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CHESWICK GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Thursday 12th February 2026 7pm Cheswick Green Village Hall

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

Clerk: Marie Zizzi

6 members of the public

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

187.1 An apology was received from Cllr. Makarenko – this was accepted.

188. Declarations of Interest/Dispensations.

188.1 There were none.

189. Public Participation (15 Minutes).

189.1 A resident spoke about white lines on Cheswick Way by Coppice Walk. Cllr. Swain said the previous SMBC Head of Highways was anti-white lines. It was suggested SMBC was asked about this, as the lines were very faint, if there were an accident, it would be hard to prove. It was stated some white lines had been re-done.

189.2 A resident said people were asking for handrails for by the steps to the shops. It was stated these had been requested before; however, this land/area was not owned by the PC or SMBC. It was agreed to leave this for now.

189.3 A representative from BVRA spoke about a Youth Provision meeting that had been held; people from SMBC, the police and the housing association had been present, it had been held at the Care Home, in the cinema/theatre room.

189.3.1 Goal posts were being organised for the field in BV - this was being progressed.

189.3.2 There were comments about a group called 'Ordinary Magic', which provided funding to support projects to back schemes for children. The Care Home had agreed for a movie night, once a month, for a particular age group. Cllr. Coles queried if they had the necessary license for this. It was suggested the Care Home would already have this, however, it was stated to ask the question and for the number of people a film could be shown to.

189.3.3 The BVRA rep. spoke about getting a couple of famous footballers, to come and talk to youths.

189.3.4 The BVRA rep. said someone from the BVRA wanted to do something for Easter, possibly a trail. It was pointed out BVRA was not an organised company, it had no bank account. It was stated Ordinary Magic would work with BVRA; it was queried whether the PC could release any funds to Ordinary Magic. Members of the PC felt this should be okay. It was stated it would not be a lot of money. It was queried whether any funds could be backdated, for what had been spent for an event at Christmas in BV, as a person was out of pocket. It was stated unfortunately; this was not possible.

189.3.5 There were comments about a grit bin, one had been wanted for BV, however the grit bin was on a private road, it was not known who had put it there. It was queried how this could be removed. It was pointed out the roads were not yet adopted by SMBC, and that SMBC no longer supplied grit bins. It was stated if the grit bin was privately owned, on private land, there was very little that could be done.

189.3.6 There were comments about a Christmas tree/lights for BV for 2026; it was stated a location needed to be found, possibly permission from the landowner, and to see if there was an electric supply. A proposal and quote were needed from BVRA to CGPC. It was recommended to try and have a planted tree for this.

189.3.7 There were comments about a public footpath, that had been reopened by Winterton Farm. It was stated when it rained this became flooded at one end. It was stated that IMP had lodged £6k to get this footpath properly reinstated, however there was an ongoing issue with the landowner, in relation to various matters, including contaminated land.

189.3.8 There were comments about some barbed wire a BV resident had removed. Cllr. Green said he had told this person, SMBC would collect it from them. However, this person had spoken to someone at SMBC and been told they would not do this. It was stated it should have been left where it was.

189.3.9 A BVRA member enquired about the defib training. The Clerk said she had received a reply about this and asked BVRA to arrange for this. She read the emails.

189.3.10 In relation to the speed camera, it was agreed the data needed to be looked at. There were comments about where was 20-mph and where was 30-mph. Cllr. Heslington said she could provide data to the 13th January, however as the speed camera had not been moved when it should have been, some data would be missed.

189.4 Cllr. Swain requested that agenda item 7 - *to consider planning applications and to discuss local developments including Blythe Valley and Cheswick Place, and adoption of sites by SMBC* – was moved forward, while Cllr. Green was present. There were no objections.

190. To consider planning applications and to discuss local developments including Blythe Valley and Cheswick Place, and adoption of sites by SMBC.

190.1 Cllr. Swain said members of the Parish Council had met with some housing developers, he was aware that Borough Councillors, Keith Green and Ken Hawkins, had also met with developers.

190.1.1 Cllr. Swain said the PC had appointed a Planning Consultant, to write objections to the planning application for up to 150 dwellings on land off Tanworth Lane and up to 120 dwellings on land by Joseph House.

190.1.2 It was stated these applications fell short of what Solihull MBC could/should approve, as only a third of the information required had been submitted.

190.1.3 It was stated there had been no contact from Taylor Wimpey.

190.1.4 It was pointed out that a previous application from Richborough, had been thrown out, the last time a Local Plan was put forward. This application had now been submitted again.

190.1.5 Cllr. Swain said the PC had contacted Cllrs. Green and Hawkins, to ask for their support with obtaining another Village Hall, somewhere mutual for residents'. Cllr. Swain said the PC had also asked SMBCs Head of Planning about this, in relation to any future approved planning applications. Cllr. Swain said there was no linkage between areas, this was needed. The existing Village Hall was full; it could not cater for anymore.

190.1.6 There were comments about Dog Kennel Lane being isolated, that all the planning applications/areas were fragmented.

190.1.7 There were comments about Winterton Farm, it was queried whether Savills had a deal with the landowner. It was stated this was still privately owned land, the land was not owned by Savills. A proposal for 600 dwellings had been reduced to 250; this could be because there is a Nature Reserve nearby. It was stated if you approached the site near the brook, you would need houseboats. It was stated the plans included two football pitches, but these were just piece of grass, the plan needed more substance. It was thought the PC may be contacted directly about this site. There were comments about the Recreation Ground flooding and development pushing flooding elsewhere.

190.1.8 It was noted a representative from Severn Trent, was attending the next PC meeting. They needed to be made aware of the whole picture in relation to planning proposals.

190.1.9 Cllr. Moloney commented that flooding had not been so bad this year. Cllr. Gosling said the building of things like swales, had changed the direction the water went. It was stated it was better to have fields flooded rather than houses.

190.1.10 It was pointed out Severn Trent did not have a voice, when it came to planning applications.

Note at 7:30pm Cllr. Green left the meeting.

PL/2025/02358/PPOL - 18 Chartwell Drive Cheswick Green Solihull B90 4JZ; Single storey detached summerhouse.

190.2 A drafted written objection had been circulated by email, it was agreed it should be sent to SMBC.

PL/2026/00253/MINFHO - 62 Cheswick Way Cheswick Green Solihull B90 4HF; Single storey side extension.

190.3 There were no comments to be submitted.

PL/2026/00246/MINFHO - 5 Badger Close Cheswick Green Solihull B90 4HR; Single car garage to rear garden.

190.4 There were some concerns about this, due to the property being on a Hammerhead on Glenwood Drive, it was felt it would not be possible to get a car in/out of a garage at this location, due to other cars being parked in the vicinity. It was noted the PC had until 4th March 2026, to submit comments.

190.5 Objections written by the PC Planning Consultant for PL/2025/02373/PPOL - land off Joseph House, for up to 120 dwellings and PL/2025/02358/PPOL – land off Tanworth Lane, for up to 150 dwellings, had been circulated by email for consideration. A number of suggestions had been made. Clerk to inform Planning Consultant about these suggestions, for him to decide whether to include them or not. Both objections to then be submitted to SMBC.

190.5.1 Cllr. Coles suggested photographs of flooding were sent to SMBC.

190.6 Cllr. Swain said at the last Solihull Area Meeting (SAM), SMBCs Head of Planning had said SMBC would be objecting to something – NPPF – the Head of Planning, had requested Solihull Parish/Town Councils support SMBC on this.

190.7 It was noted a resident had contacted the PC about rubbish in the river, it was suggested to forward this to Bloor Homes.

191. To resolve to accept the Minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 15th January 2026.

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

192. 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 January 2026	£918.72
Marie Zizzi	Reimbursement for Instant ink	£13.49
AEDdonate	Defibrillator for outside Village Hall	£899.99
Bailey Street Furniture	50% of the cost for a shelter	£5999.40
Countrywide GM	Fell dead tree on Village Green	£540.00

More in confidential section.

Transfer of funds from savings into UTB current account for February payments £11,500 in total.

Resolved; proposed Cllr. Coles, seconded Cllr. Gosling – all payments were approved.

192. To resolve 2026-27 Precept.

Resolved; 2026-27 Precept £79,980; proposed Cllr. Coles, seconded Cllr. Moloney.

192.1 It was stated while this was an increase of 22%, this was £7 in total per year. For the last few years, the precept had been set below the PC budget amount, this had affected reserves. The precept needed to match the budget now, especially this year due to proposed projects, such as the resurfacing of the car park, a new shelter for the Recreation Ground and requests from residents of BV.

192.2 A statement prepared by Cllr. Swain, to explain this to residents should be issued on the PC website and social media on Sunday.

193. To discuss holding a 'drop-in' session for residents.

193.1 It was suggested a few tables were set out, there were 2-3 slides, some maps and information, for residents, explaining developments could not be stopped, however the parish needed to get the best it could from these, such as better access to the sites. There was no choice about housing, it was coming, the question was when.

193.2 Cllr. Coles explained why the school could only be used until 6pm Monday to Friday, therefore it could not be used for any 'drop-in' sessions. He updated everyone present on the situation at the school. He said since the expansion, there were issues in relation to the toilets and funding. He added the school was 2-form entry, however there were not enough

children. He said children from BV were going to schools in Hockley Heath, Knowle and to St. Patricks. He spoke about the field at the back of the school; it was meant to be a sports field, but it was covered in stones, there was a fence around it and a gate, it was a mud bath, it had never been levelled, there was too much rubble. Therefore, the children had lost their sports field.

193.2.1 It was stated the school could not physically use the field at the back, there needed to be an agreement in principle.

193.2.2 It was stated for the school to survive, it was constantly asking parents for donations. It was stated the school was looking at ways funding could be brought in. The school did not have a sports field. It was pointed out the CEO of Solihull MBC had said SMBC was not training staff.

193.3 It was noted Cllr. Swain would be away from Thursday 4th March until the end of March. The VH was only available on Sundays, it was possible a 'drop-in' session could take place when the community café operated on Tuesdays.

193.4 Cllr. Coles said he was happy to take the lead, to do these sooner rather than later.

193.5 It was agreed to hold a session on Sunday 22nd March from 12-3. In relation to the community café, Cllr. Heslington to liaise with the person that ran this, as there was a trip planned during March.

193.6 It was queried whether to hold a session at BV; BVRA to enquire if the Care Home could be used at the end of March, possibly Sunday 29th March 12-3pm.

193.7 It was agreed to get all the information ready.

194. To resolve updated CGPCs Social Media Policy.

194.1 Suggested amendments had been circulated by email.

194.2 Cllr. Heslington asked Cllr. Coles if he could let members of the PC know, when he was going to put something out on social media. Cllr. Coles spoke about using the administrator to log in on Meta.

194.3 It was stated if something was not specific to the PC, for example the SMBC half-term cycling event, Cllr. Coles would just issue it. However, if it was related to the PC, it would be circulated to members of the PC first, for example the statement about the precept.

194.4 It was noted the Clerk updated the website with agendas, minutes and planning applications. Cllr. Gosling updated the website with other information. Cllr. Coles was the PC social media moderator; it was agreed Cllr. Moloney could also be a social media moderator.

194.5 It was agreed the social media policy should be updated as suggested.

195. To discuss monthly site audits of Parish Council owned land and report from Stone Masons regarding the Boer War Memorial.

195.1 It was noted a Stone Mason had visited the Boer War Memorial, to provide feedback on the RoSPA report, this had now been received. It was unanimously agreed the suggested works should be carried out at a cost of £750. Clerk to notify Stone Mason and send a copy of this report to RoSPA.

195.2 Comments on the audit for the Recreation Ground, in relation to the mother and toddler swing chains were noted. It was stated this item was used by teenagers, this created pressure on the chains, causing wear.

196. To discuss the Recreation Ground (shelter, goalposts, basketball net etc.)

196.1 It was noted members had agreed on a slightly different shelter now, and a 50% deposit had been paid. It was agreed members needed to decide and agree on the exact location for this. It was suggested it was sited next to the goal posts, in an area that did not flood. Cllr. Swain said he abstained from this matter.

196.1.1 It was pointed out the area suggested was 6 feet away from a tree stump and surrounded by trees.

196.1.2 There were comments about having it facing the opening towards the main park, as you came off the path. It was stated before installation, an exact location was required.

196.1.3 It was agreed Cllr. Coles and Cllr. Heslington would meet to decide on the exact location and spray this.

196.1.4 There were comments about communication for this, it was stated the statement about the precept included details about projects, which included the shelter. It was stated the PC would get criticised whatever it did. It was suggested to let people know about the shelter with the information about the precept. To then provide an update later in March. It was stated it maybe installed on 27th April, two weeks prior to this, to let people know.

196.2 Cllr. Heslington offered to investigate new goalposts and a new net for the basketball hoop.

197. To discuss the car park and EV Charging points.

197.1 It was noted the quote for the whole of the car park, from the sleeping policeman to the back of the garages and behind the pub, at a cost of £45,959.20 (dated 22/09/2025) - split equally between the PC, the brewery and the managing agents for the shops was the correct quote.

197.2 It was agreed to send invoices to the brewery and the managing agents, for the full amount. Both groups had this quote and this provided full access to the warranty.

197.3 It was noted the PC had been asked to pay 50% up front; it was agreed to ask if the PC could pay a third up front, once dates for the works to be carried out were provided.

197.4 It was stated Stonegate would be arranging payment via a third party.

197.5 Cllr. Heslington asked about the drains, she said last November the PCs grounds maintenance contractor, had informed them, they had unblocked a drain on the car park. The basket was broken up and not of much use. They had said the pipes may need jetting at some point, as the drain was full to the top.

197.5.1 Cllr. Swain said this was not a proper drain, it was not connected to the drainage system, if it were there would be an appropriate top on it, the drains did not work and wouldn't unless they were raised. He said to have the drains done properly, it would be about £80k. He said they were looking to get the car park done but at a lower rate, this needed to be done as soon as possible.

197.5.2 Cllr. Heslington said the managing agents for the shops, had arranged for someone to come out to clean drains.

197.6 It was agreed to leave the car park to Cllr. Coles; it was stated the car park would need to be closed for one week; SMBC would need to be informed due to the refuse trucks. If cars were not moved, the PC would have to arrange to have these towed away.

197.7 It was stated the DNO electrics would be done first; the EVC points needed to be installed. Whatever needed to be done, to get on with it.

198. To discuss Starlink, Parish Council landline and Parish Council mobile.

198.1 It was stated Starlink was now up and running. This provided a 100% faster speed. The hive system and router had now been sorted.

198.2 It was noted the network and passcode were needed for the VH.

198.3 It was stated the BT equipment had been disconnected, the PC no longer needed a BT service, which was for the Broadband/internet and the landline.

198.4 It was noted the mobile phone contract with O2 was until November 2026; to then move to pay as you go, as most communication was mainly by email.

198.5 Cllr. Gosling referred to BT switching the copper off. She suggested the PC try to get Openreach to put fibre to the village again; she said the existing CEO was about to retire, there would be a new person, the PC should try again with this. There were no objections.

198.6 It was pointed out Virgin was upgrading and installing new cabinets.

199. To discuss pump-track hire/event.

199.1 Cllr. Coles said they could arrange for this for the school May half-term, or as an Easter event. He said Dam Dirty Bikes were happy to provide information and to talk to people. It was suggested to hold the event on Sunday 24th May.

199.2 Cllr. Coles said it could be for 7 days hire; the first day the company came out and the track was fully manned/supervised.

199.3 It was queried if the weather would affect this.

199.4 It was stated for one day the track would cost £2000, to keep it for the rest of the week it would cost £1000; therefore, £3000 in total. There were comments about the track being left unsupervised. It was stated it would be covered by the CCTV. Members agreed for this to go ahead in principle.

199.5 It was stated this would be for engagement with youths, as there currently wasn't anything. It was stated the PC insurance should cover this, should there be any accidents.

Cllr. Moloney said she would carry out a risk assessment.

199.6 There were comments about having a permanent track. It was noted the BMW track at BV attracted some trouble, as people came from other areas, some from as far away as Manchester.

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

200.1 Cllr. Swain referred to the quarterly meetings with SMBCs Heads of Highways. He said when the drop-in sessions were held, to ask residents about Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) and any other possible further traffic restrictions.

200.2 There were comments about double yellow lines outside a particular house, which were meant to be there, as well as a dropped kerb, which was not in place yet. The residents had put a ramp in place and were driving over the kerb/pavement. It was pointed out parking tickets had been issued, to all the cars at this location. It was stated it could be £300 worth of fines; these were very expensive cars; 2 Ferraris were in the garage and there were 2 Lamborghinis'. Two cars had no number plates on the front.

200.2 Cllr. Swain said in relation to a complaint made for BV and lack of planning enforcement; this was being looked into.

200.3 Cllr. Swain said SMBC was to ask its Architect, to look at the Cheswick Place swales again, regarding the growth.

200.4 Cllr. Swain said one of the Head of Highways was retiring and he was not going to be replaced.

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

201.1 Cllr. Swain said there was no update and nothing to report. It was noted the VH Booking Clerk hours had been increased.

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

202.1 Already covered.

203. To discuss CGPCs Action Plan.

203.1 Noted.

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

204.1 A letter from residents regarding trees was noted; it was agreed to reply thanking the residents for this, that the PC heard what they had said, the PC did not require any help, however what was being stated had not been proved. Clerk to draft a reply for approval.

204.2 An email from a resident about parking on Cheswick Way was noted; it was agreed to thank the person for sending this, tell them the PC would inform SMBC; what was taking place was common in CG; there was a Traffic Enforcement Officer, when possible. However, the PC had no power to do anything.

204.3 Emails from residents regarding debris clearance and flood risk management for the River Blythe, and rubbish near the stream in Coppice Walk, were noted. Clerk to forward email about the rubbish to Bloor Homes.

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

205.1 Most items had already been covered.

206. Agenda items for next meeting.

206.1 There were none.

207. 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; at 9pm Cllr. Swain asked the members of the public to leave the meeting.

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

209. PAYE, payroll and Pension Scheme.

209.1 In confidential section of the minutes.

Meeting closed 9pm

Signed

Dated