

CHESWARDINE

PARISH COUNCIL

Attendance

Chairman: Cllr Thomson
Councillors: Cllr Stallard, Cllr Bentley, Cllr Hislop, Cllr Millard, Cllr Pound, Cllr Stanton
Clerk: Mr Wayne Salisbury
Other: None **Public:** 1
Apologies: Cllr Partridge

Minutes of the Meeting of Cheswardine Parish Council held at the Parish Hall on Tuesday 18th March 2025

Meeting started at 7:00 p.m.

1. Welcome

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all members of the Council and members of the public to the March meeting of Cheswardine Parish Council.

The Chair added that the North Shropshire Area Committee meeting takes place next week and that Cllr Stallard will be attending due to the Chair being on holiday.

2. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Partridge.

3. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Stanton declared an interest in item 8B – Bus Service.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on the 18th February 2025 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

5. Policing Matters

Representatives from the Police were not in attendance.

Cllr Bentley said that they are happy to collate some data on police issues.

The Clerk advised members that we have been requested to submit our 3 priorities to the police which forms the police charter. It was agreed that the priorities are Speeding, Theft (Dwelling), and Anti-Social Behaviour.

6. Public Participation

A member of the public was in attendance to observe the meeting.

7. Shropshire Unitary Councillor's report

Cllr Gittins was not in attendance and no report had been received.

8. Reports from Parish Council Representatives – To receive reports from.

a) Parish Hall

Cllr Stanton reported the following.

- The board of management agenda has been issued for their upcoming meeting.
- The hall is currently operating at a small surplus.
- The hall has its larger expenses during quarters 1 and 2 (Insurance, licences, heating/lighting)
- Biggest income is due in the summer thanks to weddings and events.
- Anticipating a better year and planning to make enough surplus for renewing the hall.
- A full alcohol licence has been granted which will allow the bar to operate without applying for a temporary events notice.
- Reviewing the hire rates for children's parties (for children who live in the parish up to the age of 12).
- Bacon butty day on the 7th April. Barleys continues to do well.
- Cream tea Sunday on the 13th April.
- Bingo on Thursday 20th March.
- Classic Car gathering on the 27th April.
 - A map was shared with members and Cllr Stanton explained the flow of traffic entering the event along with where featured vehicles will be displayed.
 - Peter Taylor will be the chief steward, and other marshals will be positioned at key points. Radios will be used for effective communication.
 - Anticipating 60 – 75 vehicles
 - If the weather is poor, either changes will be made, or the event will be cancelled.
 - Charity collection on the day in aid of Childline.

b) Bus service

Cllr Stanton shared that the service is as popular as ever and 7 passengers are booked for this week. It is anticipated that the service will get busier with the better weather.

9. Playing Field, Playground and Car Park

To receive any updates, discuss any matters relating to and make any required decisions.

Cllr Millard stated that the new play equipment had been fully installed and was now ready for use.

It was agreed that the clerk will make a further Website/Facebook post to inform residents and to thank the National Lottery for the grant which allowed this equipment to be purchased.

It was further agreed that discussion on replacing other aged play equipment will be included in a future meeting agenda.

Correspondence received from residents regarding the playing field car park was entered into the meeting.

Cllr Bentley raised that members are part of the Council in a voluntary capacity for the benefit of the community and that should be considered when communicating to the Council. The work that members and the Council do and the decisions which are made are for the benefit of all.

Cllr Bentley also stated that they do not understand the mud references detailed in the correspondence as even when it is wet, they do not see the car park muddy as described.

Cllr Millard raised that in 2021, the grounds maintenance contractor at the time completed work to remove excess mud from the car park surface.

The Chair shared how the council has evolved and that practices have changed. The spraying of the car park was contracted in 2021 following advice from the ground's maintenance contractor and in response to demands from the community for it to be completed.

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Cllr Millard stated that since regular spraying was started 4 years ago, we have received regular praise on the condition of the car park and that the spraying is suitably controlling any unwanted weed growth.

Cllr Stallard raised that the car park surface is 'grasscrete' which we are not using as designed and that this is the issue which has been presented in correspondence.

Cllr Stanton shared that the frequency of the vehicle traffic was too high for 'grasscrete' and for grass to be used. Cllr Stanton also shared that he was not aware of any problems over the winter.

RESOLVED: for the clerk to make further enquiries with the grounds maintenance contractor on our options going forward and if continued weed control is appropriate or if the car park surface should have grass introduced.

10. Playing Field – Wildlife Garden

Cllr Hislop updated members on the work which has taken place and been completed and the positive difference it has made.

Cllr Bentley shared how good it currently looks.

Cllr Hislop stated that they had recently spent 3 hours clearing the site and identifying what plants are currently there.

Cllr Hislop noted that there is funding for environmental projects from Project Gigabyte for which they are interested in applying.

The Chair also noted that there is a fund available from Shropshire Hills National Landscape (SHLT; www.shropshirehills-nl.org.uk).

Cllr Pound raised that they had recently completed a bio-diversity assessment in the vicinity and that the encouragement of hedgehogs and specific bird species should be a priority.

RESOLVED: to accept the quote for £750.00 (excluding VAT) from D Nagington for further works for the formation of a wildlife garden within the playing field. To Include the removal of a tree stump and saplings and the creation of a footpath.

It was noted that the fence will need to be investigated and may also need some attention.

11. Playing Field – Signage

Members reviewed the possible designs for new signage along with quotes received from a supplier.

RESOLVED: to purchase 5 x A3 signs from HFE signs with the message 'Dogs must be kept on a lead at all times' for £202.66.

RESOLVED: to purchase 2 x A4 signs from HFE signs with the message 'Dogs are not allowed in the playground area' for £47.83.

12. Playground Inspections

Members reviewed the quotes received from 4 different playground inspection companies.

RESOLVED: to accept the quote from Kompan for £702.79 for 4 playground inspections per year.

13. Waste Collection Provision

RESOLVED: to approve the continued use of the incumbent waste collection contractor PG Skips and to accept the notified price increase from 1st April 2025.

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14. Highways/Environmental Health matters

Cllr Bentley raised that he reported potholes on Queens Croft on Saturday afternoon and that just one was repaired on Monday morning and the others left.

Cllr Stallard shared the importance of pursuing issues if the work completed, or the response is not satisfactory.

Cllr Hislop queried the status of the dead tree on the verge on Coplea. The Clerk advised that they would inform the housing association.

15. Clerk's Report

The clerk's report was received by members which detailed updates on actions completed since the last meeting, and that work on the end of year and audit will now take priority over the coming months.

Website/Facebook posts were made in response to the dog issues on the playing field.

Correspondence was received regarding the car park which had already been discussed.

16. Planning (Town and Country Planning Act 1990. Sched 1, para 8)

To consider any planning applications which have been received since the publication of this agenda.

No further applications have been received.

17. Authorisation of payments

RESOLVED: the schedule of payments for March 2025 correctly states the invoices presented and that **£602.59** is approved to be paid. **£331.46** has been paid under 6.6 and **£606.00** has been paid under 6.9 iii. (as detailed on page 788).

18. Annual Parish Meeting

The Chair shared that the meeting is currently scheduled for Tuesday 29th April and that it falls within the pre-election period. It was noted that if the Parish Council election is contested we would need to look to reschedule the annual meeting.

Cllr Bentley stated that they will not attend this meeting due to them being a candidate for unitary councillor.

Cllr Hislop asked if the meeting should be run as previously and if refreshments should be provided.

Cllr Hislop suggested that a suitable topic would be the history of Cheswardine and that a presentation could be given.

The Chair will draft an agenda for the meeting.

Cllr Pound raised the possibility of producing some information on the Council year which can be shared with the community.

19. VE Day

Cllr Hislop reported that the Church service will start at 6:30pm on VE Day (Thursday 8th May) and that it will be followed by the bells.

Cllr Stanton shared that the Parish Hall will host a supper for 150 people and that free tickets will be available from the community shop.

The beacon will be lit at 9:30pm and the Chair will liaise with the appropriate people who help with that.

Meeting concluded at 8:42 pm.

Chairman..... Date.....

