



*Cheswick Green Parish Council*

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## **CHESWICK GREEN PARISH COUNCIL**

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2026 730pm Cheswick Green Village Hall**

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

Clerk: Marie Zizzi

14 members of the public

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

232.1 An apology had been received from Cllr. Moloney – this was accepted.

### **233. Declarations of Interest/Dispensations.**

233.1 There were none.

### **234. Public Participation (15 Minutes).**

234.1 A resident spoke about walking in the village every day, as they were a dog walker, they queried what had happened to the hut. Cllr. Gosling explained the situation and said a new gazebo was due to be installed soon.

234.2 There were comments about bringing people together, about the shelter being gone, about it not being used as a memorial and that the family concerned had a bench.

234.3 Cllr. Gosling said she had been a dog walker; however, she had both her hips replaced and Cllr. Coles walked her dog for her at present.

234.4 Cllr. Gosling spoke about cars speeding down Creynolds Lane, where it was a 30mph limit, she said cars drove well over this speed, it was horrendous. A resident commented about drivers racing down due to the Stratford Road, thinking they were being clever.

234.5 There were comments about proposed developments making matters worse. Cllr. Coles suggested the resident spoke at an SMBC Planning Committee meeting.

234.6 Cllr. Coles said the Parish Council (PC) had engaged with a Planning Consultant now some applications had been approved, there were more to come.

234.7 There were comments about having photographic/recorded evidence. Cllr.

Gosling spoke about clay soils and clay rocks making the probability of flooding greater as they are impermeable

234.8 A resident said the sewer pipe on Creynolds Lane was a 4-inch pipe.

234.9 Cllr. Gosling said if Winterton Farm was developed, people would need houseboats.

234.10 Residents enquired about these planning applications; it was stated they were all on the CGPC website. Some residents were unaware of the planning applications.

234.11 A person present said in order to be transparent; three people at the meeting were candidates for the local elections for Reform, they were knocking on peoples' doors.

234.12 A resident asked where the shack would be located. Cllr. Gosling replied on land that does not flood so much. Cllr. Coles added by the basketball post, facing back at the play area.

234.12.1 It was stated the shelter was due to be installed at the end of April, but with the car park work now being carried out, this may change.

234.13 There were comments about litter, dog faeces, communication – signs/notices.

234.14 Cllr. Coles and Cllr. Heslington had looked at the Recreation Ground, to decide where the shelter should be located. They had decided to rotate it to look at the play area and building, there would be access for dog walkers.

234.15 A resident commented about letting people know, that people would feel better if they knew, they suggested putting something on the bench. It was stated the PC could not do that; notices were on the noticeboards.

234.16 It was pointed out the PC had tried so much to communicate, using social media, noticeboards, at the community café etc.

234.17 It was stated there was no definite date for the shelter to be installed yet.

234.18 Cllr. Coles said for the Christmas event about 4 years ago, they had printed details on bright green paper, in an attempt to attract attention, people still took no notice and claimed they were unaware of the event.

234.19 It was pointed out the PC had used to deliver a newsletter, to every house in the parish, when this was possible.

234.20 A person present asked if CGPC had the same social media problems as DHPC; they suggested the PCs shared each other's posts, to drive engagement.

234.21 Cllr. Coles pointed out if the PC did this, some residents of CG would get upset; he referred to barriers and the wrong person saying the wrong thing. He added that they hardly ever had a Borough Councillor present at PC meetings, until Cllr. Keith Green was elected; it was stated Cllr. Green did post information and try to engage with residents. Cllr. Coles added that when he had attended a Community Café day, not one person present knew who Cllr. Green was.

234.22 Cllr. Coles said the PC was not paying for social media.

**235. To resolve to accept the Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2026** (issued to Parish Cllrs with the agenda).

**Resolved;** proposed Cllr. Heslington, seconded Cllr. Coles – the minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

**236. 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 Cllrs with the agenda).

<b>Payee</b>	<b>Reason</b>	<b>Total</b>
Countrywide GM	Monthly grounds maintenance March 2026	£918.72
Marie Zizzi	Reimbursement for Instant ink	£13.49
Marie Zizzi	Reimbursement for Microsoft 365 annual subscription	£84.99
Radius	One third of the cost for car park surfacing repairs including VAT	£29413.88
Countrywide GM	Removal of fly tipped microwave at the Mount	£48.00

More in confidential section.

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

**237. To receive fourth quarterly expenditure (April 2025-March 2026), monitoring expenditure sheets and bank reconciliation** (issued to Cllrs with the agenda).

237.1 There were no queries or comments.

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

**PL/2026/00470/VAR** - 15 Illshaw Heath Road Hockley Heath Solihull B94 6RT; Variation of condition No. 2 following planning approval PL/2026/00032/MINFHO dated 05/03/2026 for single storey rear extension. Namely: to increase eaves height from 2.5m to 3.24m

**PL/2026/00526/VAR** - 15 Illshaw Heath Road Hockley Heath Solihull B94 6RT; Variation of Condition 2 of planning permission dated (05.03.2026) reference (PL/2026/00032/MINFHO for: (Single storey rear extension). Namely: (increase eaves height from 2.5m to 3.24m.

238.1 There were no comments to be submitted.

**PL/2026/00430/VAR** - The Plough Beefeater And Travel Inn Stratford Road Shirley Solihull; Variation of Condition Nos. 1 (Plans) and 5 (Tree Barriers) of planning permission dated 19.09.2025 reference PL/2024/02587/PPFL for Demolition of existing hotel restaurant and replacement with new building providing additional hotel bedrooms and breakfast room, together with alterations to the car park and all associated works. Namely: Correct drawing numbers and alterations to Construction Exclusion Zones.

238.1.1 There were no comments to be submitted.

**PL/2026/00523/MINFHO** - 64 Stroudley Road Blythe Valley Park Shirley Solihull; Single storey rear and side extension and internal alterations.

**Minutes of the Parish Council held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

238.1.2 There were no comments to be submitted.

**PL/2026/00653/PPFL** - Land Off Creynolds Lane Cheswick Green Solihull; Full planning application for the erection of 54 dwellings (Use Class C3), together with associated vehicular access off Creynolds Lane, landscaping, ecological enhancements, SuDS including swales and attenuation pond, public open space including LEAP, and all other associated works and infrastructure.

238.1.3 It was agreed to ask the PCs Planning Consultant to write an objection to this application.

238.2 A resident referred to making a planning application for 278 Creynolds Lane and not hearing anything back from Solihull MBC.

### **239. To discuss CGPC website/emails.**

239.1 It was stated the PC had lost use of its email for a period of 10 days. It was felt this was unacceptable.

239.2 It had been suggested the PC changed its website provider.

239.3 Cllr. Gosling explained the past history of when the PC had changed to the current provider, she said the agreement had been signed on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2015 but the site did not go live until the following January 2016.

239.4 It was noted the current provider was paid to the end of the year.

**Resolved;** proposed Cllr. Coles; that the PC instruct the new company to go ahead with setting up a new website to get this up and running.

It was agreed Cllr. Gosling and the Clerk should contact Tanworth-in-Arden PC Clerk and make enquiries about the company.

### **240. To discuss monthly site audits of Parish Council owned land.**

240.1 Remedial works were due to be carried out on the Boer War Memorial next week. It was suggested to ask RoSPA to reassess the memorial after the works had been completed. To find out if the Poppy Waterfall could be installed this year.

240.2 A microwave had been smashed and dumped at the Mount; the PCs grounds maintenance provider had removed this.

240.3 The PC had two sets of goalposts; it was suggested one set could be given to BV – however permission to install them would be needed; Cllr. Heslington said at present the problem was storage; if BV could not have them, they could be given to the school.

240.4 In relation to the new shelter being installed, a skip would be needed; Cllr. Heslington queried where this should be located on the car park or on the Recreation Ground, she said protection would be put down under the skip. It was suggested to have the skip at the back of the Village Surgery.

240.4.1 It was stated the existing slabs on the Recreation Ground, were spot concreted underneath, they needed to be removed, the soil/dirt could be used to make a bike jump/ramp, the area could be grassed over. Clerk to ask PCs grounds maintenance provider to quote for this again including to re-seed or re-turf the land.

240.4.2 The new shelter had no hard base; it would be a tiled base. The PCs grounds maintenance provider could do this, another quote would be required.

240.4.3 It was stated to get the new shelter in first, so the area to be tiled could be measured.

### **241. To discuss the May cycle event.**

241.1 The form to book the track had now been completed and sent; a confirmation had been received.

241.2 Cllr. Coles said some Year 6 school parents had asked if they could run the kitchen for this event, to sell refreshments and raise money for the school. It was thought this would be something positive and an opportunity to give something back. The money would be used for Year 6 school leavers.

241.2.1 There were no objections to this, however it was felt permission would be needed from the Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC).

241.3 Cllr. Coles said the track would be on site from 11am; to book the Village Hall from 10-10:30 until 4:30pm.

### **242. To receive any reports from Councillors and/or the Clerk.**

242.1 It was noted the BV Stakeholders meeting was taking place on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April at 10am. Cllr. Coles would be attending.

242.2 It was noted the Solihull Area Meeting (SAM), due to take place on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April had been cancelled.

242.3 Cllr. Swain spoke about trees that had been removed by 61 and 63 Coppice Walk; he said there were concerns from the resident at number 73 about some trees; Bloor Homes wouldn't do anything, as the land was not owned by Bloor's, SMBC would not do anything either.

242.3.1 Cllr. Swain said he had received a call from the resident at 65 Coppice Walk, regarding drainage and pipe work carried out by Bloor Homes. Bloor Homes was denying this. He referred to land being owned by SMBC because it had been a public footpath.

242.3.2 Cllr. Swain said Borough Councillor Ken Hawkins was aware of these issues.

Cllr. Swain asked the Clerk to contact Mr. Dean Ward, SMBC Head of Highways, to see if he would meet with Cllr. Swain and a couple of residents.

242.4 Cllr. Coles spoke about social media, newsletters and communication. He said delivery of newsletters was an issue.

242.4.1 Cllr. Coles said the PCs social media was set up as a business account, which meant posts did not get promoted; he referred to having 10% of followers, if a weekly fee was paid it could be up to 100% followers; the PC would have to pay, it was queried how much the cost would be.

242.4.2 It was stated local Facebook pages only had one administrator, whereas several others such as BVRA and CGRA had several administrators. It was stated on the Only Way is Cheswick, the PC was abused and its posts were blocked. Cllr. Coles said 20 PC posts/links regarding community events and other things, had all been blocked by the administrator. He referred to one thanking Ethel's Diner for a donation.

242.4.3 There were comments about the relationships with administrators.

242.4.4 Cllr. Heslington said if information posted did not need comments, to post without the comments option. Cllr. Coles said they could do that on sites the PC owned, otherwise you had to go back into the post, this was time consuming. He referred to timescales moving forward.

242.4.5 Cllr. Coles spoke about algorithms and said the more you looked at something, the more you would see it, it was a vicious circle. There were comments about blocking people from sites, that when this was done, there was criticism. It was suggested to possibly ban people for a certain amount of time and that it only took one negative, sarcastic, unnecessary comment to set things off.

242.4.6 There were comments about good PR/bad PR, and about preventing people from commenting - posting on social media with no comments.

242.4.7 It was suggested if there were a newsletter, there could be an email address to respond to; to tap into the school which would reach about 240 households, this could also help the school - to have a marketing strategy.

242.4.8 Cllr. Heslington said she appreciated what Cllr. Coles did, if she were to have to post things, she would constantly be worrying about the content and if it could be misinterpreted.

242.4.9 There were comments about big businesses, reading the first line and if that was not interesting, people would not read any further. Cllr. Coles said he had heard of an acronym; TLDR - too long didn't read.

242.4.10 It was stated posts need to capture the audience; they needed to be short, sharp and punchy.

242.4.11 It was reiterated for the PC to do a newsletter; there were comments about Dickens Heath PC newsletter; it was stated the person that did this had a lot more time on their hands, as they had been able to retire at age 40.

242.4.12 A member of the public said if the PC was moving website provider, now was the time to speak with a Designer and ask about Instagram accounts etc. They suggested tapping into the young community, who were quite techy now, as they could help, they knew social media inside out.

242.4.13 It was noted Cllr. Coles had set up a schedule of proposed posts. It was suggested when the bike/cycle event was held, to look for people in the younger community, who could help with social media.

242.4.14 Cllr. Coles asked every Parish Councillor to write a brief paragraph, to include in a newsletter. There were comments about printing costs, looking at DHPC newsletter, asking for feedback; it was pointed out there were some challenges, such as how to distribute it.

242.4.15 It was felt the idea of tapping into the school was very good. Cllr. Coles said the school produced an electronic newsletter.

242.4.16 A member of the public suggested promoting events by attaching something to the school online newsletter, to possibly pay the school a small amount to do this, as this would help the school, as the school was struggling. Cllr. Coles said he would speak with the Head Teacher. He added that the more people that attended meetings, the more ideas put forward.

242.5 Someone spoke about a gate to cross the canal to the nature reserve, this was private property, people thought it was a public right of way.

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

243.1 There was no update or report.

**244. To discuss issues raised with SMBC/speed sign.**

244.1 Cllr. Heslington said the speed sign was still being rotated; it was shared between BV, CG and Illshaw Heath equally now, because Stroudley Road had been adopted. Each area had it for 4 months.

244.1.1 It was stated the speed sign was used more as a deterrent, however the PC was now keeping the data, for evidence to object to planning applications.

244.1.2 Cllr. Heslington said the sign had been in Illshaw Heath, it was coming back to CG and then it would go to BV.

244.1.3 There were comments about the data showing 'hot times', speeds of 63-mph in a 30-mph area. It recorded the number and speed of vehicles, but not number plates.

244.1.4 It was stated the data could be shared with Borough Councillors and at the BV Stakeholder meeting. It was also pointed out IMP and Crest shared data, to look at what controls were needed.

244.1.5 There were comments about Stroudley Road having no kerbs etc. Members of BVRA had walked around to look at the issues, children sat on a corner, which was dangerous when buses came round. There were lots of issues. It was stated it was possible the PC may get a second camera/sign.

244.1.6 Cllr. Heslington said the data was sent to BV and Illshaw Heath RAs and copied to all CG Parish Councillors, they would use data as evidence when objecting to planning applications.

244.1.7 It was noted CGPC owned the camera, it was queried who else would be interested in the data; it was suggested possibly SMBC for evidence for Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs), and to see danger spots etc. for double yellow lines.

244.1.8 It was pointed out West Midlands Police had recently asked if people were interested in joining a Speed Watch group, only one person had applied.

244.1.9 It was stated the LA was only guilty if it knew about something, such as a pothole and did not do anything. It was queried why the police were not interested in the speed sign data and to make the police aware of the data. It was stated the police used Speed Watch and that data provided from Speed Watch, was different.

244.1.10 A member of the public asked about incidents on Creynolds Lane; it was stated there were lots of accidents there and on Watery Lane, some had been serious, there had not been any fatalities, on one occasion the Air Ambulance had attended.

244.1.11 Cllr. Swain said this was the fourth worst junction in the Borough, the PC had wanted a tabletop, however SMBC could not afford this.

244.1.12 It was pointed out people followed their Sat Navs, they were unaware of the roads.

244.2 A resident spoke about litter/rubbish bins – saying they were not emptied by the park; the PC assured this person the bins were emptied twice a week and 3 times during school holidays. The resident queried why these bins were always full. It was stated it was good people were using them and suggested to get bigger bins.

**245. To discuss CGPCs Action Plan.**

245.1 Noted.

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

246.1 An email from a resident in relation to unsafe trees and unmaintained flood defences on/by Coppice Walk, had already been mentioned.

246.2 An email about an Ecology survey of ponds - access request (Pond P45 and P46 as shown on the map sent with this request), from the Principal Ecologist for Ecology, at the Environmental Department; had been dealt with.

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

247.1 Most items had already been covered.

**248. Agenda items for next meeting.**

248.1 There were none.

**249. 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.**

249.1 There was nothing further to be discussed.

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

250.1 There was nothing further to be discussed.

**251. PAYE, payroll and Pension Scheme.**

251.1 In confidential section of the minutes.

**Meeting closed 9pm**

Signed .....

Dated .....