/06-25/7	£16.49
More in confidential section.		
Petty cash £50.27		

Resolved: proposed Cllr. Gosling, seconded Cllr. Heslington; that all payments were approved.

94. To consider planning applications (*sent separately by email, including those received and dealt with during August*) **and local development including Cheswick Place and Blythe Valley.**

The following five planning application were received during the August recess, it was agreed there were no comments to be submitted for these.

PL/2023/01357/TPO - 561 Tanworth Lane Cheswick Green Solihull B90 4JE; 1 x Oak Tree: Cut back 3m of growth overhanging neighbours' side to eliminate overhang. Tree marked as number 7 on sketch. 4 x Alder Tree: Reduce Height and spread by 3 meters of Alder Trees along the fence line. This will eliminate overhanging branches into neighbour's garden. Trees marked as 1, 2, 3 and 4 on sketch. 2 x Alder Trees: Pollard at 25 feet Alder Tree which is leaning heavily over into neighbour's garden to eliminate overhang, tree marked as number 5 on sketch. Pollard at 25 feet Alder Tree, which is dying to remove all dead wood and make safe, marked as tree 5 on sketch.

PL/2023/00803/MINFHO - 24 Rosewood Drive Blythe Valley Park Shirley Solihull; Retention of decking area including changes of levels in garden.

PL/2023/01561/MINFHO - 52 Creynolds Lane Cheswick Green Solihull B90 4ER; Ground floor side and rear extensions and roof extension to form first floor including increase in ridge height and associated alterations

PL/2023/01541/PPFL - Harvester Stratford Road Shirley Solihull B90 4EE; External alternations to an existing building including the erection of temporary wooden huts for additional outdoor seating; a fuel store; timber balustrades; decorative weatherboarding; a new takeaway window; additional lighting equipment; a replacement entrance door set and associated extraction/ventilation equipment.

PL/2023/01745/ADV - 2 Blythe Gate Shirley Solihull B90 8DX; Erect company name/logo and operational signage mounted on building,

PL/2023/01255/PPFL - Erect 2 bedroom dwelling on land adjacent to 12 Glenwood Drive; Erect 2 bedroom dwelling on land adjacent to 12 Glenwood Drive

94.1 The Parish Council objected to this planning application on the following grounds: -
1. This application for a two bedroomed development would have a detrimental impact on the occupants of neighbouring properties. Existing homes are overlooked which would result in a lack of privacy.

2. The proposed development does not meet the spatial and design parameters for residential backland development. In particular, building separation distance, amenity space, footprint and green infrastructure.

3. The proposal is out of character with neighbouring properties and is forward of the existing building line. We understand that the applicants have said that the Parish Council supports the approval of this planning application. The Parish Council refutes this claim.

PL/2023/01784/MINFHO - 7 Longleat Drive Cheswick Green Solihull B90 4SN; Two storey side/front extension with single storey front and rear extensions.

94.1.1 There were comments about the distance between the properties and the party wall act; it was stated it was not clear from the drawings, there were no measurements. There were no comments to be submitted.

94.2 In relation to Cheswick Place; Cllr. Gosling the footpath had eventually been cut back, after she had sent photographs and spoken to the maintenance person.

94.2.1 There were comments about a pool of water and water running down.

94.2.2 It was stated the catch on the gate had still not been fixed, there was just a piece of string around it. There were comments about the path getting slippery and muddy.

95. To discuss progress with Cheswick Green School expansion.

95.1 It was reiterated there were still issues with parking, eventually something would happen. There were comments about a new influx of parents and the area still being a building site.

95.2 It was queried why there was fencing down the left-hand side of the classrooms; there was no explanation for this. It was stated there was only a 3-foot area, for the children to play from the classrooms to the fence. The children had to leave via a gap in the fence. A Parish Councillor had been told the children had to wear high-visibility vests, when they went out to play.

95.3 It was stated it was chaos when people went round the back to collect children, as there was only a 6-foot area for 2-way traffic, as well as the door being opened. People

could not go on the grass, as it was fresh turf, which would soon become mud due to the weather.

95.4 There were comments about two squares of hard-core, it was queried what these were for. There were other comments about the expansion of the school.

95.5 It was stated people had been told the new classrooms were nice inside, but there was a lack of space for other areas, such as play and there was only one hall, therefore lunch would be held in two shifts. It was stated it was not the best, but there was nothing that could be done.

96. To receive any reports from Chair, Councillors and/or the Clerk.

96.1 Cllr. Smith spoke about the resident who had filled in a pothole on the carpark. It was agreed to provide him with something as a thank you.

96.2 Cllr. Gosling said the Village Hall cleaner had cleared a pile of broken glass, from the children's play area, the Parish Council needed to acknowledge this.

96.3 There were comments about the bolts becoming loose on the little playhouse. Cllr. Swain said he would look at this. It was noted the sunken trampoline was a favourite feature.

96.4 Cllr. Gosling spoke about overgrown, vegetation on the footpath by a property in Snowsill Drive. It was suggested Cllr. Swain could include this if/when he met with an officer from SMBC.

96.5 There were comments about a drone being out and about, as well as police cars.

96.6 An email from the Crochet Fairy was noted; Cllr. Smith said she would see when the cherry picker people would be available, to install the poppy waterfall.

97. Update/report from Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC).

97.1 The Clerk spoke about the metal exercise equipment cupboard and its contents.

97.2 Cllr. Swain said the boiler took a long time to heat up, the VHMC had arranged for it to be checked, the emissions were very high, there were problems with the flue, it was not a sufficient size for the building. A new boiler had been installed, costing £4200 + VAT. The previous boiler had only been installed in 2012, which cost £3550.

97.2.1 Cllr. Swain said there was an issue with the new boiler, it regulated to 60 degrees, there were notices in relation to the hot water, a new valve was needed.

97.3 Cllr. Swain said the VMMC had held its AGM last night, only one person not on the committee had attended, no-one had come forward for the vacancy, if anyone knew anybody who was interested, to let him know.

97.4 Cllr. Swain said the accounts had been completed (he gave all councillors a copy), once the Chairman had completed his report, this would be sent to the Parish Council.

97.5 It was noted the VH had £48k in the bank; Cllr. Smith suggested air conditioning units were purchased; it was stated the VHMC would look into this in the new year, as well as re-decorating the Village Hall.

97.6 Cllr. Swain said the insurance had been renewed, there were a few more benefits, it had cost an additional £300.

97.7 Cllr. Swain said the Karate Club had asked for space to store mats.

97.8 Cllr. Swain said the VHMC had received a donation of £2000 from a resident; it was possible this would be used for some new curtains; the VHMC were going to put a small plaque in the Village Hall for the resident.

97.9 Cllr. Swain said there had been an incident recently; Brownies had been in the hall until 8pm, a class was meant to take place from 8-9pm, but it had been cancelled. When the cleaner came the following morning, the door was unlocked, the lights and fans had been left on. The Brownies had left everything, as they were unaware the class had been cancelled. This was being investigated.

98. To discuss guidelines for future events, including expenditure and income.

98.1 It was noted a DJ had been booked for a children's Christmas party on Sunday 3rd December 5-7pm; It was pointed out the Christmas tree lights switch on was booked for the same date 530-6pm.

98.1.1 There were various comments/suggestions about what to do. Cllr. Coles said it would not take a lot of help; parents should attend with their children; it was not a baby-sitting service. It was suggested children were given some crisps and a drink, there could be a charge on the door, it could be advertised on the Parish Councils notice boards/Facebook, on a first come, first served basis. It was queried whether a budget

should be set; or to just purchase what was needed and submit the receipt for reimbursement; it was agreed to keep it as simple as possible.

Action item: Clerk to contact DJ to see if they can do 3-5pm instead, before the turning on of the Christmas tree lights.

99. To discuss issues with monthly site audits of Parish Council owned land including what to do in relation to the Village Green and area for barking.

99.1 There were comments about a log holding up a fence, it was stated it had been there for 3-6 months; it was a trip hazard and it was on Parish Council owned land.

Action item: Clerk to write to the resident concerned and ask them to remove this by the end of the month.

99.2 It was noted the bark path on Snowhill Drive had become narrower and narrower over time. It looked as if it had been weedkilled ready for re-barking. It was also noted the Cherry tree and hedge needing cutting. It was felt these matters would be dealt with as per the grounds maintenance specification.

99.3 In relation to the Mount, it was noted some overhanging trees had been cut by the residents.

99.4 In relation to the Village Green; for an area where nothing grew, it had been suggested to install barking, however it was felt it would be better to just let the grass grow back.

99.5 In relation to the Recreation Ground; the patch under the swings had not been repaired; it was suggested to leave this for now due to the weather and to look for companies that could repair this and the wet pour shrinkage later.

99.6 It was noted Jake from Warwickshire Wildlife Trust had carried out some work with a few volunteers, it had been raining on the day they were there. Jake had been pleased to see the Lillies. He had been asked for his opinion on the swales, he said the Bull Rushes were a good indication there was water and possibly silt, which would cause blockage. He said there should be a flood report/maintenance plan, to drop him a line and he would come back another time to look at this, he could only give a visual opinion. It was suggested to ask SMBCs Landscape Architect about this.

100. To discuss the possibility of holding a community café in the Village Hall.

100.1 Cllr. Swain said last year, further to a government directive, the VHMC had help for a warm hub, it was set up at no cost for residents, to come for a free cup of tea. He said some committee members were for this and some were against it, there were mixed opinions about whether it achieved the goals set out.

100.2 Cllr. Swain said the use to the hall had been free, it went on for a few weeks.

100.3 An email from a local resident who wanted to set up a warm hub was noted; there were a few residents who were interested in attending. Cllr. Swain read an email from the Chairman of the VHMC.

100.4 Some background on the resident, wishing to run this was given. It was stated the hall would be given for free for 6 weeks; when the previous warm hub had been in place, 2 or 3 people wanted to take it on, when the last day of it took place, a few ladies from the U3A attended, they had never been before, they thought having a warm hub was not necessary.

100.5 It was noted funding was available for warm hubs. Cllr. Coles said there were implications if people were being charged to attend, in relation to an A3 license and food hygiene certification, if it was a regular, organised and advertised event serving tea/coffee and food. It was different if it was Ad Hoc, but if it was a regular event, on a specific day at a specific time and there was a charge, it was considered a food business and it needed to be registered with the local services. It was queried if people could make a donation.

100.6 There were comments about asking the Parish Council for funding, if this was agreed, the Parish Council could get inundated with requests, where would it draw the line.

100.7 There were comments about whether it would be for residents only, whether it would attract the people that needed this. It was noted previously about 12 people had attended; people knew about it by word of mouth.

100.8 It was stated if someone stood up to run this, it would be their responsibility.

100.9 It was felt the 6-week trial basis could go ahead, to look at it again after that. It was stated it needed to be self-sustaining and to review what the government had done last year.

100.10 Cllr. Coles said if it was held on a weekday during the daytime, it would be restricting to a certain level of residents. There were comments about whether it needed to be for the majority, if it could be for a minority, who wanted to use it.

100.11 Cllr. Smith said she would look into funding for this. She asked the Clerk to enquire if Dickens Heath PC had a warm hub.

100.12 Cllr. Swain suggested they left this for now and looked into it further.

101. To discuss issues raised with SMBC, including bins.

101.1 Cllr. Swain said he had spoken about the bins at a previous meeting; the situation had been woeful, he had written to SMBC, he had spoken to the person that dealt with this, they only came to Solihull 2 days a week; he had been on the phone for an hour and a half, he had been promised an new all singing, all dancing system would be in place. He said the bin emptying had gone from 67% to 110%, plus they were now sweeping up, so he had gotten somewhere with this, but it had taken a long time.

101.1.1 Cllr. Swain said he had taken and sent photographs, a plan was in place, they should see a big improvement, they already had. He said SMBC would not replace bins, it was the same throughout the Borough, the contractor was getting away with not doing what it should be doing.

101.2 Cllr. Swain said the next issue were the verges.

102. To discuss CGPCs Action Plan.

102.1 Noted.

103. To consider and resolve any action(s) in relation to items of correspondence received *(issued to Parish Cllrs with the agenda).*

103.1 Emails and information from the West Midlands Pension Fund (WMPF), about having a Discretionary Policy were noted. Cllr. Swain said they needed to leave this for now, as they needed something in layman’s terms. He said he could contact SMBCs Director of Finance, to see if they could assist all Solihull’s Parish/Town Councils clerk, who were affected by this.

103.2 An email from WALC with an invitation to it AGM was noted. Another email from WALC with two policies attached, was noted, it was felt it was not necessary to adopt these.

103.3 An email from IM Properties regarding the Parish Councils notice board was noted.

104. To discuss and resolve any actions in relation to the ongoing CGPC action list *(issued to Parish Cllrs with the agenda).*

104.1 Noted.

105. Agenda items for next meeting.

105.1 None were given.

106. To resolve that due to the special nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw.

106.1 There was nothing further to discuss. Cllr. Swain closed the meeting at 20:55

107. To discuss and resolve any actions regarding any items of correspondence or matters considered confidential.

107.1 There was nothing further to discuss.

108. PAYE, payroll and Pension Scheme.

Meeting closed 20:55

108.1 Details in confidential section.

Signed

Dated