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CHESWICK GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Thursday 10th April 2025 715pm Cheswick Green Village Hall

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

Clerk: Marie Zizzi

3 members of the public

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

238.1 An apology was received from Cllr. Amiee Moloney, this was accepted.

239. Declarations of Interest/Dispensations.

239.1 Newly Co-opted Cllr. Daniel Makarenko had completed dispensation forms in relation to setting the precept and commenting on planning applications/the Local Plan, in relation to living in Cheswick Green.

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

240.1 A resident asked about the bench that had been located by the red BT kiosk, which had been vandalised. It was stated the gentleman who was repairing it had been unwell; he would be repairing it and it would be reinstated.

240.2 It was stated there was meant to be a meeting with the police today, but this had not taken place, it was hoped whoever had ripped this bench out of the ground would be seen on the CCTV footage, however for some reason the CCTV had not been working at the time. It was pointed out this bench had been screwed into the concrete, whoever had vandalised it would have needed iron levers to do what they did.

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

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

242. 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 – March 2025	£786.89
M. Zizzi (instant ink)	£11.99
KSV Solutions Ltd. (half the cost for replacement CCTV)	£1533.94
SMBC (Speed sign rotation May-July 2024)	£664.25
SMBC (Speed sign rotation Aug 2024)	£221.41
SMBC (Speed sign rotation Sep-Nov 2024)	£830.30
SMBC (Speed sign rotation Dec-Feb 2025)	£830.30
WALC (Annual subscription)	£1124.60
Vision ICT (for .gov.uk email)	£12.00
More in confidential section.	
Petty cash £62.54	

242.1 It was noted the first instalment of the precept had been received; it was agreed to transfer £35,000 from the UTB current account into the UTB savings account.

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

243. To receive fourth quarter (April 2024-March 2025) monitoring expenditure sheets and bank reconciliation (*issued to Parish Cllrs. with the agenda*).

243.1 There were no queries.

244. To resolve to accept the 'reserves policy', 'statement of internal controls and annual review of effectiveness of internal controls documents', the 'risk assessment document' and the 'asset register' for year ended 31st March 2025 (*issued to Parish Cllrs. by email*).

244. Cllr. Swain signed the reserves policy and the asset register. There were no comments about any of the documents.

245. 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/2025/00583/MINFHO - 252 Creynolds Lane Cheswick Green Solihull B90 4ET; Construction of a new roof, second storey rear extension, single storey side extension and reconfiguration of the elevations to create a balcony to the front and rear main bedrooms and new windows.

245.1 Cllr. Swain said this application was to modernise the property, he said the Parish Council had objected three times to the house next doors applications; he said the proposed roof line was no higher. There were no comments to be submitted.

PL/2025/00612/MINFHO - 15 Illshaw Heath Road Hockley Heath Solihull B94 6RT; Single storey rear extension and demolition of existing detached garage.

245.1.2 Cllr. Swain said the drawings for this application were good; he referred to the wording for application and it stating the property had a first floor but no ground floor. There were no comments to be submitted.

PL/2025/00603/PPOL - Land on The North West Side of Illshaw Heath Road Hockley Heath Solihull; Outline application for access, appearance, layout and scale for the erection of 4 dwellings with landscaping reserved.

245.1.3 There were no comments to be submitted.

245.2 In relation to BV; It was noted there had been no progress in relation to the defibrillator, it was suggested the Clerk should chase this.

245.3 In relation to Cheswick Place; There were comments about the notice board, it was suggested to ask Bloor homes to replace it, as the Perspex/UVPC had become yellow, making it difficult to read the notices. It was pointed out this notice board faced the sun, and it got sprayed by traffic passing by, it was suggested it was moved to a different location, possibly by the Boer War memorial. It was pointed out SMBC had adopted the roads but not the site, nothing could be done until the site was adopted. A photograph of the notice board was shown, it was felt it did not look too bad, Cllr. Coles had cleaned it last week.

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

246.1 Cllr. Swain said he had expected people to attend, to ask why the precept had been increased by 10%; he said if he were asked this, he would reply did people know how much this was in pounds and pence. It was £3.96 a year. He pointed out the 2017-18 precept had been £73.65 for a Band D property; this had been reduced by £36 now due to the increase in properties.

246.2 Cllr. Gosling spoke about little green boxes being installed by Virgin Media cabinets, she said Virgin were putting full fibre to the Village, it would not be connected for a while, and it could mean other providers could use the network. She referred to fighting for Openreach to install fibre to the Cabinet/premises, she said when the Village had been built, the phone lines were probably state of the art, but they were copper to the boxes and the aluminium used was rotting. She said CityFibre was being installed on Creynolds Lane.

246.2.1 There were comments about Broadband on the Stratford Road, about Cheswick Green being bypassed, that Cheswick Place had BT fibre and Virgin. It was stated one box on Spinney Drive was far from the edge of the pavement.

246.2.2 It was queried whether planning permission was needed to install these boxes, it was suggested to ask SMBC. It was pointed out planning permission was required to install communication masts. It was stated if they were just replacing old with new, there was probably no need for permission, it was stated they were adding new /extra boxes.

246.3 The Clerk said there were some amendments to the Model Standing Orders and the Model Financial Regulations, she would look at these as soon as possible.

246.4 Cllr. Coles had attended RoSPA training today and passed the exam. He said was now qualified to carry out inspections on the play equipment for 3 years, after 3 years he could do a refresher course. He said currently they only carried out visual inspections. He suggested he swapped carrying out the site audit on the Village Green with Cllr. Swain, so he could carry out the monthly audit on the Recreation Ground. He recommended doing a 3 monthly physical/operational test of the equipment. He said he would get the forms and information emailed to him. This was a whole new, higher level of inspection.

246.4.1 Cllr. Coles spoke about the wet pour around the swings becoming separated. He said it had been suggested Parish Councils could ask companies who needed to carry out wet pour training, to come and do this.

246.4.2 Cllr. Coles asked if anyone had noticed the basket swing was higher than it should be, no-one had. He said someone had flipped it over and over to make it higher, this would have taken some effort to do.

246.4.3 Cllr. Coles spoke about the size of chains on equipment and about parents making claims.

246.4.4 There were comments about the amount of litter; it was noted a resident had volunteered to co-ordinate a litter pick. Members of the Parish Council were happy for this to go ahead, it was suggested this resident was asked for the date and time, as the PC would provide equipment, as well as tea and coffee.

246.5 Cllr. Makarenko spoke about fly tipping on the way to the Miller and Carter, he said there was a mattress and a pair of jeans.

246.6 This led on to a discussion about Winterton Farm; it was stated it was much tidier than usual, there was nothing outside the gate. Cllr. Swain said before the concrete blocks had been installed, he had spoken to someone from the EA, all the rubbish outside the gates was gone now. Cllr. Makarenko said he had contacted SMBC about this.

246.6.1 There were comments about Winterton Farm being used as an illegal tip, cars being sold from the site previously, drugs and guns being sold from the site; it was queried if anyone was living there now, it was stated someone went around the site on quad bikes.

246.7 A resident spoke about a Volkswagen Golf being parked by the off license, not being moved in weeks, they queried if it had been abandoned, it was in front of the chemist. It was stated there was a blue van on the car park, that had been there for weeks now, it was suggested a notice was put on the vehicle asking the owner to remove it. In relation to the other car, this was not on land the PC owned, there was nothing the PC could do.

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

247.1 Cllr. Swain informed Cllr. Makarenko that he was a member of the VHMC and Cllr. Heslington was the booking clerk for the Village Hall.

247.2 Cllr. Swain spoke about the Warm Hub/Community Café, that provided teas and coffees on a Tuesday in the VH. He said Cllr. Coles had warned them about it making too much profit, as it could be classed as a business. It was stated there was a payment, to use the hall and people paid £2 for as much tea/coffee and biscuits as they wanted. Cllr. Swain said some of the money was going to be used for a day out, for those who attended, some was going to be used for the VE Day celebrations. The cost was being reduced to £1 and some of the funds were going to be donated to local charities, so that everything was above board.

247.3 Cllr. Heslington said nothing was going to be done in relation to the kitchen for now, the VHMC did not feel it was at the stage it needed replacing. It would be looked at over the next 12 months, and they would probably obtain some quotes.

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

248.1 The PCs grounds maintenance contractor had been asked to quote for removing ivy growing on the VH and to remove the slabs where the shelter had been.

249. To discuss the car park.

249.1 There had been no progress, no-one from either the brewery or the owners of the shops managing agent had contacted the PC.

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

250.1 Cllr. Heslington said she had been deleting all the data left on the speed camera, to enable her to download recent information, eventually this should only take a few minutes to do.

250.1.1 It was noted SMBC had now caught up with the payments, for the rotation of the speed sign.

250.2 It was noted there was one outstanding issue, in relation to someone from SMBC coming out to look at some trees.

250.3 Cllr. Swain said he had been in contact with SMBC for about 5 years now, in relation to the fence on Watery Lane. He said this had resulted in the PC putting forward a formal complaint. Two Heads of Services one for the technical/legislation side and one for the service/operational side, had agreed to have quarterly meetings with the PC; this had stopped the complaint, there had been one meeting in January and there was another one due to take place on 1st May.

250.4 There were various comments about the lack of cutting back overgrowth.

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

251.1 It was noted Cllr. Moloney had requested an item on the May agenda, to discuss Willow Dens/Structures. It was suggested to leave this until the survey about the shelter had been completed and to discuss it then.

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

252.1 The next Solihull Area Meeting (SAM), was taking place on Thursday 1st May 2025. Cllr. Coles and Cllr. Heslington agreed to attend this

253. Agenda items for next meeting.

253.1 It was noted the May agenda would be very full.

254. 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.

254.1 There was nothing further to discuss.

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

255.1 There was nothing to discuss.

256. PAYE, payroll and Pension Scheme.

256.1 In confidential section of the minutes.

Meeting closed 20:30pm

Signed

Dated