



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
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

Thursday 8th May 2025 7pm Cheswick Green Village Hall

Present: Cheswick Green Parish Councillors: Simon Coles, Margaret Gosling, Linda Heslington, Daniel Makarenko, Aimee Moloney and Mick Swain.

Clerk: Marie Zizzi

4 members of the public

1. To Elect a Chairman.

Resolved: Cllr. Gosling proposed Cllr. Swain as CGPC Chairman, Cllr. Coles seconded this, there were no objections. Cllr. Swain accepted.

2. To Receive the Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

2.1 This was signed and dated by Cllr. Swain and the Clerk.

3. To Elect a Vice Chairman.

Resolved: Cllr. Coles proposed Cllr. Gosling, Cllr. Heslington seconded this, there were no objections. Cllr. Gosling accepted.

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

4.1 No apologies all Parish Councillors present.

5. Declarations of Interest.

5.1 There were none.

6. To resolve to delegate authority to the Clerk to grant any necessary Dispensations.

Resolved: proposed Cllr. Heslington, seconded Cllr. Swain.

7. To note dispensation forms in relation to setting the precept and commenting on SMBCs Local Plan/planning applications, have been completed by all members and are approved until 2027 elections.

7.1 Noted.

8. Public Participation (15 Minutes).

8.1 Cllr. Moloney said she had been asked by a resident, for an update on SMBC adopting Cheswick Place, in relation to the area obtaining a dog faeces bin. It was stated some of the roads in Cheswick Place were adopted by SMBC, but not the whole site.

8.1.1 It was thought SMBC would not install any bins until the site was adopted.

8.1.2 It was noted the Parish Council owned the Boer War Memorial and the land in front of it. It was suggested a bin could be located there.

Action item: Clerk to ask Bloor Homes and SMBC to install litter/dog faeces bins on the site.

8.2 There were comments about whether a fence had been repaired, between the swales on Cheswick Place. It was pointed out this gate could easily be pushed over.

8.3 A member of the public said the Lifebuoys were inaccessible.

8.4 It was noted the Tuesday Community Café in the Village Hall, held an event to mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day; it was stated those in attendance had a lovely time, 2 or 3 people who did not usually attend had been at the event, there had been 31-32 people present. It was stated there had also been a successful coach trip, with people who sent to the Community Café.

9. To approve in principle the draft Minutes from the 2025 Annual Statutory Parish assembly, for approval at the 2026 Annual Statutory Parish meeting (*sent to Parish Cllrs with the agenda*).

Resolved; proposed Cllr. Swain, seconded Cllr. Gosling.

10. To resolve to accept the Minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 10th April 2025 (*circulated to Parish Cllrs. with the agenda*).

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

11. To fix the date/time of the next meeting, if thought appropriate to fix dates and times for subsequent meetings, or a regular cycle (*circulated to Parish Cllrs. with the agenda*).

11.1 It was noted the June meeting would be held on Wednesday 11th June, rather than on the Thursday. The remainder of the meetings were the second Thursday of each month, except for August, when there was no meeting. The dates were accepted.

12. To agree date and time for 2026 Annual Statutory Parish Assembly.

11.1 It was agreed to hold this meeting on Thursday 9th April 2026 at 7pm, before the usual monthly Parish Council meeting, which would commence at 7:15pm.

13. To appoint members to the Staffing Panel; to establish any Committees/Working Parties the Parish Council wants; to agree who is responsible for which CGPC site audit/notice boards.

13.1 Cllr. Coles and Cllr. Swain will be the Staffing Panel.

13.2 Site Audits; Cllr. Coles – the Recreation Ground, Cllr. Gosling land on Saxon Wood Road, Cllr. Heslington the piece of land opposite the post box on Saxon Wood Road and the noticeboard on Saxon Wood Road, Cllr. Makarenko – the Mount, Cllr. Swain the Village Green and the Boer War Memorial.

13.3 Cllr. Coles would deal with the notice boards. It was noted either the Perspex or the whole notice board on Cheswick Place needed replacing.

13.4 It was agreed to defer Committees and Working Parties until the next meeting.

14. To delegate authority for the Clerk to deal with any issues on behalf of the Parish Council in relation to planning applications, orders/purchases/payments, as necessary between meetings, provided matters are communicated with the Chair and Vice Chair.

Resolved; proposed Cllr. Swain, seconded Cllr. Heslington.

15. To receive and if appropriate accept the Internal Auditors report (*sent by email to Parish Cllrs. 29/04/2025*).

15.1 Noted.

16. To resolve Section 1 – of the Annual Governance and Accountability (AGAR) Return for year ended 31st March 2025 (*sent by email to Parish Cllrs. 30/04/2025*).

Resolved; proposed Cllr. Swain, seconded Cllr. Gosling.

17. To resolve Section 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability (AGAR) Return for year ended 31st March 2025 (*sent by email to Parish Cllrs. 30/04/2025*)).

Resolved; proposed Cllr. Swain, seconded Cllr. Gosling.

18. 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 (*issued to Parish Cllrs. with the agenda*).

Payee	Reason	Total
Countrywide GM	Monthly grounds maintenance April 2025	£918.72
M. Zizzi	Instant ink	£11.99
M. Zizzi	Petty cash top up	£50.00
Bickenhill & Marston	Attendance and exam for RoSPA training	£315.25
Green Parish Council		
Mr. W. Robinson	2025 internal audit	£224.00

Resolved; proposed Cllr. Swain, seconded Cllr. Moloney – all payments were approved.

18.1 It was noted £5,000 had been transferred from the Unity Trust Bank (UTB) savings account, into the UTB current account.

19. To appoint a Councillor to verify/check and sign the bank reconciliation as prepared by the Clerk, at the end of each month of the financial year.

19.1 It was agreed Cllr. Swain would continue to do this.

20. To resolve that all members will be authorised signatories on CGPC bank accounts. To agree level of access members will have for the Unity Trust Bank (UTB) account (VA/VSA). To resolve to continue with the system that 3 signatories sign cheque payments and one signatory sets up electronic payments for two other signatories to authorise.

20.1 Clerk to update signatories on bank accounts and confirm levels of access.

21. To resolve that direct debits with BT/O2 and the Information Commissioners Office continue.

21.1 Cllr. Coles said hopefully access to the Parish Councils (PC) O2 account, would be sorted out tomorrow. It was noted the PC was paying BT quarterly for broadband, there was no contract. Cllr. Coles suggested when the contract with O2 ended, the PC obtained a SIM card. It was noted Virgin had let the PC down, it was not contacting or communicating with the PC.

21.2 Cllr. Heslington suggested the PC consider Starlink; there were various comments about this, and the costs involved.

21.3 Cllr. Swain said now the CCTV had been upgraded, the Village Hall needed a good Wi-Fi signal.

21.4 It was agreed to investigate Starlink and to try and resolve issues with O2/Virgin before the next meeting.

22. To note CGPCs insurance policy with Zurich is approved until November 2025 on a 5-year agreement (see October/November 2020 minutes). CGPC insurance policy to be reviewed prior to November 2025, when the agreement comes to an end.

22.1 Noted.

23. To resolve to renew membership to Warwickshire & West Midlands Association of Local Councils (WALC) and Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC).

23.1 Agreed.

24. To resolve that elected members shall, if they wish, receive Members Allowances based on the current rates as set by Solihull MBC.

Resolved; proposed Cllr. Coles, seconded Cllr. Gosling.

24.1 It was stated WALC had issued a motion to NALC, to request the government amend this, to enable Co-opted Councillors to also be entitled to receive Members Allowances. It was noted this was for out-of-pocket expenses and it was only a small amount.

25. To review the Parish Councils Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, procedures for handling requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Data Protection Act 1998, all other procedures and policies including the website links notice (please find these documents on CGPC website under documents, finances and policies).

25.1 It was noted Standing Orders 14 and 18 had been amended; it was agreed to apply these amendments to CGPCs Standing Orders.

25.2 The Clerk said she would look at Financial Regulations. Cllr. Swain pointed out there were still errors in the Model set issued by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC).

25.3 The Clerk said she would look at the Parish Councils various policies as soon as possible.

26. To consider planning applications and to discuss local developments including Blythe Valley, including defibrillator, and Cheswick Place, including adoption by SMBC.

26.1 There were no planning applications to consider.

26.2 There were comments about some trees that had been cut at the back of Willow Drive.

26.3 In relation to Blythe Valley; it was noted an email had been sent confirming the defibrillator had been ordered and the Clerks details given for the invoice.

27. To discuss regular checks on the defibrillator and who should/will do this.

27.1 It was agreed Cllr. Coles would do this.

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

28.1 Cllr. Coles and Cllr. Heslington had attended the recent Solihull Area Meeting (SAM). Cllr. Coles said people had heard of Green Belt and Brown Belt, now there was Grey Belt. He said any land that had ever had anything ever on it, was now considered Greybelt *. He gave an example of the land at the back of the school, he said during the expansion of the school, there had been hardcore there.

28.1.1 There were comments about SMBCs Call for Sites; Cllr. Heslington referred to SMBC having to provide 1400 houses every year, for the next 10 years.

28.1.2 It was stated what is considered a Town/Village/Hamlet? What were the definitions?

28.1.3 Cllr. Heslington said decisions on which land would be built on, would be decided in the Autumn.

28.1.4 It was stated the issue was not about development, it was about the infrastructure.

28.1.5 Cllr. Heslington spoke about Balsall PC getting 982 houses this year, Balsall Common would no longer be a Village, it would be a Town. She went on to say Balsall PC was employing the services of someone, to assist it and advise, about what is needed in relation to infrastructure. There were comments about Balsall PC asking SMBC for Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), funds passed on prior to the developments being built, to help pay for this, as Balsall PC could only offer a part-time post. It had been suggested Parish Councils could get involved with this initiative and information would be sent through.

28.1.6 Cllr. Coles said SMBC would look preferably on several sites that were together.

28.1.7 There were comments about not having areas merged, about still having a definition; that new developments would not be called Villages, they would be called Settlements. It was queried whether there would be any defined boundaries in the future, it was thought there would only be bits of greenbelt in between 'settlements'.

28.1.8 There were comments about 3000 houses being built on the border of Hockley Heath. It was pointed out Hockley Heath was attractive because it had pubs, restaurants and sports facilities. It was stated other Authorities, for example Coventry, were all building on their borders.

28.1.9 Cllr. Moloney said housing was needed, the Parish Council needed someone to act on its behalf, to get the best possible outcomes.

28.1.10 It was queried whether development at Shirley Golf Club would come up again.

28.1.11 Cllr. Swain said in SMBCs original proposals, BL1, BL2 and BL3; developments in Cheswick Green, Dickens Heath and Tidbury Green, were all in the first 5 years.

28.1.12 Cllr. Coles said Solihull Town centre was being converted from a shopping centre into an urban living centre, this would be by phased development. It was stated the car park by Morrisons, House of Fraser and the old M&S building would go, all on Dury Lane. There were going to be 1600 homes. Cllr. Heslington said she thought some of these would be owned by commercial companies, people could not buy them, only rent them.

28.1.12.1 It was stated there would be some retail outlets, such as bars and restaurants; there would be less than one third of the number of dwellings provided for parking, as Solihull Town centre was within walking distance of public transport. It was felt this would not stop people having cars.

28.1.13 It was stated Tidbury Green would get an additional 850 houses, which would quadruple the size of Tidbury Green. It was stated the Chairman of TGPC had not been very happy with WALC/NALCs support; he had been given information about what WALC did and had done.

28.1.14 It was stated new housing sites would have 50% affordable housing and 20% of this would be social housing. Balsall PC had asked if the first offers on new properties, could be for local people, for children that had grown up in the area.

28.1.15 There were comments about each Village suffering from the behaviour of people living in social housing.

28.2 Cllr. Swain and the Clerk had recently had a TEAMS meeting with Mr. Dean Ward (SMBCs Head of Highway Infrastructure). Cllr. Swain explained what was happening in relation to street lighting. He referred to an email received in February regarding meeting with contractors about the fence; he said apparently, they were having difficulty sourcing the materials.

28.2.1 Cllr. Swain said when the grass was mowed, the litter was meant to be removed, but this never happened.

28.2.2 Cllr. Swain spoke about Tanworth Lane by the Crossroads, being cut back, then further foliage had been hacked and left, including large branches. Cllr. Moloney said on Creynolds Lane branches were poking on to the road.

28.2.3 Cllr. Swain said the Parish Council had queried about the cabinets Virgin were installing, a reply had been circulated to all Parish Councillors, with a detailed explanation.

28.3 It was noted Cllr. Heslington had reported that the path was diminishing at the Mount, and stated bark should be put there. It was noted Countrywide Grounds Maintenance had sprayed around the Recreation Ground; it was part of the ground's maintenance specification works.

28.3.1 A specific area of the Recreation Ground, towards the bridge was referred to, it was noted the grass was not cut there. It was stated Countrywide Grounds Maintenance had been told not to do this area, because wildflowers had been planted there, by Warwickshire Wildlife Trust (WWT), however nothing had come up. Cllr. Heslington said WWT could replant this area in September. She said the PC should have a copy of the maintenance of the ponds schedule. It was queried whether the PC had this; **Clerk to check**.

28.3.2 Cllr. Heslington said the Willow trees should be cut to the ground, as they will get bigger and wider. It was stated the branches could be used to build natural dens.

28.3.3 Cllr. Heslington said people from WWT would remove the logs from the pond, including a big log that was there. WWT had received an enquiry from a corporate body, to carry out some work for WWT, it was possible they would like to do this in Cheswick Green. She said apart from the wildlife patch, to be replanted in September, everything else was in really good condition.

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

29.1 Cllr. Swain said the VHMC had received notification from its insurance company, Allied Westminster, that because the income from the VH was more than £5k, the members should become Trustees. However, they did not want to, as this placed a huge onus on them and it was very complicated. He said if they did this, they could lose some of the rights they currently had. He said he had looked at various paperwork and the Deeds. He said 3 or 4 people had looked at the documents.

29.1.1 Cllr. Swain said they had found someone who understood this, and they were meeting with this person, to discuss it on Tuesday 20th May.

29.1.2 Cllr. Swain referred to the VHMC possibly acting as a business and if it could not, ownership could revert to the Parish Council. He said they could discuss this further, once the meeting had taken place on Tuesday 20th May.

29.1.3 There were comments about the PC being the Custodian Trustee, which meant whilst the Custodian Trustee holds the title to all property on behalf of the charity, it does not take part in the day-to-day management and operation of the charity.

29.2 It was noted a new yoga class had started in the VH last Friday, but no-one had attended.

30. To discuss issues raised with SMBC/speed sign.

30.1 Cllr. Heslington said she had downloaded the App now for the speed sign data, she needed to find out how to convert it.

30.2 It was noted SMBC had installed speed strips on some roads; it was thought these were to monitor the speeds people were driving and/or to gauge traffic flow. Cllr. Makarenko said these could lead to speed cameras being installed.

31. To discuss CGPCs Action Plan.

31.1 Item deferred.

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

32.1 The invitation to the Investiture of the Mayor was noted; it was agreed Cllr. Makarenko could attend on behalf of Cheswick Green Parish Council.

32.2 An email from someone wanting to display notices about their business on Parish Council notice boards was discussed. Cllr. Makarenko suggested only people who lived in the Parish should be allowed to do this and for a specified time, for example one month. It was suggested people could use the notice boards inside the Village Hall and the one outside the PO, as this one was huge. Others did not think the PC should be promoting other businesses.

32.3 Cllr. Makarenko referred to correspondence he had about a rat infestation, due to someone putting food out for the birds.

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

33.1 Noted.

34. Agenda items for next meeting.

34.1 None were given.

35. 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.

35.1 There was nothing further to discussed.

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

36.1 There was nothing to discuss.

37. PAYE, payroll and Pension Scheme.

37.1 In confidential section of the minutes.

Meeting closed 8:50pm

Note: CGPC met the criteria to use the General Power of Competence after the 2023 elections, the power remains adopted until 2027 elections and is therefore not an item on the agenda for the Annual Meeting of the Council again until 2027.

*NPPF Definition of Grey Belt:- *for the purposes of plan-making and decision-making, 'grey belt' is defined as land in the Green Belt comprising previously developed land **and/or any other land** that, in either case, does not strongly contribute to any of purposes (a), (b), or (c) in paragraph 143. 'Grey belt' excludes land where the application of the policies relating to the areas or assets in the footnote 7 (other than Green Belt) would provide a strong reason for refusing or restricting development.*

Signed

Dated