

CHESWARDINE

PARISH COUNCIL

Attendance

Chairman:	Cllr Thomson	
Councillors:	Cllr Stallard, Cllr Bentley, Cllr Hislop, Cllr Millard, Cllr Partridge, Cllr Pound, Cllr Stanton, Cllr Taylor	
Clerk:	Mr Wayne Salisbury	
Other:	Cllr Gittins – Shropshire Council	Public: 3
Apologies:	None	

Minutes of the Meeting of Cheswardine Parish Council held at the Parish Hall on Tuesday 19th November 2024

Meeting started at 7:30 p.m.

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and welcomed the members of the public who were in attendance.

The Chair updated members with feedback on meetings which they had recently attended. Firstly the SALC AGM on the 30th October, some messages had been shared with members following the meeting including details of SALC's new incoming chief officer, Chris Mellings who is taking over from Dianne Dorrel.

The Chair's meeting was attended on the 13th November and the Chair will be attending the Nature Recovery Meeting on the 6th December and will surely bring back some invaluable information.

2. To receive apologies for absence

No apologies received.

3. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Stanton – Item 15 Schedule of Payments.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 15th October 2024 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

5. Police

Representatives from the Police were not in attendance.

Cllr Stanton reported that the Police following an investigation had raised a request to view CCTV footage.

6. Public Participation

One member of the public introduced himself and addressed members regarding a proposed solar farm that parishioners may be unaware of which is currently going through the planning process. The solar farm will come close to the parish boundary in Staffordshire. The member of the public explained the scope of the project and highlighted some pertinent points which included fencing and CCTV poles and cameras as well as implications of the solar farm being connected to the national grid and the disruption that could cause.

The member of the public pointed out that the plans are on the Staffordshire planning portal and encouraged residents to review the details.

Further comments were made regarding the fear of organised crime being attracted to the value of assets on the facility, the loss of local amenities as well as disruption on local roads and views from Cheswardine being impacted. The member of the public concluded by stating that renewable energy is essential but industrial sites are more appropriate for solar production.

Cllr Taylor queried if the facility can be used if not connected to the national grid. The member of the public clarified further information regarding the transformers used and battery capacity but that it will need to also be connected.

Cllr Partridge said that he would be surprised if this was to get the go-ahead considering the ecology of the site.

Cllr Stallard commented that the project is outside of our boundary which limits our objections, although additional traffic could impact the parish if within our boundaries.

7. Shropshire Unitary Councillor's report

Cllr Gittins was in attendance and gave a report to members which included.

- *Council finances continue to be challenging although quarter 2 has seen a slight improvement on quarter 1.*
- *Shropshire Council is not on the government watchlist of Councils.*
- *The council is forecast to overspend by £35.1M.*
- *The local plan is not currently proceeding, so will not be adopted in 2025.*
- *The council is moving out of Shire Hall in December.*
- *A local government white paper will be published at the end of this month which will impact district councils as it is in favour of the unitary council structure.*

Cllr Stanton asked for feedback on the green bin subscriptions and recycling centre bookings.

Cllr Gittins in his response advised that there is a proposal for reducing the number of days recycling centres are in operation as well as the concern of fly-tipping which will incur further costs to deal with as well as to deter.

Cllr Stallard queried the revenue from the green bin subscriptions. Cllr Gittins advised that it stands at £3.7M. It was also advised that in the future there will be a policy that requires food waste collections to be free.

Cllr Hislop raised that the green bin subscription stickers had been delivered by first class post rather than second class which would have cost an unnecessarily higher amount.

Cllr Stanton asked Cllr Gittins for an update on the Soudley speeding group. Cllr Gittins shared that they had hit a dead end for putting things in place due to lack of funding. Cllr Hislop queried the investment made in Hinstock which Cllr Gittins clarified on how funding had been made possible there.

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

a) Parish Hall

Cllr Stanton reported that the Parish Hall had not reached an agreement with the Hobgoblins for them to return in 2025.

It was also confirmed that there will be a small surplus of funds this year in comparison to last year's deficit. This is thanks to the increased rates as well use of the bar.

b) Bus service

Cllr Stanton reported that a request for £24 has been sent for the past month's journeys. The service has now been running for over 3 years and has carried a total of 589 passengers. The cost per return journey is £6.32. Each journey has an average of 4-8 passengers and provides an essential link from the parish to Market Drayton.

The Chair raised that an artisan street market now takes place in Market Drayton one Saturday per month and if there would be an appetite to run a bus service on those days.

Cllr Stanton advised that the bus service is part of a larger route of neighbouring parishes and that a further service would need to have a buy-in from them also.

9. Playing Field, Playground and Car Park

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

Cllr Stanton outlined a request from the Parish Hall to use the playing field on the 27th April 2025 for a 'gathering of classic cars' event. Proceeds of the event will be donated to charity.

Cllr Bentley raised a concern with parking for prospective visitors to the event. Cllr Taylor confirmed that would be factored into the plans and risk assessment.

RESOLVED: to permit the use of the playing field for the Parish Hall event on the 27th April 2025. No charge for use will be made.

Cllr Millard informed that the car park had been resprayed and the hedge cutting had been completed, although it was noted that the Council had not received any communication from the contractor regarding the hedge cutting.

Cllr Millard reported that 2 seats on the swings will need replacing and that they will liaise with the clerk to order.

Cllr Pound shared that 3 rounds of funding will be available in 2025 from the postcode lottery.

The Chair raised that the dog waste signs are now attached to the litter bins, and they seem to have had a positive effect. It was also reported that a sign on the gate onto Westfields warning of traffic needs to be replaced.

Cllr Taylor stated that the hedge on either side of the gate from the playing field needs to be splayed towards the gate when it is cut so that the gate opening is visible to traffic.

10. Play Equipment

The Chair thanked Cllr Bentley for his work in submitting and securing the National Lottery grant funding as well as thanking former member Dave Faulkner who initiated the relationship with the National Lottery. The Chair agreed that they would send a note of thanks to Mr Faulkner.

Cllr Bentley provided members with some further details on the application, what was stated on it regarding the desired equipment and how the figure of received funds of £19,792 had been determined.

Members reviewed the quotes which had been prepared from 4 different playground equipment suppliers.

Cllr Hislop enquired about the warranty terms offered by the different suppliers. Further information was sought from their respective websites.

RESOLVED: to proceed with the removal of the existing roundabout and see-saw and the installation of a new see-saw and inclusive roundabout with grass matting and wet pour surfacing respectively. The quote detailed quote 2 from Kompan at a value of £18,453.00 will be accepted.

It was agreed that the National Lottery will be advised of the amount spent on the project and it will be requested if any surplus funds can be used on associated items within the playground.

11. Playing Field – Additional Area

Cllr Hislop presented the proposal which they had drawn up following spending time in the area. Key aspects as detailed in the proposal were;

- 3 large trees will need work to lift their canopy and increase light levels.
- A pathway will be created into the area which could lead to new picnic tables.
- A hedge will be introduced to provide privacy for the area and neighbouring properties.
- The project would be completed in phases.

RESOLVED: to pursue the project as detailed in the presented plan. Quotes for required work will be obtained to be considered at a future meeting.

Cllr Pound raised a concern that any work should be subject to an ecological survey as changing this area could have an adverse impact.

12. Highways/Environmental Health matters

Cllr Partridge raised an issue of an overgrown hedge on the junction of The Westfields and Westcott Lane.

13. Clerk's Report

The clerk's report was received by members which detailed updates on the work completed obtaining playground equipment quotes, Litter bin signage, a potential tree issue and the budget setting process.

It was also reported that correspondence had been received from residents regarding a tree and the milestone on Westcott Lane, cars parked for extended periods on the playing field car park and the suggestion for the surfacing of the car park.

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

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

No applications were received.

15. Authorisation of payments

RESOLVED: the schedule of payments for November 2024 correctly states the invoices presented and that **£1112.96** is approved to be paid. **£83.87** has been paid under 6.6 and **£438.40** has been paid under 6.9 iii. (as detailed on page 760).

16. Banking

RESOLVED: That a banking mandate will be submitted to Unity Trust Bank to add Cllr Bentley and Cllr Pound as online users for payment approvals.

17. VE Day

Cllr Hislop reported feedback from the Parochial Church Council who have met and are happy to contribute to the day on Thursday 8th June 2025.

RESOLVED: that the Parish Council will take part in VE Day 2025 with the lighting of the beacon and dedication and it will be registered that we will be marking the occasion.

It was noted that other activities on the day leading up to the beacon lighting will be considered and that the parish hall events group will also be deciding on what to do on the day.

Motion without notice

RESOLVED: To suspend standing order 3X so that the meeting can continue beyond 2 hours.

18. Exclusion of Press and Public

It is recommended that the Council considers a resolution under Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to exclude the public and representatives of the press from the meeting during the discussion of the next items (part 2 of the meeting) on the grounds that matters contain sensitive information and by reason of the confidential nature of the business being transacted.

The motion was not moved as no members of the public were present.

19. Pay Scales - Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2024

The council noted the updated pay scales as detailed in the local government services pay agreement. The clerk's salary will be adjusted from 1st April 2024 via back payment to reflect the updated rate for SPC 23. The new rate for SCP 23 will be applied going forward.

Meeting concluded at 9:36 pm.

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

CHESWARDINE

PARISH COUNCIL

As resolved under Item 15.

Cheswardine Parish Council Schedule of Payments

19th November 2024

	Date of Debit or Cheque Raised	Recipient	Purpose	£	£	Payment Method	Power of expenditure	Scribe
1	20/11/2024	HMRC	Tax & Contributions on Clerks salary - October	404.46		BT - Unity Trust	LGA 1972 S 112	Yes
2	20/11/2024	W Salisbury	Clerk Salary - October	101.20		BT - Unity Trust	LGA 1972 S 112	Yes
3	20/11/2024	W Salisbury	Giff Gaff - Phone Monthly Payment - October	6.00			LGA 1972 S 111	Yes
4	20/11/2024	W Salisbury	Instantprint - Signage for litter bins	32.20	55.30	BT - Unity Trust	Litter Act 1983 ss.5	Yes
5	20/11/2024	W Salisbury	Mileage (15th October 38 miles x 0.45)	17.10			LGA 1972 S 112	Yes
6	20/11/2024	Netwise	Member Email Accounts 2024-25	288.00		BT - Unity Trust	LGA 1972 S 143	Yes
7	20/11/2024	B Glover	Grounds Maintainance - Hedges/Dog Bin/Bin Emptying	264.00		BT - Unity Trust	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss9 & 10	Yes
			Total	#####				

Payments made as resolved under the approved payments list (6.6)								Scribe
8	28/10/2024	BT	Parish Hall Broadband - October 2024	32.53		BT - HSBC	LGA 1972 S 133	Yes
9	17/10/2024	North Salop Wheelers	Bus Service Payment (up to 09/10/24)	21.00		BT - Unity Trust	LG Rating Act 1997 s26-29	Yes
10	04/11/2024	PG SKIPS	Rubbish Removal - Skip Emptied 11/10/24	29.84		BT - Unity Trust	Litter Act 1983 ss.5	Yes
			Total	83.37				

Payments made under Financial Regulations (6.9 iii) to avoid late payment								Scribe
	Date of Debit or Cheque Raised	Recipient	Purpose	£	£	Cheque No / Payment Method	Power of expenditure	Scribe
11	28/10/2024	Shropshire Plant Hire	Grounds Maintenance Contract - Oct	424.00		BT - HSBC	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss9 & 10	Yes
	31/10/2024	Unity Trust Bank	Bank Charges	5.40		Bank Charge	LGA 1972 S 111	Yes
	22/10/2024	HSBC	Bank Charges - To 31/08/24	9.00		Bank Charge	LGA 1972 S 111	Yes
			Total	438.40				

Invoices checked and verified at the meeting held on 19th November 2024

Cllr Millard 19/11/24

Cllr - Proposer - Sign & Date

Cllr Hislop 19/11/24

Cllr - Seconder - Sign & Date

DEPOSITS RECEIVED		
Oct	2024	
Date	Total	From
01/10/2024	£28.95	HSBC - Interest
	£28.95	