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## CHESWICK GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2025 7pm Cheswick Green Village Hall

**Present:** Cheswick Green Parish Councillors: Simon Coles, Linda Heslington and Margaret Gosling (Chairman for the meeting, in the absence of the Chairman).

Clerk: Marie Zizzi

3 members of the public

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

175.1 An apology was received from Cllr. Mick Swain, the reason given was accepted.

175.2 An apology was received from Cllr. Gaynor Willmott, no reason had been given.

175.3 It was stated Michelle Smith had sent an email, to say that she was resigning with immediate effect today.

### **176. Declarations of Interest/Dispensations.**

176.1 There were none.

### **177. Public Participation (15 Minutes).**

Note: Borough Cllrs. Green and Hawkins had sent their apologies.

177.1 A member of the public spoke about not hearing anything further from Solihull MBC, in relation to grass and planting that had taken place, since they had raised this matter in September; nothing had been done and no action had been taken. The resident added they had enquired if residents' complaints were being ignored.

177.2 It was stated people parked on the double yellow lines at night, as there were no wardens present.

177.3 There were comments about the top of Willow Drive, where there was a gap in the road lines; about coming out of Knoll Croft and not being able to see; about people still parking in the bus stop area and about issues in relation to parking.

177.4 It was stated Foxland Close seemed to be better, since the double yellow lines had been installed.

177.5 It was felt that parking outside the shops was better, it was slightly clearer than before, now there was a 30 minute stay restriction.

177.6 It was stated the yellow lines had not been completed yet, this was due to the temperature/weather and moisture. It was queried whether yellow lines were needed across the road by driveways. It was stated there had been incidents when people had parked in driveways, if yellow lines were not there.

177.7 It was stated Briar Wood also seemed to be better, however lots of cars had moved to Glenwood Drive now, on both sides of the road, as well as the roads off Glenwood Drive.

177.8 It was noted the Borough Councillors were looking at what could be done in relation to problems on other roads including Coppice; it was felt the suggestion of this being one-way, would not work.

### **178. To resolve to accept the Minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024 (circulated to Parish Cllrs. with the agenda).**

**Resolved:** proposed Cllr. Heslington, seconded Cllr. Coles – the minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

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

<b>Payee</b>	<b>Total</b>
Countrywide Grounds Maintenance December 2024	£786.89
M. Zizzi (instant ink)	£11.99
Marie Zizzi (reimbursement for McAfee antivirus for PC laptop for 2 years)	£8.99
Countrywide Grounds Maintenance tree work December 2024	£1326.00
Vision ICT (hosted email accounts)	£24.00
D M. Malley Payroll Services (Oct 2024 – March 2025)	£90.00
TDR Highways & Street Lighting Civils Limited (work on trees the Mount/Saxon Wood Rd)	£2880.00
More in confidential section.	
Petty cash £85.78	

Transfer £6500 from the UTB savings account into the current account.

179.1 It was stated the shredding of the tree branches from the Mount and Saxon Wood Road, had not been carried out. It was thought the company had tried to do this before Christmas, as they had requested access from the school side, however the machine had been too big to get in. The Clerk was asked to contact the company for an update on the situation, before the payment was made.

**Resolved;** proposed Cllr. Coles, seconded Cllr. Heslington – all payments were approved.

**180. To receive quarterly comparison (budget/expenditure) and bank reconciliation (circulated to Parish Cllrs. with the agenda).**

180.1 There were no queries.

**181. To resolve 2025-26 Precept and delegate authority to the Clerk to submit the notice to Solihull MBC.**

181.1 Cllr. Heslington said it was her first time being involved in setting the precept, she asked for it to be explained. Cllr. Coles said the PC needed to set a budget, the precept was not always the amount of the budget, due to any possible carry forward from the previous year, however the PC needed to keep some money as reserves. The Clerk said there was no set amount for reserves, it was for the PC to decide.

181.2 It was noted in one year it had been necessary to increase the precept, when the PC had spent more than £50,000 on the Village Hall roof.

181.3 It was stated the PC needed to be mindful of things like this, as this had been unknown and unpredicted expenditure.

181.4 The current precept and the rate for a Band D property were discussed. After further discussion it was;

**Resolved;** the CGPC 2025-26 precept would be £66,528; proposed Cllr. Coles, seconded Cllr. Heslington. *(This would result in approximately 10% increase on the previous year for a Band D equivalent type property).*

**Resolved;** proposed Cllr. Gosling, seconded Cllr. Heslington; the Clerk is authorised to submit the notice to Solihull MBC.

**182. To consider planning applications (sent separately by email) and local development including Cheswick Place and Blythe Valley, including adoption by SMBC.**

**PL/2024/02739/MINFHO** - 12 Kineton Lane Hockley Heath Solihull B94 6RX; Two storey rear and side extension, single storey front extension.

182.1.1 The Clerk said at the request of Cllr. Swain, this had been forwarded to BVRA to see if there were any comments, no reply had been received. There were no comments to be submitted.

**PL/2024/02998/MINFHO** - 15 Illshaw Heath Road Hockley Heath Solihull B94 6RT; Ground floor rear extension.

182.1.2 There were no comments to be submitted.

**PL/2025/00020/MINFHO** - 82 Cheswick Way Cheswick Green Solihull B90 4HG; Roof ridge raised by 1m to assist in forming a proposed first floor level. First floor flat roof dormers to rear and roof lights to front roof pitch. Two storey side extension. Front porch with gable roof. Removal of existing dilapidated single storey side garage and supporting canopy. Removal of existing rear conservatory.

182.1.3 It was agreed an objection should be submitted in relation to this application as follows; Cheswick Green Parish Council objects to this planning application because this will make a bungalow into a house, the proposal is out of character with the remainder of the properties at this location. The proposed new roof line would affect neighbours. The roof of the existing property is already higher than neighbouring properties. The property is already quite big and this proposal would make it huge. This property is adjacent to the school and the proposal is not in keeping with all the other bungalows in the vicinity.

**PL/2024/02926/PPOL** - Land South Of Dog Kennel Lane Shirley Solihull; Outline planning application (with all matters reserved except access) for phased residential development including affordable housing and selfbuild homes (Class C3); a care or retirement home (Class C2); a primary school (Class F1); retail and commercial uses (Classes F2 and E); vehicular access from Dog Kennel Lane and Tanworth Lane; public open space; and associated infrastructure.

182.1.4 It was pointed out this application had been received at 4:40pm today; it was agreed to ask the Solihull MBC Officer dealing with this, for an extension on the deadline to comment.

182.1.4.1 It was noted the Borough Cllrs. were engaging with this application, in relation to infrastructure.

182.2 In relation to Cheswick Place; it was stated the site was no better; only the roads had been adopted by Solihull MBC, none of the open spaces or land between had been adopted; it was stated the PC had been provided with a list of matters that needed resolving, before the site would be adopted; it was queried if there was a criteria and why it was taking so long; Clerk to ask Solihull MBC.

182.3 In relation to Blythe Valley; it was noted the Clerk had sent two emails to BVRA, Paul Vernon (*Chairman of Illshaw Heath RA*) and Wedges Bakery, regarding defibrillators, but had received no replies.

**183. To receive any reports from Councillors and/or the Clerk.**

183.1 Cllr. Coles and Cllr. Heslington had agreed to attend the Solihull Area Meeting (SAM), on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2025 in the Civic Suite.

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

184.1 Cllr. Heslington said the VHMC meeting had been postponed, due to illness and people being away; she added it would take place next week now. The kitchen and the cleaning of the VH were both to be discussed.

**185. To discuss issues with monthly site audits of Parish Council owned land, including The Mount and trees.**

185.1 It was reiterated the shredding of the tree branches, from the Mount and Saxon Wood Road still needed to be carried out and that the machine brought to do this, had been too big; they had turned up on 23<sup>rd</sup> December to do this, the wood/branches were alongside the school fence, they had been there for a period of time now; it was possible they had created a habitat for wildlife.

185.2 It was pointed out that now Michelle Smith had resigned, someone would need to do the site audit for the Mount.

185.3 Cllr. Coles said the leaves on the Village Green had all gone; it was thought they had been blown away

**186. To discuss CGPC mobile phone/broadband/landline and new Virgin contract.**

186.1 Cllr. Coles said the PC mobile phone worked, it could make calls, but it was not connected to O2 yet; this needed to be done when the PC laptop and PC mobile phone were together. He said in relation to broadband he was none the wiser, he referred to the costs going up and about it not happening now, but then he had been informed Virgin was waiting for the cable to be installed. He said the VH was still on the BT network, the hive still worked. He would send an email on Monday.

**187. To discuss the car park.**

187.1 It was stated the car park was getting worse. The Clerk had sent an email to Solihull MBC (24/12)24), seeking advice in relation to installing a barrier. No reply had been received. Cllr. Coles was to contact the Area Manager of the brewery to make enquiries.

187.2 Cllr. Coles referred to suggesting there was a kerbstone type barrier.

187.3 It was felt that the PC and the owner of the shops parts of the car park needed to be repaired properly.

187.4 It was pointed out there were a couple of potholes that needed doing now, close to the big one that was recently filled in. Clerk to ask PC Grounds Maintenance contractor for a quote.

187.5 It was suggested the car park was made into a one-way system.

**188. To discuss 2025 events.**

188.1. It was agreed to provisionally book the Village Hall (VH), for Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November for a craft fayre 2-4pm with access from 10am; however, members were unsure whether to hold this again in 2025.

188.2 It was agreed to hold the switching on of the Christmas lights event on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2025; Father Christmas to arrive at 430pm; lights on at 5pm; Disco 530-730pm.

**Resolved;** Cllr. Coles proposed £100 was donated to Shirley Round Table in December 2025; there were no objections.

188.3 Remembrance Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2025; VH booked 10-2pm; same format as 2024.

188.4 It was agreed not to hold any event for Halloween, as people did their own 'Trick or Treat' and also the school had a Halloween Disco.

188.5 In relation to any other events, it was felt there were not enough volunteers to help out. There were comments about the Easter Egg Hunt, the Duck Race and the Bingo events held previously, being successful.

188.6 It was noted the VH was available from 6:30pm on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2025; when a Bingo event could be held. It was suggested to book the VH for Bank Holiday Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May, for a Duck Race; tickets could be sold at the Bingo; the hall could be booked 10-2pm for refreshments. Cllr. Heslington to check which regular users would be using the VH over the May bank holiday weekend.

188.7 In relation to 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May; it was suggested the Tuesday café may like to do something for this; Cllr. Heslington to liaise with the lady who runs the café.

**189. To discuss CCTV.**

189.1 Cllr. Coles said he was looking into a proposal for a 6-foot rod/pole; he was waiting for prices, to run this from the VH.

**190. To discuss issues raised with SMBC and the speed sign.**

190.1 An email from Mr. Paul Tovey, SMBCs Head of Highways Management, in relation to a Stage 1 complaint had been circulated; Cllr. Swain had suggested to go along with the proposal, to draw a line under this and to have regular meetings with Mr. Tovey to discuss issues. There were no objections.

190.2 Emails from Borough Cllrs. Green and Hawkins were noted; in relation to Cheswick Way and Coppice Walk, there were comments about drivers mounting the pavement, this being very dangerous and suggested bollards could be put on the pavement. There were comments about double yellow lines for outside the pub and at the end of Noble Way.

190.3 It was pointed out that now Michelle Smith had resigned, another Councillor would need to become the point of contact for Solihull MBC, in relation to the speed sign. It was queried where the sign was currently. It was noted Michelle had been able to download data from the speed sign. There were comments about speeds being reduced to 20-mph on some roads and whether the speed sign was updated to take this into account. Clerk to make enquires with Solihull MBC.

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

191.1 All matters had been covered via other items during the meeting.

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

192. Anything that needed attention had already been covered.

**193. Agenda items for next meeting.**

193.1 There were none.

**194. 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.**

**Resolved;** Cllr. Gosling proposed members of the public left the hall at 20:05

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

195.1 In confidential section of the minutes.

**196. To discuss insurance claim.**

196.1 In confidential section of the minutes.

**197. PAYE, payroll and Pension Scheme.**

197.1 In confidential section of the minutes.

**Meeting closed 20:05pm**

Signed .....

Dated .....