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CHESWICK GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Thursday 10th July 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

9 members of the public

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

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

59. Declarations of Interest/Dispensations.

59.1 There were none.

60. Public Participation (15 Minutes).

60.1 Cllr. Heslington said that the boys present, had built a den on some land off Briarwood Close at the back of Briarwood Coppice, near to the garages by some trees and bushes that connect to the garages in the Orchards. The den was being built next to the boundary fence of a bungalow in Briarwood Coppice. However, the lady who lived in the bungalow next to this den was not happy.

60.1.1 Photographs were shown, so people could see the den. It was noted there were wooden pallets, a mattress, a chair, a commode and a flatbed trolley. It was stated a lot of inventiveness had gone into developing this den.

60.1.2 Cllr. Heslington said the lady was worried about who else would/could use this den, when the boys were not there.

60.1.3 There were comments about this being considered as fly-tipping. It was queried who owned the land, it was pointed out the Parish Council did not own this land.

60.1.4 The boys were asked why they had chosen this location; they said they needed somewhere they could stand things up. One of the boys said they had spoken to someone, who worked at Solihull Police Station, who had told them it was okay.

60.1.5 The boys were commended for the work, effort and initiative they had used building this den, it was great for them, but not for the lady living near to it. It was noted there were no bad intentions, on either side and the lady did not have a problem with the boys, it was reiterated, her concerns were about who else may use this den, when the boys were not there, possibly late at night and what people may do there.

60.1.6 The boys were asked if the Parish Council could put something in the Recreation Ground for them; the boys referred to having something like the bike track at Blythe Valley. It was pointed out there was not much space on the Recreation Ground.

60.1.7 It was noted the Parish Council had already been discussing possibly having small humps, where the former shelter had been, to try to create a bike ramp.

60.1.8 There were comments about finding another location to build a den. It was stated there were two fields at the bottom of Snowhill Drive and there was also The Mount.

60.1.9 The boys had built a den at the Mount before; however, it had been trashed.

60.1.10 It was noted the boys, with the help of their parents, had started dismantling the den. However, due to a lack of time and the considerably hot weather, this may take longer to complete.

60.1.11 There were comments about complaints made to Solihull MBC, about fly tipping, however SMBC may say there was nothing it could do, as this was not on land it owned.

60.1.12 The boys were asked to think about what they would like, to enable the Parish Council to see what it could do.

60.1.13 Cllr. Moloney said in her opinion, a lot of thought and ingenuity had gone into building this den, she said their desire to want to make something was great and well done. However, the situation/location was not good.

60.1.14 It was agreed that the creativity and effort put in was impressive, but the place was wrong. It was pointed out that the more stuff the boys took to the den, the less discreet it was and the more people they told about it, could result in it being trashed. It was suggested the boys looked for another place/location.

60.1.15 It was stated the Mount was a natural spot; there was space in-between the two fields on Saxon Wood Road.

60.1.16 Cllr. Swain said to look for somewhere else and to check with the locals, to see if they were okay with a den, before doing anything.

60.1.17 Cllr. Heslington asked the boys if they wanted to inform the lady in the bungalow, they were dismantling it, or if they wanted her to do this. It was suggested they could write a note and put it through her door. The boys were thanked for attending the meeting. After the boys left the meeting (7:15pm), the lady who lived in the bungalow arrived, she reiterated that she did not have a problem with the boys, her concerns were about who would use the den, when they were not there and what people would do there. She explained about possibly installing a couple of fence panels, to cordon this area off, to prevent this happening again, in the future, she said she was currently investigating who owned the piece of land, to do this legally. At 7:35 all but 2 residents left the meeting.

61. To resolve to accept the Minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 11th June 2025 *(circulated to Parish Cllrs. with the agenda).*

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

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

Payee	Reason	Total
Countrywide GM	Monthly grounds maintenance June 2025	£918.72
M. Zizzi	Instant ink	£13.49
Countrywide GM	Repainting the yellow lines on the steps to the VH	£299.48
Countrywide GM	Repairs at the Mount	£390.96
M. Zizzi	Reimbursement for pens for CCTV	£5.99
M. Zizzi	Reimbursement for spray to prevent webs on CCTV	£14.99
Quote from Countrywide for installing 2 signs Recreation Ground £376.14 + VAT accepted.		
Transfer of funds from savings into UTB current account		£4130.57

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

63. To receive first quarterly comparison (budget/actual spend April-June 2025) and bank reconciliation *(issued to Parish Cllrs. with the agenda).*

63.1 There were no comments/queries.

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

PL/2025/00828/PPFL - Muddy Paws Enclosed Field School Road Illshaw Heath Cheswick; Change of use from agriculture to a dog walking field, formation of a parking area, siting of a shelter, and erection of fencing.

64.1 There were no comments to be submitted.

PL/2025/00828/PPFL - 278 Creynolds Lane Cheswick Green Solihull B90 4ET; Front and rear two storey extension.

64.1.1 There were no comments to be submitted.

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 self build 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.

PL/2024/00598/PPOL - Land South Of Dog Kennel Lane Shirley Solihull; Outline planning permission is sought with all matters reserved for future determination, save for the means of access via Stratford Road and Dog Kennel Lane for: up to 550 dwellings (comprising use Class C3), public open spaces and children's play areas, ecological habitats, sustainable drainage features, walking and cycle routes, highway improvements, and ancillary works.

64.1.2 It was noted CGPC had submitted objections to proposals for this site last year, when it was included in the Local Plan. As the two applications were for the same site, it was felt what had previously been submitted, was still the same for objecting to these applications. It was stated the issue was more to do with infrastructure, roads/traffic, medical/doctors' facilities/provisions and schooling, than the actual development itself.

65. To discuss monthly site audits of Parish Council owned land.

65.1 In relation to the Mount; it was stated work had been carried out this week, to improve the weeds growing through the matting. There were comments about an overhanging tree, which was covering a streetlight; it was noted the hedge had been trimmed. It was suggested the overhanging tree was left until the Autumn. There were comments about whether to install a bin or not.

65.2 In relation to the Recreation Ground; the separation of matting was noted; Cllr. Coles spoke about a quote for wet pour repair and to re-bond the existing surface; he said it was £3704.28 plus VAT, to refit it. Cllr. Coles referred to other options available, such as using mulch or bark, he said these materials would shrink. It was also pointed out dogs liked bark.

65.2.1 There were comments about benches which needed to be secured/bolted down. Clerk to ask PCs grounds maintenance contractor to do this. A bench on the Recreation Ground, which does not belong to the PC was discussed, it was stated this bench required some attention and it also needed to be attached to the base. It was agreed that this did not belong to the PC, however it was on PC owned land, therefore it needed to be secured.

65.2.2 A resident had sent an email commenting on overgrown bushes on the Recreation Ground. It was felt these had grown rapidly due to the recent weather, they were on the grounds maintenance specification and would be dealt with in due course.

66. To discuss the Recreation Ground and other CGPC owned land.

66.1 A briefing note had been circulated to all Parish Councillors prior to the meeting; this covered a range of subjects.

66.2 In relation to the results of the SurveyMonkey for a shelter; it was noted only 124 completed questionnaires had been submitted, from 3233 names on the Electoral Register: out of these 75% of applicants wanted a shelter 25% did not; the preference was for it to be made from/of recycled/renewable materials; the average amount people wanted spent was £10k; Members discussed looking to install some sort of shelter, following the data from the surveys received; it was agreed a shelter should be for everyone; to look at what was sustainable and economical, as well as what design. From the data, it was also noted under 45s wanted it near the play area, over 45s wanted it near the nature reserve, by the wildflowers.

66.2.1 It was suggested to ask residents via a drop-door letter, if they wanted a shelter or not; if not, what would they like. He said they needed volunteers to assist with a letter drop; there was comments about the time/costs involved and pointed out the Parish Council had already paid for the online SurveyMonkey. It was noted the 4 boys that had been present, were not interested in having a shelter; they were more interested in a bike track. It was stated there had been suggestions about having a Tweenies area in the Recreation Ground previously.

66.2.2 There were further comments about there being a limited number of people who cared about a shelter; doing something via the school, having another survey but asking wider questions, before the budget and precept for the following year were discussed.

66.2.3 It was queried what the silent majority wanted; how many houses there were in the parish, about creating a list of questions and explaining why the PC was doing another survey; due to things moving on and the difficulty in obtaining quotes.

66.2.4 It was suggested a database was created; it was thought something could be included in the questionnaire, asking people to provide their email, if they wanted to be included.

66.2.5 It was stated when a Tweenies area was looked into, this included shelter type items.

66.2.6 It was pointed out there were only 4 or 5 dog walkers, who regularly used the Recreation Ground.

66.2.7 It was stated the companies that provided/produced shelters, were mainly American or Canadian. It was noted Cllr. Heslington and Cllr. Makarenko had both tried to obtain quotes for a shelter. Cllr. Heslington had made several telephone calls to one company, she had eventually managed to obtain one quote; she explained that three companies had recently merged together and this had caused some disruption to its services. This had not instilled any confidence in this company. Cllr. Makarenko had approached five separate companies and only one had provided a quote, for two different shelters. The quotes received were for £13,295; £20,547 and £22,955.

66.2.8 It was deemed that the base for the former shelter was a mass of deep concrete, therefore, it was proposed to site a shelter somewhere else on the Recreation Ground. The Parish Council was also considering, incorporating the existing slabs/hard core, with the small mound that is on the Recreation Ground, for bikes.

66.3 It was stated that further to liaison with representatives from the police, in relation to some residents' concerns about certain activities taking place on the Recreation Ground, the Parish Council was currently looking at signage for the Recreation Ground, detailing what is not permitted. As well as this, a policy was currently being written for the Recreation Ground. Should the signage and policy not be adhered to and/or respected, the Parish Council may pursue establishing a byelaw or byelaws, which if contravened, could lead to a court case and even a fine.

66.4 A 'no balls' games notice on Saxon Wood Road was discussed. Cllr. Heslington to check if this is still in place, if it is PC grounds maintenance company to be asked to remove it.

67. To discuss the car park, Remembrance Sunday, Christmas and Starlink.

67.1 It was noted a meeting was taking place on Friday 11th July at 11am, with Cllr. Heslington and Cllr. Swain, Mr. Carver and a Director from his Managing Agency, about the car park.

67.2 It was agreed the Boys Brigade would carry out a parade, from the Village Hall to the memorial and back on Remembrance Sunday. There were some comments about the Poppy Waterfall, it was agreed to see what transpired between now and Remembrance Sunday.

67.3 It was agreed not to have a craft fayre this year, but instead to have a Bingo evening on Saturday 6th December from 7-10pm, with some prizes. Before the switching on of the Christmas tree lights and disco on Sunday 7th December.

67.4 In relation to Starlink, it was agreed to progress obtaining a debit/credit card from the Co-op bank for this.

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

68.1 The Clerk reported on attending GDPR training, for compliance with this in relation to the 2025-26 the Annual Governance and Accounts Return (AGAR).

68.2 The Clerk had also attended a webinar regarding website accessibility, actions from this to be progressed.

68.3 There were comments about a property on Creynolds Lane and planning permission not being granted, but some work taking place. Clerk to check about this.

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

69.1 A document to create a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), for the VHMC had been circulated to all Parish Councillors. There were no objections to this. Cllr. Swain said there were other documents required for the VHMC to become a CIO; however, this was on track.

69.2 Cllr. Swain said the toilets were due to be repainted from Monday 11th August, the VH would be closed for one week. Cllr. Heslington said she would inform hall users.

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

70.1 Cllr. Heslington had spent time with Cllr. Makarenko, to look at the data from the speed sign. Cllr. Heslington said the via-graph software provided information in kilometres per hours, rather than miles per hour, they needed to be assured the information was miles per hour.

70.1.1 Cllr. Heslington said she was looking at producing a spreadsheet with data, for both Blythe Valley and Illshaw Heath. This could include how many vehicles and average maximum/minimum speeds cars were moving at.

70.1.2 It was felt it would be good to have concrete evidence and stats about traffic, with the number of cars etc. Cllr. Heslington and Cllr. Makarenko were thanked for sorting this out.

70.2 It was noted the PC had been liaising with SMBC, regarding the bridge to the Recreation Ground, this was being dealt with by SMBC.

70.3 Broken tarmac by the Village Green had also been reported to SMBC; this was also being dealt with.

71. To discuss CGPCs Action Plan.

71.1 Item deferred.

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

72.1 A survey questionnaire from WALC was looked at and answers to be submitted agreed.

72.2 Information from WALC, regarding Government funding for Neighbourhood Plans ceasing was noted.

72.3 Emails from a resident in relation to a tree stump, on Parish Council owned land and this resident's fence were noted. Advice had been sought from WALC and also the Parish Councils insurance provider (Zurich). A professional had been to look at the stump and advised the PC what it should do. Cllr. Swain informed everyone what needed to be done. It was agreed to ask the resident for photographs of the stump.

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

73.1 Cllr. Heslington and Cllr. Swain to attend the Solihull Area Meeting (SAM) on Thursday 17th July.

74. Agenda items for next meeting.

74.1 There were none. It was noted the next meeting would be in September.

75. 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.

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

76.1 There are nothing to discuss.

77. PAYE, payroll and Pension Scheme.

77.1 In confidential section of the minutes.

Meeting closed 9:20pm

Signed

Dated