Cheswick Green Parish Council

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CHESWICK GREEN STATUTORY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Thursday 9th April 2026 7pm Cheswick Green Village Hall

Present:
14 residents
Cheswick Green Parish Councillors; Simon Coles, Linda Heslington, Margaret Gosling *(Vice Chairman)* and Mick Swain *(Chairman*).
CGPC Clerk: Marie Zizzi

1. Welcome and introduction.
1.1 Cllr. Gosling welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending. Cllr. Gosling explained that the Statutory Annual Parish Meeting is not a Parish Council meeting. It is a meeting of the electors of the Parish that must take place between 1st March and 1st June. Electors have the opportunity to learn of the activities that have been undertaken by the Parish Council during the past twelve months. The meeting is chaired by the Parish Council.
Electors can debate current issues and put forward resolutions for consideration by the Parish Council. Such resolutions will not bind the Parish Council.
The Parish Council is not obliged to pursue these resolutions, except in the case of the provision of Allotments. Following the resolution in 2010 the Parish Council despite trying, by contacting several landowners, has unfortunately, so far, been unable to find land that could provide allotments.

2. To accept apologies for absence.
2.1 An apology was received from Parish Councillor Aimee Moloney.

3. Minutes of the Statutory Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 10th April 2025.
Resolved; proposed Cllr. Coles, seconded Cllr. Heslington; the Minutes should be signed as a true and accurate record.

4. Report from 2025/26 Parish Council Chairman, Cllr. Mick Swain
(*written report attached*).
4.1 Cllr. Gosling read the report. (*Note: report will be attached to the Minutes, which will be available on the website*).

5. Issues of particular local importance.
5.1 A resident spoke about obtaining support for events at Blythe Valley (BV). It was stated the Parish Council (PC) had offered support; however, the PC could not pay money to an individual, the event needed to be organised by a group for example a Residents Association (RA).
5.1.1 Cllr. Coles said this had been discussed on a number of occasions now, there was a need to look for venues, locations and a community bank account was required. Cllr. Coles referred to the PC having a grants policy, this was on the website. Cllr. Coles pointed out this meeting was the biggest turn out of people the PC had received so far.
5.1.2 It was reiterated the PC could not pay for private events.
5.1.3 It was queried why there had been an event in Cheswick Green, on Easter Sunday, which had then been cancelled. It was stated there had been a badly worded post on Facebook in relation to Easter, there was no event.

5.1.4 Cllr. Coles said the PC usually had about 620 followers, this had suddenly increased to 6000, it had blown-up; he said if people wanted an Easter event this was something the PC could look at doing.
5.1.5 A resident said nothing had been done at BV, they had lived in CG for 22 years and moved to BV a few years ago.
5.1.6 It was pointed out there was no Community/Village Hall in BV. Residents were informed the PC was trying to get another village hall for the community.
5.1.7 There were further comments about BV in relation to a field, goalposts, land ownership, responsibility, risk assessment etc. It was stated all these things were needed for events, it was very limited what could be done and where at BV.
5.1.8 It was stated the former CGRA had organised events, as well as the PC, risk assessments were needed. Any events in/on the Recreation Ground were open to all residents, everyone in the parish.
5.1.9 It was reiterated it was tough to do events at BV as there was no village hall. It was stated an individual at BV had organised their own private events.
5.1.10 A resident said events in CG were not published in BV. Cllr. Coles said he disagreed with this. Cllr. Coles spoke about no more than 10% of people seeing the PCs posts, he referred to the 2025 Bingo night, that had been advertised on social media and noticeboards, he said 12 people had attended this.
5.1.11 Cllr. Coles said for something to take place at BV, residents needed to speak with Encore, get a cost and to then come to the PC with a proposal/request.
5.1.12 It was pointed out the PC could not give money retrospectively, and that events needed to be open to everyone, not a selective few.
5.1.13 It was stated the PC had discussed its Christmas event and having a bus to bring people from BV. Cllr. Coles said if there was a hall in BV, the PC would hold an event there.
5.1.14 It was queried whether there was a suitable room at the Care Home in BV. Discussions had taken place with people from the Care Home, round the idea of having a cinema night for specific age groups. It was also pointed out the clients of the Care Home were paying a lot of money to be there.
5.1.15 It was stated Virgin Active had been approached, it was not interested, Brew 23 could not really help out, there was very little on offer.
5.1.16 It was stated, it was a difficult situation, it was hard to find a happy medium. It was agreed to try and find solutions, where they could be found and to work together.
5.1.17 It was reiterated that without there being a building/location to hold events it was very difficult.
5.1.18 It was reiterated that everyone needed to work together. It was stated there was a (hidden) wall/barrier between BV and CG, it was the same for Illshaw Heath and it would be the same for new developments proposed for Dog Kennel Lane.
5.1.19 It was suggested two Christmas events were held. Cllr. Coles did not think this was necessary, he said the event was never full to capacity, the Village Hall could hold 150 people, only about 50 people turned up for the Christmas event.
5.1.20 Cllr. Coles said the PC only consisted of 6 people and 3 were retired.
5.1.21 There were comments about Winterton Farm and a possible planning application/future plan.
5.1.22 There were comments about the car park and it taking over 10 years to get anything done, due to the joint ownership. It was pointed out there was no quick process.
5.1.23 It was further reiterated that everyone needed to work together.
5.1.24 It was suggested if something happened at Winterton Farm, this could bridge the gap between CG and BV.
5.1.25 It was queried whether a community event could be held at the BV BMX track. It was stated permission would be required from Encore and volunteers would be needed.
5.1.26 It was pointed out that Encore was employed by the residents of BV, as the residents paid a monthly fee to Encore.

5.1.27 There were comments about knowing what the event was that residents wanted and who was responsible for the event. It was stated there was a need to break the barrier.
5.1.28 It was noted Cllr. Coles was attending the BV Stakeholder meeting taking place on Wednesday 15th April at 10am, this would be the first time a Parish Councillor would be involved.

6. Any other matters raised by an elector of the parish.
6.1 Cllr. Gosling asked if there were any other matters residents wanted to raise. It was agreed these would be brought up during the PC meeting.

Meeting closed at 7:25pm

Signed ……Position ……. Date …….

Chairman's Report March 2026
This report covers the period from April 2025 to March 2026

I would like to thank my fellow Councillors and our clerk, Marie, for all their hard work during this time.

Increase in Precept
For the 2026-27 financial year, every household will see an increase in their precept of £7 per year, which is approximately 13.5 pence per week. Precept amounts for 2026/27 are not currently available but ours is £43. Precept amounts for 2025/26 from neighbouring Parishes are Dickens Heath £42.47. Hockley Heath £81.21 and Tidbury Green £43.15.

Planned works
The primary reason for the increase is to fund several key projects, including the resurfacing of the car park, the installation of a new gazebo, and planned works within Blythe Valley. The Parish Council has engaged a planning consultant to help with objecting to the amount of planning applications for development recently received.

New housing development
As you know Solihull Council approved the construction of new housing on green belt land on Dog Kennel Lane and Stratford Road. We expect house designs and layouts to be approved later this year and construction to commence shortly thereafter. The developers are Taylor Wimpey and Richborough Estates.

In 2016/17 the Parish comprised of 934 dwellings, there are now 1860 dwellings. By 2036 this Parish could comprise of 4000 dwellings following completion of housing estates at Dog Kennel Lane.

Following the government changes to planning including "the grey belt" a further four planning applications have been submitted for further housing developments. We are also aware of interest from two developers at other sites. The applications received are from Tayor Wimpey, Richborough Estates and Spitfire. Approval of these planning applications would increase new housing by approximately a further 500 dwellings.

The introduction of new housing developments is set to bring significant changes to the local landscape. As rural areas expand, they increasingly encroach upon natural environments. This expansion results in diminished biodiversity, the loss of wildlife habitats, disruptions to ecosystems, and a reduction in green space. Additionally, such developments can cause environmental challenges including water pollution, deforestation, and the depletion of natural resources.

Further concerns include pollution of water sources and soil contamination, which have a direct impact on the health of the environment and local communities.

The growth in population due to new housing developments places additional strain on essential services and infrastructure. Increased pressure on education, transportation, sanitation, and healthcare facilities is anticipated. Traffic congestion is likely to worsen, and there may be a shortage of shops to accommodate the rising number of residents.

A noticeable surge in road traffic can be expected, leading to frequent traffic jams and congestion throughout the area.

Community Engagement: Drop-In Sessions

To keep residents informed about the housing developments taking place across the Parish, several drop-in sessions were organised. These sessions aimed to provide updates and facilitate dialogue within the community.

One session was held in the Village Hall, lasting five hours, but was attended by only ten residents, which was disappointing. Another session targeted the community café members and proved highly effective, resulting in lively and candid discussions. A further session was cancelled due to lack of expressed interest from residents.

The Parish Council will object to housing development BUT unless you are also willing to raise your concerns these developments are likely to be approved.

Car Park

We are pleased to say that following over 10 years of discussion between the three owners of the car park agreement has finally been reached to resurface the car park during April 2026.

Local events

We held a Remembrance Service which was well attended.
The children's disco was well received and coincided with the turning on of the Christmas lights and arrival of Santa to greet the children.

Grounds Maintenance

The grounds maintenance contract was awarded to Countrywide Grounds Maintenance from April 2022 for a period of 3 years, this has been extended for a further 2 years. We are satisfied with the works that have been undertaken during the past 12 months; indeed, residents have commented on this.