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CHESWICK GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Thursday 13th March 2025 7pm Cheswick Green Village Hall

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

Clerk: Marie Zizzi 4 members of the public (including Borough Cllr. Keith Green)

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

219.1 Not applicable all Councillors present.

220. Declarations of Interest/Dispensations.

220.1 There were none.

221. Public Participation (15 Minutes) excluding discussions on plans for the new shelter.

221.1 It was stated Solihull MBC had removed an Elm tree from Glenwood Close, leaving the soil sprinkled with grass seeds, which the birds had eaten, there were two patches. It was pointed out roots from these trees could grow up to 40 metres.

221.1.1 It was stated Solihull MBC had 250,000 trees to plant; the ones planted on Cheswick Way were Oaks; it was also stated trees had been planted around the perimeter of the back of the school.

221.2 A member of the public spoke about rumours in relation to a new shelter; Cllr. Swain said the Parish Council had not looked at anything yet. Despite the Parish Council not wishing to discuss a new shelter, as the consultation was still in progress, the resident made several comments in relation to the old shelter and metal/steel shelters. It was noted Cllr. Moloney was a Civil Engineer, with 15 years in the industry and a 5-year degree.

222. To resolve to accept the Minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 13th February 2025 (circulated to Parish Cllrs. with the agenda).

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

223. To discuss Annual Statutory Parish meeting/assembly due to take place on Thursday 10th April 2025 at 7pm.

223.1 The agenda was signed by the Chairman ready to be displayed. It was agreed the usual monthly Parish Council (PC) meeting would start at 7.15pm, unless anyone did attend the Parish meeting.

224. 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).

Payee	Total
Countrywide Grounds Maintenance - February 2025	£786.89
M. Zizzi (instant ink)	£11.99
Marie Zizzi (Microsoft 365 annual subscription renewal)	£84.99
Simon Coles (Reimbursement for Survey Monkey)	£396.00
Marie Zizzi (Reimbursement for magnets for noticeboards)	£19.99
Marie Zizzi (Reimbursement for Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC))	£36.00

Mental Health Awareness & Wellbeing at work event)	
Vision ICT (setting up .gov.uk email)	£16.00
Vision ICT (biennial fee for .gov.uk domain)	£78.00
SLCC annual membership/subscription	£190.00
TDR Highways & Street Lighting Civils Limited (work on trees)	£2520.00
More in confidential section.	
Petty cash £62.54	

Transfer £3500 from the UTB savings account into the current account.

224.1 A quote had been received from Countrywide Grounds Maintenance for a tree inspection, which was due this year for £896 + VAT; this was accepted, as the previous one had been very good.

Resolved; proposed Cllr. Coles, seconded Cllr. Moloney – all payments and the quotes were approved.

225. To discuss CGPC audit.

225.1 Cllr. Swain said the external auditors had criticised the PC for the past few years, due to the amount of funding in reserves and saying the PC should spend it. He said that the PC was not going to spend it, just to satisfy the auditors, however the auditors would continue to raise this matter.

225.1.1 Cllr. Swain went on to say the PC had never accounted for depreciating assets. If it were not for the CIL funding the PC had received, the PC would not have been able to renew the children's play area and we could not afford a new gazebo. He suggested the PC earmarked reserves to account for assets which required renewal in future. For example, the car park, CCTV, the play area, a shelter and any remaining funds could be set aside for unforeseen expenditure.

225.1.2 Cllr. Swain said the advantage to residents would be that the PC would not need to raise the precept by a large percentage, to pay for the renewal of an asset that the PC could not otherwise afford. This should satisfy the auditors and allay criticism from residents for increasing the precept by a large sum.

225.1 3 Cllr. Moloney said eventually the PC would need to replace benches and notice boards as well.

226. To consider planning applications (sent separately by email) and to discuss local developments Blythe Valley, including defibrillator, and Cheswick Place, including adoption by SMBC.

PL/2025/00347/PNCUDW - Greves Barn Creynolds Lane Cheswick Green Solihull; Prior notification for a change of use from existing agricultural barn into 1 No. dwelling house.

226.1 Cllr. Swain said this was near the TSB college, there was a long barn down a little track; he said a farmer who owned the land, who did not live there had died and his daughter had inherited this and sold it on; yes it was greenbelt, but a building (the barn), already existed there; the proposal was only for one building and it was no different in size to what there was. There were no comments to be submitted.

PL/2025/00380/MINFHO - 8 The Pines Cheswick Green Solihull B90 4JS; Single storey front/side/rear extensions, two storey side extension and outbuilding.

226.1.2 It was stated this was quite a big extension. There were no comments to be submitted.

PL/2025/00427/TPO - 20 Boscobel Road Cheswick Green Solihull B90 4JY; Crown reduce 1 No Oak tree protected by TPO/00031 in rear garden, by 2-3 metres

226.1.3 It was assumed the work would be carried out properly; it was stated Oaks did become massive and the proposal was only to reduce it, as it was too close to the house; there were no comments to be submitted.

226.2 In relation to BV; Borough Cllr. Green said a new café was opening by the Co-op. There were comments about the recent Solihull MBC Call for sites which had now finished; 353 sites were included; Cllr. Green said it was pure conjecture at the moment. There were comments about antisocial behaviour at BV, it was felt this had calmed down due to the weather. There were comments about drug dealings and a person who sat in a car outside CG Village Hall; it was noted the CCTV camera had been covered.

226.3 In relation to Cheswick Place; it was stated a resident kept asking why there were no dog faeces bin – this was due to Solihull MBC not yet adopting the site. It was stated there was a lot of litter, mainly energy drink cans in Cheswick Place, by Archer Drive. It was stated there were no bins there. It was noted a resident had contacted the PC, enquiring if there

were any plans to carry out a litter pick; it was stated the PC could arrange one for Cheswick Place and would consider doing this when the weather improved. It was pointed out when the PC did organise litter picks, it was always the same handful of residents who attended. It was suggested the PC could put a litter bin near the War Memorial, however this would need to be added to the Grounds Maintenance Specification.

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

227.1 Cllr. Coles said he had agreed to attend Health & Safety and RoSPA Playground Inspection training in April, the course was £210 (plus VAT) per person, there was also an optional exam costing £130 per person (no VAT). He asked if the PC members wanted him to undertake the exam, which meant he would be qualified to carry out inspections; it was unanimously agreed he should do this.

227.2 It was noted some notice boards had now been replaced; outside the Village Hall, outside the shops and on Saxon Wood Road. It was stated the notice board at Cheswick Place was unreadable now, due to the perspex, something needed to be done about it. It was stated members of the Neighbourhood Watch group would try using a blow torch on it.

227.3 Cllr. Swain spoke about a planning application for 12 Kinton Lane, a resident had complained about the applicant wrecking their fence, he had been to visit the resident; he said the Council tenants house was in a terrible state, a section of the back fence had been ripped out. He had contacted the planning officer regarding enforcement. He added if the application was approved, it would be a party wall, he had also spoken to another neighbour at this location. He said whoever had been there had trampled all over the residents' garden, it was disgraceful. He said he would send his fellow Cllrs. the details.

227.4 There were comments about Winterton Farm and nothing more being done. It was stated the waste was disgusting. It was stated the farmer claimed it was fly tipping on his land and there was nothing he could do. It was pointed out someone was burning things at night-time. There were comments about twins and one possibly being in prison. It was pointed out someone rode around on quad bikes. Huge flames could be seen when the burning took place. Fire engines and police cars had been on site on occasions. All the land was contaminated. It was queried who would pay for it to be cleared. It was stated the EA was involved and there were comments about a waste disposal site in Stoke which had been closed and had gone into administration. It was thought a court order was being sought now, in relation to Winterton Farm.

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

228.1 It was stated there was a VHMC meeting next week.

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

229.1 All February audits had been carried out and submitted to the Clerk. There were no issues.

230. To discuss the car park.

230.1 It was stated the PC was waiting to hear from Mr. Carver's agents, now the brewery had shown interest in meeting with the PC about the car park.

230.2 It was noted Mr. Carver was keen to use Serco, the quote he had obtained was only for the parts of the car park he owned, and it was over 6 months old now.

230.3 Cllr. Coles suggested the PC asked the managing agents to obtain a quote to do the parts the PC owned, for the same amount quoted for Mr. Carver pro rata. Clerk to find the Serco quote and circulate it.

230.4 Cllr. Swain said this would not be to the standard it needed to be done or the PC wanted it to be done.

230.5 It was stated the Colmore quote was considerably different; £90,000 compared to £50,000.

230.6 A member of the public said Mr. Carver only had one premises, his sister owned the rest; they referred to an issue with getting a barrier installed, when Mr. Carver had been okay with this, but this sister had refused.

230.7 Cllr. Coles said the brewery had shown interest, when the PC had said it would get a barrier installed across the middle of the car park. It was noted the brewery had spent £5,000 to fill potholes on parts of the car park it owned, last year. It was stated this had been a waste of money, as what was used was coming out as soon as it had been filled.

230.8 It was suggested to inform Mr. Carver's agents that the PC was going ahead with sorting out the car park, if the PC did not hear from them.

230.9 It was stated if a barrier was installed, it would affect deliveries to the pub; that it would be chaos to do the car park, as the car park was nearly always full; that lorries coming to deliver to the pub, left the car park next to the Village Surgery.

230.10 Cllr. Coles explained the idea was to install a barrier to make the car park two separate areas, including parts Mr. Carver owned.

231. To discuss issues raised with SMBC, including trees planted by SMBC and the speed sign.

231.1 It was noted the PC was still waiting for a list from Mr. Paul Tovey, Solihull MBCs Head of Highways Management; it was stated Mr. Tovey had been informed about a tree cut down by a resident, who had just dumped the branches on Watery Lane. Mr. Tovey had said they would be removed by the end of that day; however, they were still there.

231.1.1 Cllr. Swain said since the PC had made a formal complaint, which had started due to an email asking if members of the PC wanted to meet Solihull MBCs contractor on site, regarding a fence, to which the reply had been yes, nothing further had happened.

231.2 Cllr. Heslington said the speed sign data was more complicated than she had initially thought. She had downloaded an App. but to obtain the data there were two issues, she thought these were sorted out now. She said no previous data had been deleted, therefore it could take a long time, because there was at least 6 months data there, once this was sorted, she should be able to convert the data.

231.2.1 Cllr. Heslington asked if members were happy for her to alter/change the current locations for the speed sign, to let BV have it more regularly, so BV had it every couple of months. There were no objections. She said it could be that they needed to get another speed sign, in the future.

231.2.2 It was suggested it was installed on Coppice Walk just as you turn off Watery Lane. Cllr. Heslington said she had looked at some lampposts, but she could not see any numbers on them. She added she would meet the Solihull MBC Officer who dealt with this on site.

231.2.3 Cllr. Moloney said the more the sign was moved around the better. It was also pointed out new locations would provide fresh data. Cllr. Heslington said you could only use an android phone to look at and download the data.

At 8pm Borough Cllr. Keith Green was about to leave the meeting; he said Solihull MBC was looking at Coppice Walk in relation to parking, however it could not think of a suitable solution; making it one-way was not feasible; this was being looked into and Solihull MBC was happy to hear any suggestions.

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

232.1 An email from a resident of Cheswick Place, regarding the PC arranging a litter pick had already been mentioned; it was agreed to reply that the PC would consider this when the weather was better.

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

233.1 It was noted the next Solihull Area Meeting (SAM), was taking place on Thursday 1st May 2025; Cllr. Coles and Cllr. Heslington agreed to attend this.

234. Agenda items for next meeting.

234.1 Cllr. Moloney said she sent her apologies, as she was unable to attend the next PC meeting.

235. 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.

235.1 There was nothing further to discuss.

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

236.1 There was nothing to discuss.

237. PAYE, payroll and Pension Scheme.

237.1 In confidential section of the minutes.

Meeting closed 20:10pm

Signed Dated