

CHESWARDINE

PARISH COUNCIL

Attendance

Chairman:	Cllr A Thomson
Councillors:	Cllr N Stallard, Cllr J Hislop, Cllr S Lewis, Cllr B Maskell, Cllr N Partridge, Cllr M Pound,
Also Present:	Cllr Bentley, attending in his capacity as both a member of the Parish Council and as the Unitary Authority Ward Councillor.
Apologies:	None
Not in attendance:	Cllr I Jacobson
Clerk:	Mr Wayne Salisbury
Other:	None
Public:	None

Minutes of the Meeting of Cheswardine Parish Council held at the Parish Hall on Tuesday 21st April 2026

Meeting started at 7:00 p.m.

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the March meeting of Cheswardine Parish Council and thanked Cllr Stallard for chairing the March meeting.

2. To receive apologies for absence

No apologies were received.

3. Declarations of Interest and Dispensation Considerations

- Cllr Bentley declared an interest in item 13, authorisation of payments.
- Cllr Bentley declared an interest relating to his role as a Unitary Councillor for Shropshire Council.
- No dispensations were requested or granted.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on the 17th March 2026 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Cllr Hislop offered an apology regarding a point she had made at the March meeting about overnight parking signage, having since confirmed that the signage does not include the wording she had thought.

5. Policing Matters

Representatives from the Police were not in attendance.

Cllr Partridge raised that the drug dealers previously reported in the area are no longer present.

Cllr Hislop added that they may have changed vehicle as a van and a green car containing young people had been seen acting suspiciously.

6. Public Participation

No members of the public were in attendance.

7. Shropshire Unitary Councillor's report

Cllr Bentley shared a report with members ahead of the meeting, which is included in the appendix to these minutes on pages 924-926.

Additional updates included:

- The overgrown hedge in Tag Lane is being dealt with as ownership has now been identified.
- Continuing to chase the matter relating to land behind Glebe Close.
- The fallen tree at Chipnall has been resolved.

CHESWARDINE

PARISH COUNCIL

- Fix My Street: the annual cost to Shropshire Council is £39,400. Cabinet has recently discussed reviewing the service because it is not as effective as it could be, and alternatives are being explored.
- Council tax receipt information has been circulated via the Clerk and members are welcome to share it.
- A comprehensive information pack on the Crisis Resilience Fund is being prepared. This is not linked to the council tax increase but relates to general cost of living support available to Shropshire residents experiencing financial hardship.
- The final interview for the Shropshire Council CEO position will take place on 28th April 2026. The outcome will be shared once known.

Cllr Stallard raised concerns about damaged road signs around the parish, particularly those that have become twisted into hedges and are no longer visible. He queried the costs of road signs and if the expenditure on signs is worthwhile where they cannot be seen.

Cllr Bentley acknowledged the concern and that he will seek guidance on sign costs.

Cllr Partridge raised the traffic mirror in Soudley hasn't been replaced.

Cllr Bentley confirmed that traffic calming signs for Soudley will be on the June agenda for members to discuss further.

8. **Playing Field, Playground and Car Park**

The Chair reported that he has the sign for the Wildlife Garden and will install it himself rather than asking the odd job contractor.

Cllr Hislop noted the nature garden will see more use through spring and summer.

Cllr Pound raised concerns about the enclosed field behind Ellam Piece which dog owners are using and letting dogs off lead and telling other walkers incorrectly that it is a "dog field". It was noted that this is a farmer's field which has a public footpath.

The Clerk suggested to members that the existing large sign in the playing field could be updated with a full vinyl overlay. The current sign is heavily text-based and could be redesigned using infographics and symbols, including the overnight parking message. The Clerk informed that they could develop design options for members to review at a future meeting.

Cllr Hislop stated that cars have been seen parking for extended periods again. Cllr Lewis added that the car park was recently seen empty, so the identified cards are being moved.

9. **Playground Upgrade**

Cllr Pound introduced the playground upgrade quotes which had been received following a meeting with Kompan. Two main elements were discussed, a pathway from the car park through the park to make it safe and accessible which has been quoted at £11,670.37. A quote for relocating the toddler play items from the current position in the corner to a more prominent area, alongside adding new items which has been quoted at £21,051.46.

Cllr Bentley raised that he thought the higher quote was reasonable given the £19,000 spent on previous playground improvements and that with Lottery funding, money already set aside, and other allocations, the cost could be covered.

Cllr Bentley raised concerns about the insurance implications of a zipline. The Clerk, who manages ziplines at other councils, shared that ziplines must be declared to insurers as specific items, and that annual maintenance and servicing is approximately £1,500 to £2,000, because the maintenance process involves complete dismantling and rebuilding the zipline.

Cllr Bentley stated that the cost of the zipline and maintenance could be better spent on equipment usable by a wider range of ages.

CHESWARDINE

PARISH COUNCIL

Cllr Partridge expressed concern of the zipline and the impact on neighbouring properties.

The Clerk advised from experience that ziplines don't generally attract complaints and that when they do arise, tend to be about general noise such as shouting and swearing rather than the play equipment itself.

The Chair raised that the Reaching Communities Fund is available for applications over £20,000.

Cllr Bentley confirmed from his own experience with the Reaching Communities Fund that the administrative burden is disproportionate to the return, and recommended staying within the National Lottery Community Fund.

Cllr Pound added that he will ask for the quote to be reconfigured so that it comes under £20,000.

Cllr Stallard asked if 3 quotes will be needed. The Clerk confirmed that this is not necessary as we are spending an awarded grant and not spending public funds.

It was agreed that Cllr Pound will progress with a lottery application to seek funding for the new path and equipment.

10. Playing Field Use

The Chair shared information from the request received to use the playing field for a pigeon flying competition on Sunday 20th June 2026.

The Chair stated that the competition involves 30 to 40 trained pigeons flying around the field and landing on specific coloured landing pads. The applicant had made a provisional booking with the Parish Hall, to be confirmed subject to the Council's decision.

Members raised no objection and it was noted that the applicant will be paying the Parish Hall for the booking, and there was agreement that the Parish Hall benefits from the income.

RESOLVED: to grant permission for the use of the playing field for a pigeon flying competition with no hire fee charged.

11. Clerk's Report

The Clerk's report was received by members, which detailed updates on actions since the last meeting, including:

- Primary actions since the last meeting had included preparation for the April meeting, supporting documents, end of year processes, Scribe set up for 2026 to 2027, and annual leave taken on 31st March and 6th April.
- Upcoming priorities are preparation for the May Annual Meeting, internal audit preparation and submission, and AGAR and external audit work.
- The Clerk advised that internal and external audit work is substantial regardless of council size or clerk hours, with the initial internal audit submission aimed for 20th May 2026. The internal audit report and AGAR documents are expected to be brought to the June meeting for approval, after which the external audit submission will be completed.
- One planning decision was noted, application 25/04840/FUL at Cheswardine Hall Lodge, Chipnall, for a single storey kitchen and dining extension, which was refused on the 27th March.
- Correspondence received since the last meeting included two enquiries about grant application forms, both answered with a website link, and one email regarding Soudley speed restrictions, which was replied to with advice that the matter would come to the June agenda.

Cllr Pound asked about progress on the annual maintenance safety report. Members discussed whether the odd job man could address some of the timber issues. The Clerk raise that the cleaning and power-washing of equipment had been raised at a previous meeting.

The Chair suggested that a member could review the actions and liaise with the odds job's contractor on what could be done. Cllr Bentley confirmed that he would do this.

CHESWARDINE

PARISH COUNCIL

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

a) To consider the following planning applications.

Reference	26/01198/FUL
Address	Ellerton Mews Ellerton Newport Shropshire TF10 8AW
Proposal	Conversion of existing barn to 1No dwelling with associated landscape works
Deadline for Comments	8th May 2026
26/01198/FUL Conversion of existing barn to 1No dwelling with associated landscape works Ellerton Mews Ellerton Newport Shropshire TF10 8AW	

RESOLVED: that the following comment is submitted to the local planning authority in respect of both planning applications.

- *Cheswardine Parish Council supports this application.*

a) To consider any planning applications which have been received since the publication of this agenda. No further applications were received.

13. Authorisation of payments

RESOLVED: the schedule of payments for April 2026 correctly states the invoices presented and that **£895.49** is approved to be paid. **£58.80** has been paid under 6.6 and **£54.00** has been paid under 6.9 iii. (as detailed on page 916)

14. Grant Application

The Chair informed members that an application had been received from the Cheswardine Walking Group for funding to produce walking leaflets for six routes at 1,000 leaflets each, 6,000 leaflets in total.

Cllr Bentley raised that we previously removed walking leaflets from our website because some routes had become inaccessible.

Cllr Hislop added that they understand the routes have all been walked.

Cllr Pound raised that the application states that some repairs are planned to take place.

The Chair raised that the leaflets could continue to be hosted on the Parish Council website and queried if the printing of leaflets fits with the environmentally friendly views of the Council.

Cllr Pound stated that the request seems excessive.

Cllr Hislop raised that if repairs are needed then any leaflets produced may need to be updated again.

RESOLVED: to refuse the grant request to Cheswardine Walking Group for the production of walking leaflets

It was agreed that the Clerk should communicate that other options are available to promote the walks such as posters with QR codes. It was also noted that the Parish Council's grants budget for 26-27 is £1000 and that this application was requesting a large proportion of that.

15. Publication Scheme

The Clerk presented an updated Publication Scheme. It was advised that the content was substantially the same as the previous version, which was published approximately two years ago. Members were informed that the Publication Scheme is required for audit.

Cllr Pound suggested that all policy documents should include a clear review date.

RESOLVED: to adopt the updated Publication Scheme with the amended review section. (as detailed on page 917-919)

16. Bank Reconciliation

RESOLVED: that the bank reconciliation summary is an accurate reflection of payments and receipts against the bank balances as of 31st March 2026. (as detailed on page 920)

17. Budget Review

The Clerk summarised the position for quarter 4 and the full year. Against a total budgeted spend of approximately £45,444.00, actual spend was £23,823.31. Cost centres all showed positive variances overall.

The main budget line overspends were Insurance, Clerk expenses, Playground inspections, and Parish Hall grant.

RESOLVED: to accept and approve expenditure against the budget for the 4th quarter of the Council year 2025-26.

18. Budget Position 2025-26 – Reserves 2026-27

The Clerk presented the budget position for 2025-26. (as detailed on page 921)

Cllr Bentley raised the risk of budgeting funds repeatedly without actually spending them, which would leave the Council unable to justify future precept increases.

Cllr Stallard asked if we should have a list of items and projects that could be funded from a fixed asset reserve. Cllr Stallard also stated the importance that spending is not focussed on just the playing field and that other areas are considered.

RESOLVED: to approve the budget position of the Council for 2025-26 and to form the following earmarked reserves for 2026-27.

- Fixed Asset Reserve £5000.00
- Playground Equipment Reserve £5000.00
- Community Projects Reserve £5000.00

19. Accounting Audit

RESOLVED: to approve the presented accounting audit for the 4th quarter of the 2025 - 2026 Council year as completed by Cllr Thomson. (as detailed on page 922)

20. Asset Register Value

The Clerk presented the updated asset register and advised members that a 5% uplift has been applied to the insurance values agreed last year. 3 new items have been added during the 2025-26 financial year.

The Clerk advised that in updating the register they had identified that last year's spreadsheet contained a totalling error. Some cells that should have contained numbers had been formatted as text, which Excel included in the sum without flagging a clear error. The displayed total of £86,500 for last year was therefore incorrect. The individual line figures themselves were correct.

The new total for 2025-26, including the three new items, is £122,249. On the AGAR submission in June, the prior year figure will be restated along with a written explanation.

RESOLVED: to accept the updated asset register value and stated value. (as detailed on page 923)

CHESWARDINE

PARISH COUNCIL

21. Annual Parish Meeting

Cllr Hislop provided an update on the arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting which is scheduled for Tuesday 28th April 2026.

- Flyers has been delivered around the parish and notices have been placed in a number of locations.
- On arrival, attendees will sign in at the door, where two councillors will be stationed, and will receive a token for the bar which they can use before the meeting starts. The Clerk had confirmed the legal position that selling alcohol during the annual meeting is prohibited.
- The Chair will work through his agenda. Cllr Hislop will then speak briefly about recruitment and the roles available. At the point the formal meeting closes, the bar will reopen for the informal part of the evening.
- The Parish Hall has agreed to charge cost price only for drinks, and to cover any overspend against the Council's budget for the evening.
- Cllr Hislop will give a brief introduction using her own experience as a volunteer as an example of how residents can get involved.
- Members are asked to be at the hall to help set-up from 6:00pm.

Meeting concluded at 8:31pm.

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

CHESWARDINE PARISH COUNCIL

Schedule of Payments - As resolved under Item 12.

Cheswardine Parish Council Schedule of Payments

21st April 2026

	Date of Debit or Cheque Raised	Recipient	Purpose	£	£	Payment Method	Power of expenditure	Scribe
1	22/04/2026	AJT Carpentry	Odd Jobs - Litter Bins Feb/March	60.00		BT - Unity Trust	Litter Act 1983 ss.5	Yes
2	22/04/2026	PG SKIPS	Rubbish Removal - Skip Emptied 27/03/26	33.13		BT - Unity Trust	Litter Act 1983 ss.5	Yes
3	22/04/2026	Cllr N Bentley	EE - Bus Service Phone Top Up	5.00		BT - Unity Trust	LG Rating Act 1997 s26-29	Yes
4	22/04/2026	North Salop Wheelers	Journey Subsidies - March	18.00		BT - Unity Trust	LG Rating Act 1997 s26-29	Yes
5	22/04/2026	W Salisbury (Clerk)	Giff Gaff - Phone Monthly Payment - April	6.00		BT - Unity Trust	LGA 1972 S 111	Yes
6	22/04/2026	W Salisbury (Clerk)	Mileage (17th March - 38 miles x 0.45)	17.10	130.09	BT - Unity Trust	LGA 1972 S 111	Yes
7	22/04/2026	W Salisbury (Clerk)	HP INK - Printing (January to March)	28.99		BT - Unity Trust	LGA 1972 S 111	Yes
8	22/04/2026	W Salisbury (Clerk)	Clerk Homeworking Expenses (01/01/26 to 31/03/26)	78.00		BT - Unity Trust	LGA 1972 S 111	Yes
9	22/04/2026	W Salisbury (Clerk)	Clerk Salary - April	495.20		BT - Unity Trust	LGA 1972 S 112	Yes
10	22/04/2026	HMRC	Tax & Contributions on Clerks salary - April	123.80	154.07	BT - Unity Trust	LGA 1972 S 112	Yes
11	22/04/2026	HMRC	Employer NIC - Month 1	30.27		BT - Unity Trust	LGA 1972 S 112	Yes
Total				895.49				

Payments made as resolved under the approved payments list 5.5b								Scribe
12	07/04/2026	BT	Parish Hall Broadband - 1st to 31st March	58.80		DD - Unity Trust	LGA 1972 S 133	Yes
Total				58.80				

Payments made under Financial Regulations 5.5a to avoid late payment								
	Date of	Recipient	Purpose	£	£	Cheque	Power of expenditure	Scribe
13	02/04/2026	ICO	Registrations Fee 26-27	47.00		DD - Unity Trust	LGA 1972 S 111	Yes
	31/03/2026	Unity Trust Bank	Bank Charges	7.00		Bank Charge	LGA 1972 S 111	Yes
Total				54.00				

Invoices checked and verified at the meeting held on 21st April 2026

Cllr Jill Hislop 21/04/26
Cllr - Proposer - Sign & Date

Cllr Nigel Stallard 21/04/26
Cllr - Seconder - Sign & Date

DEPOSITS RECEIVED		
March	2026	
Date	Total	From
31/03/2026	£221.57	Unity Trust - Bank Interest
Total	£221.57	

Publication Scheme - As resolved under Item 15.

Publication Scheme

Cheswardine Parish Council has adopted the Information Commissioner's Office Model Publication Scheme for local authorities.

This publication scheme sets out the information that the Council makes available routinely, how that information can be accessed, and whether any charge applies.

The purpose of the scheme is to ensure that information about the Council's work, decision making, finance and services is made available proactively wherever possible, without the need for a specific Freedom of Information request.

The Council will, wherever practicable, publish information on its website:
www.cheswardineparishcouncil.org.uk

Where information is not already available on the website, and it can appropriately be published there, the Council will arrange for this to be done.

Information will be made available unless there is a lawful reason not to do so, for example where the information contains personal data, is confidential, or is otherwise exempt from disclosure.

Contact details

Clerk to Cheswardine Parish Council

Email: clerk@cheswardineparishcouncil.org.uk

Telephone: **07395 316107**

Requests to inspect hard copy information should be made through the Clerk and arranged by appointment.

How information will be made available

Information covered by this scheme will normally be available by one or more of the following methods:

- on the Council's website
- by email request to the Clerk
- by hard copy, on request
- by inspection at a mutually agreed appointment

Charges

Much of the information published under this scheme will be available free of charge on the Council's website.

Where hard copies are requested, the following charges may apply:

- Black and white photocopying, **15p per sheet**
- Colour photocopying, **20p per sheet**
- Postage, **actual cost**

No charge will be made for simply viewing information by appointment, unless extensive copying or postage is required.

Guide to Information

Class 1, Who we are and what we do

Organisational information, structures, locations and contacts. Current information only.

This may include:

- Councillors and membership of the Council
- Committee and working group membership, where applicable
- Contact details for the Clerk
- Councillor information via the website member pages
- Council responsibilities and areas of activity
- Location of meetings
- Staffing structure

How available: Website, or from the Clerk on request

Charge: Usually free online, copying charges may apply

Class 2, What we spend and how we spend it

Financial information relating to projected and actual income and expenditure, procurement, contracts and audit. Current and previous financial year as a minimum.

This may include:

- Approved annual budget
- Precept information
- Annual governance and accountability return and associated documents
- Accounting statements
- Bank reconciliation summary where published
- Asset register
- Financial regulations
- Standing Orders
- Payments, receipts and expenditure information published as part of transparency arrangements
- List of current contracts and value of contracts, where applicable and appropriate for publication

How available: Website, or from the Clerk on request

Charge: Usually free online, copying charges may apply

Class 3, What our priorities are and how we are doing

Strategies, plans, audits, inspections, reviews and reports.

This may include:

- Annual report, where produced
- Action plans and project information
- Governance reviews
- Internal audit reports
- External audit reports and notices
- Risk management documents

How available: Website, or from the Clerk on request

Charge: Usually free online, copying charges may apply

Class 4, How we make decisions

Decision making processes and records of decisions. Current and previous council year as a minimum.

This may include:

- Timetable of meetings
- Agendas and Minutes of meetings
- Reports and supporting papers considered at meetings, where appropriate for publication
- Responses to consultation exercises
- Responses to planning applications
- Delegated decisions, where recorded and published

How available: Website, or from the Clerk on request

Charge: Usually free online, copying charges may apply

Class 5, Our policies and procedures

Current written policies, protocols and procedures for delivering services and responsibilities.

This may include:

- Standing Orders
- Financial Regulations
- Code of Conduct
- Complaints procedure
- Freedom of Information and data handling procedures
- Health and safety policy
- Employment policies, where applicable
- Equality related policies, where adopted
- Records management and retention arrangements
- Information security arrangements
- Publication scheme

- Schedule of charges
- Terms of reference for committees and working groups, where applicable
- Delegation arrangements

How available: Website, or from the Clerk on request

Charge: Usually free online, copying charges may apply

Class 6, Lists and registers

Currently maintained lists and registers only.

This may include:

- Asset register
- Register of members' interests
- Register of gifts and hospitality, if maintained
- Disclosure log, if maintained
- Any other public register the Council is required to keep

Some information in this class may only be available for inspection, or may be available through another body where legislation requires this.

How available: Website where published, or inspection/request through the Clerk

Charge: Usually free online, copying charges may apply

Class 7, The services we offer

Information about the services the Council provides.

This may include information relating to:

- Recreation grounds
- Playgrounds
- Street lighting
- Public seating
- Community grants
- Parish events and commemorative activities
- Newsletters, notices and public information issued by the Council

Where the Council charges for a service, hire or activity, details of applicable fees will be made available where relevant.

How available: Website, or from the Clerk on request

Charge: Usually free online, copying charges may apply

Additional publication commitment

In addition to the classes above, Cheswardine Parish Council will seek to publish information proactively where this supports openness, transparency and public understanding of the Council's work.

For a council with turnover above £25,000, following the broader transparency expectations in the Local Government Transparency Code 2015 is identified as best practice in the Practitioners' Guide 2025.

Exemptions and limitations

Information will not be published where:

- it is exempt under the Freedom of Information Act 2000
- it contains personal data and disclosure would breach data protection law
- it is confidential or legally privileged
- it relates to a matter properly considered in private session
- another legal restriction prevents disclosure

Review

This publication scheme will be reviewed by the Council by the end of 2029 or sooner if necessary to ensure that published information remains accurate, accessible and relevant.

Budget Position 25-26 - As resolved under Item 17.

2025-2026 Full Year Budget Position

Actual Cash on Hand – 1st April 2025 **£35,239.98**

Budget set for 2025 – 26 (1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026)

Payments £45,444.00
Receipts £30,346.00

Budgeted appropriation from reserves £15,098.00

Budgeted Cash on Hand – 31st March 2026 **£20,141.98**

Full Year Actual (VAT Inclusive)

Payments £23,823.31
Receipts £31,444.69

Actual appropriation from reserves £7,621.38 (Surplus – No Appropriation)

Actual Cash on Hand – 31st March 2026 **£42,861.36**

Budget set for 2026 – 27 (1st April 2026 to 31st March 2027)

Payments £39,461.52
Receipts £26,150.00

Budgeted appropriation from reserves £13,311.52

Budgeted Cash on Hand – 31st March 2027 **£29,549.84**

CHESWARDINE

PARISH COUNCIL

Accounting Audit 25-26 Q4 - As resolved under Item 18.

Completed by Cllr Thomson.

VOUCHER / PAYMENT NO	DATE OF ENTRY	SUPPLIER / RECIPIENT	£ AMOUNT	DATE CASHED / PAID	INVOICE UPLOADED AND CORRECT	ENTRY APPEARS ON THE SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS
0128	05.01.2026	BT business Broadband	39.54	05.01.2026	yes	Yes (CPC minutes 20/01/2026 p872)
0130	14.01.2026	Defibrillator Phone Box Repair / Senior electrical Services	192.00	21.01.2026	yes	Yes (CPC minutes 20/01/2026 p872)
0133	19.01.2026	Antivirus software / McAfee	34.99	21.01.2026	yes	Yes (CPC minutes 20/01/2026 p872)
0136	21.01.2026	Grounds maintenance / J Hoole	240.00	21.01.2026	yes	Yes (CPC minutes 17/02/2026 p890)
0139	17.02.2026	Odd jobs contractor / AJT carpentry	50.00	18.02.2026	yes	Yes (CPC minutes 17/02/2026 p890)
0142	17.02.2026	Bus costs / NS Wheelers	78.00	18.02.2026	yes	Yes (CPC minutes 17/02/2026 p890)
0143	17.02.2026	Skip hire /PG skips	66.26	18.02.2026	yes	Yes (CPC minutes 17/02/2026 p890)
0147	31.02.2026	Bank charge / Unity Trust Bank	6.00	31.02.2026	n/a	Yes (CPC minutes 17/02/2026 p890)
0149	25.02.2026	Playground inspection / Kompan	167.26	18.03.2026	yes	Yes (CPC minutes 17/03/2026 p900)
0154	12.03.2026	Joint Energy Agreement / SCC	263.38	18.03.2026	yes	Yes (CPC minutes 17/03/2026 p900)
0157	12.03.2026	Printing / In your face printing	60.00	18.03.2026	yes	Yes (CPC minutes 17/03/2026 p900)
0159	16.03.2026	Clerk's salary / Clerk	495.00	18.03.2026	yes	Yes (CPC minutes 17/03/2026 p900)

CHESWARDINE

PARISH COUNCIL

Asset Register Value 2025-26 - As resolved under Item 19.

Description	Date Acquired	Insurance Value 2025-26
Parish Hall CCTV	20/07/2021	£7,350.00
Picnic Table (Glasdon 2024)	12/08/2024	£755.46
Picnic Table (Glasdon 2024)	12/08/2024	£755.46
Street Lights x 32	16/09/2020	£10,500.00
Defibrillators and cabinets	15/01/2020	£1,575.00
Defibrillators and cabinets	15/01/2020	£1,575.00
Defibrillators and cabinets	15/01/2020	£1,575.00
Signs	17/05/2017	£2,100.00
Defibrillator & cabinet	2015	£1,575.00
Brick bus shelter	Unknown	£5,250.00
Defibrillator purchase	30/07/2021	£1,575.00
Beacon		£3,150.00
Playground Equipment - Hopper See Saw (Kompan March 2025)	20/03/2025	£7,935.11
Playground Equipment - Accessible Carousel Roundabout (Kompan March 2025)	20/03/2025	£11,440.54
Playground Equipment - Basket Swing (HAGS)	March 2024	£4,602.99
Adult Gym Playground Equipment	19/05/2022	£8,400.00
Swing	11/06/2018	£8,400.00
Play equipment	03/07/2015	£4,422.53
Play equipment	Unknown	£31,500.00
Playground Equipment	19/10/2021	£6,300.00
Assets Purchased in 2025-26		
Litter Bin (Wildlife Garden)	29/07/2025	£433.65
Picnic Table (Glasdon 2025)	14/05/2025	£693.54
Noticeboard	04/10/2025	£544.95
Asset Declaration (Insurance Value Basis)		£122,409.23

Report from Shropshire Council Unitary Councillor (April)- As received under Item 7.

Cllr Neil Bentley Unitary Councillor Report | Cheswardine Division

April 2026



OVERVIEW

March has been a busy month with all four parish council meetings and a variety of other meetings across the division with residents and organisations. In my role as SYA Chair of Trustees, I met with a representative of the National Lottery Communities Fund to discuss our Future Leaders Program which is funded by the NLCF. This program is supporting the development of tomorrow's youth group leaders as well as supporting youth clubs across Shropshire and the division.

It was also a pleasure this month to be joined by Anna Turner, Lord Lieutenant of Shropshire to present awards in recognition of our youth volunteers across Shropshire. I was also invited to present a number of cheques to local groups across Cheswardine from funds raised by the activities of the Fox & Hounds Fun Run. A total of £3,000 has been raised over the last year with £1,500 distributed to local groups and £1,500 donated to Macmillan who are supporting a local resident. Thank you to all the volunteers and also to the generosity of the residents who support these activities.

Earlier in the month I met Market Drayton Golf Club chairman Steve Fulcher to discuss some collaborative approaches to highways issues along Sutton Lane. I have raised these points with StreetScene & Highways and hopefully we can develop a way of working that supports residents across our rural communities. Also this month I met with Deputy PCC Tracey Onslow in Childs Ercall to discuss potential speed testing options in the village as well as other highways issues. Parish Council chair Cllr James Maddocks joined us for our walk around the village to highlight first hand some of these issues. We are hoping to secure some funding from the PPC for testing equipment future support.

This month the Lib Dem administration has started the process of recruiting a permanent CEO of Shropshire Council. An external recruitment campaign is now underway supported by the external recruitment agency, Solace in Business. The successful candidate will need to share our vision for the council's future as well as continuing to support the organisation through our improvement plan.

As the 8.99% council tax rise comes into force this April, we really appreciate that many residents question exactly what our council tax pays for. With this in mind, we have asked the council to produce a 'receipt' outlining these services. I have included this on the final page of this report to be shared with residents.

The full council meeting scheduled for the 26th March was cancelled as this was an additional meeting in case the budget did not pass at February's meeting. The latest cabinet meeting was held on the 11th March: <https://shropshire.gov.uk/committee-services/ielListDocuments.aspx?CId=130&MId=5249>

Summary of my meetings during March:

(01/03/26) Market Drayton Golf Club

(06/03/26) SYA Presentation Evening

(09/03/26) Fox & Hounds Fun Run Presentation Evening

(11/03/26) National Lottery Community Fund | The New Lodge, Shrewsbury

CHESWARDINE

PARISH COUNCIL

Report from Shropshire Council Unitary Councillor (April) - As received under Item 7. (Cont.)

(16/03/26) Portfolio Meeting | TEAMS

(17/03/26) Corporate Parenting Board | TEAMS

(24/03/26) Deputy PPC Tracey Onslow | Childs Ercall

CASEWORK

Casework	Issue Raised / Portfolio	Actions
Ollerton Business Park, Childs Ercall	PLANNING: Various planning applications have been passed yet conditions not met (esp highways)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> planningenforcement@shropshire.gov.uk can be used to report any breaches of planning. I am still chasing updates on this one.
Speed Testing / Signage Childs Ercall	PCC John Campion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (24/03/26) Meeting with Dt.PCC in Childs Ercall. PC to confirm 2x testing locations. NB to liaise with highways engineer Harry Guest regarding SatNav issue and discuss Newport rd/Eaton rd junction.
23/03138/FUL Mixed 28 Residential Dwellings Childs Ercall	PLANNING: This has gone to 'recommendations/committee'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (23/03/26) I have emailed Andrew Huntley (new case officer) to ask for an update - awaiting response.
25/03608/FUL Chicken Egg Production Caynton	PLANNING: This is still at 'recommendations/committee'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No update regarding potential committee meeting. I have spoken with the local action group to prepare for this scenario so that representatives are ready.
Artificial 'Lake' Cheswardine	Off Westcott Lane	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (23/03/26) Confirmation that dialogue exists between landowner and council. The owner is keen to investigate once the water level subsides. The council will continue to monitor water levels.
Dog & Waste Bins Sutton Upon Tern	Market Drayton Golf Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SC Response: StreetScene (who are the only service that deals with public waste bins) will not supply or service a bin here and that the Outdoor Partnerships Service do not have any bins on the public rights of way network. (25/03/26) I briefly raised this at parish council but will make a formal recommendation to council.
Dodecote Drive Childs Ercall	HIGHWAYS: ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highways have instructed a technician to visit the road and to address current potholes.
Abandoned Vehicles Sutton Upon Tern	MD Swimming Baths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (26/03/26) I have reported both vehicles individually.

PARISH COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS

Here are questions posed by parish councillors across the division and updates/answers at present.

Question	Answer / Outcomes
Grit Bins not filled as requested.	(28/02/26) Still no response received, will escalate.
How much do we pay for Fix My Street?	£39,100 +VAT.

CHESWARDINE PARISH COUNCIL

Report from Shropshire Council Unitary Councillor (April) - As received under Item 7. (Cont.)

How many grit Bins in Childs Ercall?	(20/02/26) Initial check shows no bins are currently mapped; technicians to verify. (25/03/26) Will ask PC to suggest locations within the parish for grit bins.
A41 Speed Camera Update	Deputy PCC Tracey Onslow to chase with PCC John Campion.

COUNCIL TAX 'RECIPT'

Shropshire Council 2026/27 Council Tax Receipt

Charges for a Band D property

**** Universal Services ****

- * Buses and Sustainable Transport £36.18
- * Highways and Environmental Maintenance £94.46
- * Leisure and Outdoor Spaces £16.18
- * Libraries £14.59
- * Registrars, Coroners, Bereavement Services, Trading Standards, Licensing, Regulatory Services and Public Health £11.82
- * Theatre, Arts, Museums and Archives £2.12
- * Waste and Recycling Collections £184.57

**** Adult Services ****

- * Adult Social Care £909.43
- * Housing, Housing Benefits and Welfare £42.06

**** Children's Services ****

- * Children and Families Early Help Services and Youth Services £14.95
- * Children's Social Care £477.30
- * Education, Schools, and Home to School Transport £120.36

What your Council Tax pays for

**** Economic Growth ****

- * Broadband - Rural Rollout £0.47
- * Economic Growth £6.02
- * Planning £8.66

**** Local Government Running Costs ****

- * Organisational & Democratic Costs of the Council £349.49
- * Financing Costs - Debt Repayments and Interest Payments £191.31
- * Reserves Transactions £253.83

Voucher

**** Income and other funding to supplement Council Tax ****

- * Car Parking Income (Net of Costs) -£26.65
- * Net Use of Non Ring Fenced Grants -£92.90
- * Exceptional Financial Support -£645.16

* **Total to Pay** **£1,969.09**

09:00 01/04/26 123456789

This receipt broadly illustrates the Shropshire Council services that the average Band D Council Tax supports and excludes specific grant funded services such as schools.