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CHESWICK GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Wednesday 11th June 2025 7pm Cheswick Green Village Hall

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

Clerk: Marie Zizzi 3 members of the public (including Borough Cllr. Keith Green)

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

38.1 An apology was received from Cllr. Gosling – this was accepted.

39. Declarations of Interest/Dispensations.

39.1 There were none.

40. Public Participation (15 Minutes).

40.1 A resident spoke about feedback from SMBC, in relation to people planting on grass verges; they had been informed a highways inspection had been carried out, it was stated more and more people were doing this now.

40.2 It was stated the verges on Tanworth Lane had been sorted out.

40.3 A resident said on the U3A walk, the bus stop through to Saxon Wood Road was overgrown, it was difficult to walk through. People were still parking in the bus stop; a PCSO had spoken with some people and parking outside the school was better, as a Traffic Warden had been out. It was felt when there was a new influx of parents in September, the problems would start again.

40.4 Borough Cllr. Green said overgrowth in Badger Close and ivy growing up a tree had been reported. Cllr. Coles said these had both been dealt with. There were comments about a corner house, which was very dark.

40.5 Cllr. Heslington said people were planting on verges. There were comments about some Laurel making it difficult to see in either direction; it was stated this was on a bend and near a car park; it was pointed out there had been an accident. It was stated highways had arranged for this to be cut back; however, people could not see to reverse off their drives; it was pointed out this was SMBC land, it did not belong to the houses. There were comments about SMBC telling residents to put things back how they were.

40.6 Borough Cllr. Green referred to an email he had sent to the Clerk today, in relation to green belt/grey belt, he said it was all detailed in the document, if members of the Parish Council had any comments, to let him know. There were comments about Towns/Villages and Settlements, building up to borders and about Developers Appealing; it was stated SMBC lost two thirds of Appeals.

41. To resolve to accept the Minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 8th May 2025 (circulated to Parish Cllrs. with the agenda).

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

42. To discuss establishing any Committees/Working Parties.

42.1 It was agreed to have a Working Party for events, such as the craft fayre.

43. 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 May 2025	£918.72
M. Zizzi	Instant ink	£13.49
Countrywide GM	Tree inspection report	£1075.20
KSV Solutions Ltd.	Second half of the payment due for CCTV	£1618.94
KSV Solutions Ltd.	Laptop for CCTV	£269.00
Vision ICT	Hosted email	£75.00
SMBC	2025 Christmas tree lights	£366.00
Transfer of funds from savings into UTB current account		£5000.00

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

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

PL/2025/01007/ADV - Roundabout at Junction of Blythe Gate and Central Boulevard, Shirley, Solihull; and roundabout at Blythe Gate, Shirley; roundabout at junction of Blythe Gate and Central Boulevard, Shirley erect four identical, non-illuminated advertisement signs. Roundabout at Blythe Gate, Shirley erect three identical, non-illuminated advertisement signs.

PL/2025/00952/MINFHO - 8 The Pines Cheswick Green Solihull B90 4JS; Single storey front/side/rear extensions, two storey side/rear extension and single storey detached outbuilding. (Re-submission of PL/2025/00380/MINFHO).

44.1 There were no comments to be submitted for either planning application.

44.2 In relation to BV; it was stated the issue with getting a defibrillator was still ongoing. It was stated there was a defibrillator in a cabinet at Wedges Bakery now.

44.3 In relation to Cheswick Place; it was noted several emails had been sent to Bloor Homes, in relation to the fence/gate, an Oak tree that had been cut down and bins; these matters were still outstanding.

45. To discuss monthly site audits of Parish Council owned land, including The Mount and trees (red BT kiosk being used as a bin).

45.1 In relation to the Mount; it was noted the weed suppressant was showing through, it appeared to have gotten worse since last month and in parts was a trip hazard. It had been stated that if it became worse and started to tear, the weeds would definitely start coming through on the paths thick and fast. It was thought there may be something in the Grounds Maintenance Specification about adding mulch, to check about this.

45.2 In relation to the Recreation Ground; it was noted the rubber matting underneath the swings had been pulled away. It was suggested to ask the PC Grounds maintenance contractor, if they could remove the concrete edging and infill this. It was noted Cllr. Coles had circulated an email, about possibly looking at options to get this done as part of a training course.

45.2.1 There were some comments about benches not being bolted down.

45.2.2 It was noted a pothole near the sleeping police was starting to form; it was suggested to ask the PCs Grounds Maintenance provider, to quote to fill this. It was pointed out that the yellow lines on the steps to the Village Hall, needed repainting. Clerk to ask PCs Grounds Maintenance provided if they could do these.

45.3 It was noted the red BT book swap kiosk was being misused. Volunteers who looked after it, had removed a foots worth deep pile of books on one occasion, which had then been replaced with 2-feet worth of books and then 3-feet worth of items, including X-Box cassette games – which had been taken to the British Heart Foundation charity shop.

45.3.1 It was stated the kiosk was being used as a dumping ground, it was being abused. It was felt that if it was not treated with respect, it should be closed. It was queried whether there could be more volunteers to look after it; it was suggested to have a colour co-ordinated sticker system, so books could be removed after they had been in it for a month. It was stated someone could take a book and then bring it back. It was requested that residents were informed, via social media, that if the kiosk continued to be abused, it would be closed.

45.4 It was noted the Managing Agents for the shops, had been contacted about the state of the steps and about the car park, but nothing had been done and no replies to emails had been sent.

46. To discuss the May 2025 tree inspection report and any actions to be taken.

46.1 Noted.

47. To discuss the CCTV; Starlink, signage for Recreation Ground and Noticeboard for Cheswick Place.

47.1 Cllr. Makarenko said the programme had been installed on the laptop for the CCTV, they needed to sort out the cameras and connect the laptop to the cameras.

47.1.1 It was noted Virgin had been useless; it had been suggested to look at Starlink; cost for installation and per month were looked at; it was stated dish installation was free; it was queried whether the PC had a credit/debit card, to set up payment for this.

47.1.2 There were comments about the angles of the cameras, not showing the play area, but needing to include the area at the side of the Village Hall, where there was a doorway.

47.1.3 It was agreed to look into progressing with Starlink.

Note at 19:45 Borough Cllr. Green left the meeting.

47.2 In relation to signage for the Recreation Ground, it was agreed to discuss this later.

47.3 In relation to a notice board for Cheswick Place; Cllr. Coles had cleaned this, he showed photographs, it was agreed it looked much better. Cllr. Coles had removed sap from trees and stuff from the cars that passed by. It was felt it was okay for now, if it did not last, to look at replacing it and turning it round.

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

48.1 Cllr. Swain spoke about the fencing on Watery Lane; he said nothing had happened and then a couple of weeks ago, they had received an email, that the fence was being done 'tomorrow'. He said previously he had been told SMBC could not access the necessary materials. Cllr. Swain said he had been to see them doing the work, on the corner he had pushed the fence, there was debris underneath it, which needed removing.

48.1.1 It was stated what had been used to repair the fence, did not match anything else, half was logs, then there were square pieces of timber, with some triangular pieces, there were flanges and planks of wood. It was stated this should be an agenda item for the next quarterly meeting with SMBC.

48.2 Cllr. Swain said Virgin were relaying cables; it was pointed out a mess had been made on grass verges; Cllr. Swain said he had been informed they were installing hollow cables; this was for the whole country. He said these would all be linked up, then lightly compressed air would be blown through, he did not understand how this would link up with the existing wiring/service. It was queried whether this was fibre.

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

49.1 Information about the VHMC becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), had been circulated to all Parish Councillors. There was a 50-60-page document associated with this. Cllr. Swain said members of the VHMC were confident they could sort this out in time; however, they would need to re-write the constitution, in relation to who was responsible for what. He said this was all underway for October.

49.1.1 Cllr Swain said the VHMC had contacted other Village Halls, enquiring about their accounts.

49.2 Cllr. Heslington said the VHMC was spending some money, repainting the toilets, the dispensers in the toilets were to be changed and they were looking at a loft/ladder installation.

49.3 In relation to the Community Café; a charitable donation had been made to an organisation that funded dementia in young children; a representative from this group had been to talk to the café users, about what they did. Funding was also given to assist a charity that worked with people with dementia in the home, providing sensory equipment and craft afternoons. Another trip was planned for café users, after the main school summer holidays, possibly to Evesham.

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

50.1 Cllr. Heslington said she wanted to ask Cllr. Makarenko, if he would spare sometime to help her look at the software and converting/transferring data, for the speed camera.

50.1.1 Cllr. Heslington spoke about moving the sign to the bend by the post-box on Cheswick Way, by the noticeboard and to down the bottom by the bend on Coppice Walk.

She said she would like BV to have it more often; there were no objections.

50.1.2 There were comments about people putting information on Facebook, about WM Police carrying out trials on Creynolds Lane, to get an indication of the speed people were driving at.

51. To discuss CGPCs Action Plan.

51.1 Item deferred.

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

52.1 Information about a charity that offers 'friendly support regarding community defibrillators', was noted; the defibrillator outside the Village Hall was installed in March 2017, making it 8 years old. It was pointed out the pads and battery are always renewed before they are due to expire. This charity offers advice on the status and various other information on defibrillators, with no obligation. It was thought the PC should come back to this.

52.2 An invitation to SMBCs Civic Service on Sunday 13th July was noted.

52.3 An email from WM Police was noted.

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

53.1 Noted.

54. Agenda items for next meeting.

54.1 The car park; it was suggested the PC obtained up-to-date quotes and contacted the brewery and the managing agents for the shops, to inform them the PC intended to carry out repairs from the sleeping policeman, to the edge of the garages/walkway through to the shops; to point out the PC had repeatedly tried to get all three owners to work together; however this had failed; the PC was going to get a rectangular area repaired, which may enter on to parts that belonged to the brewery/shop owners; to provide a date, if no objections were received by this date, the PC would go ahead.

54.2 Remembrance Sunday and Christmas.

55. 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. Swain asked the members of the public to please leave the meeting; he thanked them for attending.

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

57. PAYE, payroll and Pension Scheme.

57.1 In confidential section of the minutes.

Meeting closed 8:25pm

Signed

Dated