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**RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021 6pm via Zoom**

**Present:**

Cheswick Green Parish Councillors: Len Cresswell, Sam Sedgley, Michelle Smith, Mick Swain (Rec. C Chairman) and Peter Townsend.

**In attendance**

Clerk: Marie Zizzi

0 members of the public

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

1.1 Not applicable all members present.

**2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations.**

2.1 None.

**3. Public Participation.**

3.1 There were no members of the public present.

**4. To resolve to accept the Minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020.**

4.1 Cllr. Cresswell requested that '6 feet long' was removed from 5.3 and that the word 'Place' was removed from item 11. It was queried how SMBC would refer to the area and stated that the postal address for Cheswick Place was Cheswick Green and not Shirley.

4.2 In relation to item 9 - Cllr. Cresswell asked if there were any plans. *(Note the Clerk re-sent the email received from Warwickshire Wildlife Trust (WWT) on 21/07/2020).*

**Resolved:** proposed Cllr. Sedgley, seconded Cllr. Cresswell; further to the above-mentioned amendments, that the minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

**5. To report any issues from monthly site audit reports since the last meeting and to provide Clerk with reports for filing.**

5.1 It was noted Cllr. Sedgley and Cllr. Smith had been to look at the Mount, they felt it was okay. It was stated there was a fence which needed reinstating. Cllr. Cresswell suggested using the logs as this would be more natural than a fence. Cllr. Smith said she thought they would just get thrown down if they were used. It was stated the steps had been repaired, members were unsure if the toe path had been mended.

5.2 Cllr. Townsend said a damaged branch on an Oak tree on the Village Green had been sorted out now.

5.3 Cllr. Swain spoke about big trees with lots of small branches, he queried whether these should be trimmed off. Cllr. Sedgley agreed. Cllr. Cresswell did not, he said they needed to look natural not pretty.

5.4 Cllr. Townsend referred to a Country File programme and having designated wildlife areas, he suggested they adopted a policy.

5.4.1 Cllr. Sedgley said there was a dead tree on the Recreation Ground, she said this should remain there for wildlife.

5.5 There were comments about the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust (WWT) project; it was stated there were plans to incorporate bug hotels and wildflower bombs including possibly poppies, but nothing too extravagant on the Recreation Ground.

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5.6 There were comments about Covid-19 and the lack of face coverings being worn.

**6. To discuss Grounds maintenance, including litter picking and bin emptying.**

6.1 It was noted there had been a complaint in relation to the gate to the play area.

6.2 Cllr. Swain asked if Cllr. Townsend had made any progress in relation to finding out what residents thought about the area outside the shops. Cllr. Townsend the Parish Council was still waiting for a reply from the Managing Agent for the shops. It was noted two emails had been sent before Christmas, but not replies had been received. It was stated this was a disgrace, it reflected the state of the area. It was noted the Parish Council still had no contact at the brewery. There were comments about scaffolding being installed where there had been a fire above the shops and that it was good something was finally being done.

6.3 Cllr. Swain said the handrail by the steps to the Village Hall had been reinstated and finished today. Cllr. Sedgley commented that it looked fabulous. It was queried whether work had commenced on getting the fence posts out. It was noted the cheque from the insurance company had still not arrived.

6.4 Cllr. Swain said in relation to discussions about installing drainage on the car park, this had been investigated and what he had suggested was not possible. However, it had been agreed that a quote would be sent to install a normal drain inline with the surgery, where cars did not drive, to make a channel about a foot deep and 12 inches wide to run into the hedge with grating over it. He said this would need clearing several times a year.

**Action item: The clearing of this to be added to the Grounds Maintenance specification.**

6.5 Cllr. Cresswell commented that they were lucky to have so many leaves due to living in a green place.

6.6 Cllr. Swain said he had been pleased with the number of responses sent to SMBC in relation to proposals to expand the Primary School and for Site 12.

6.7 Cllr. Swain referred to a Toyota car that was parked on the car park for long periods of time.

6.8 Cllr. Cresswell enquired if there had been any more thoughts on installing a gantry on the car park. It was reiterated that the Parish Council was still waiting for a response from the Managing Agent for the shops. It was suggested to go ahead and install one.

6.8.1 Cllr. Cresswell referred to having a H bar with padlocks installed and to see what happened.

6.8.2 There were comments about the waste disposal trucks using this access and asking them not to do this. It was stated trucks entered by the pub and left by the surgery. It was stated they should not be doing this and pointed out there was a sign stating no vehicles over 7.5 tonnes.

6.8.3 Cllr. Swain was not sure if the Parish Council had the right to install a H bar. Cllr. Cresswell pointed out that all parks in Solihull had these devices.

6.8.4 Cllr. Swain referred to having access and egress points with a proper flow of traffic for HGVs. He was concerned about facing a legal challenge if they installed a H bar.

6.8.5 Cllr. Cresswell said the lease stated the Parish Council had access at both ends but the pub only had access to the car park from one end. It was suggested to contact the Parish Councils solicitor. However, the Clerk said she would look at what documents she had first.

6.8.6 There were comments about waste collection for the shops/pub, about large Viola wagons and it was stated that recent repairs made to the car park were now starting to deteriorate, it was thought installing a barrier could be a bargaining point.

6.9 It was queried whether a second litter pick was still taking place by the Parish Councils Grounds Maintenance contractor. Cllr. Sedgley said a couple of residents regularly litter picked, they had asked for some more bags from Love Solihull.

6.10 Cllr. Smith said a red wheelie bin with 'general waste' on it had appeared outside the shops, she did not know where it had come from. It was stated the SMBC bin outside the shops was still appalling. Cllr. Cresswell suggested asking SMBC again to

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replace this and relocate it to the top of the hill. Cllr. Smith said when the bin was full people put things on top of it, she said if it were moved up the ramp people would not bother to use it.

### **7. To discuss CGPC Grounds Maintenance Specification.**

7.1 Cllr. Smith and Cllr. Townsend had not looked at the specification yet.

7.2 Cllr. Smith referred to forms the Clerk had produced.

7.3 Cllr. Cresswell said they did not need a tick list; it was for the people who carried out the monthly site audits to check to see what was done. He said the Grounds Maintenance contractor would not carry out work if he did not feel it was the right time, in relation to for example birds nesting. He said they had received quotes from other companies, one had said they would only carry out work on Mondays.

**Action item: Work to be carried out on the specification for the next meeting.**

### **8. To discuss the Parish Councils 3-year tree report.**

8.1 Cllr. Cresswell said he had looked at the report in detail, it was not easy to understand. He said he would prefer that the company who did the report was different to the company that carried out work on the trees.

8.2 Cllr. Swain said they had agreed that other quotes for tree work were needed. He said they could ask another company to do the report.

8.3 Cllr. Smith said they had the report and there had been a few incidents when work had been required.

8.4 Cllr. Swain spoke about looking at the budget, where most expenditure was, for example on Grounds Maintenance, to look at all works, an auditor would run off the payments, number of transactions, how work was obtained, and query why has this company done all this work. He said they needed at least 3 quotes for works.

8.5 Cllr. Swain enquired whether there was any work that needed doing.

8.6 Cllr. Cresswell said he had difficulty identifying trees, next time a report was to be carried out, he would like to go out with whoever was doing it with a map before they quoted for the job.

8.7 Cllr. Smith suggested that next time one or two Councillors could go round with them to look at the trees. Cllr. Cresswell said he thought it would probably be very boring.

8.8 Cllr. Smith said they would share it between them it may be interesting, and they could learn something.

8.9 It was noted the next report was required April 2022.

### **9. To discuss proposed changes to the Recreation Ground.**

9.1 It was queried whether WWT had obtained any quotes for work yet.

**Action item: Clerk to contact WWT for an update on the situation before the Parish Council meeting on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2021.**

9.2 There were comments about the proposed BT telephone kiosk. Cllr. Sedgley said it would have to go on the Village Green, there was a tree near where it could be located that had a branch that needed cutting. Cllr. Cresswell queried when the location had been agreed.

9.2.1 Cllr. Swain said he had requested a quote for the base, he would go and look at one in Berkswell to see how they had installed shelves.

### **10. Recondition WW1 Rose Garden.**

10.1 There were comments about the need to see where WWT were at with things first, that the sooner the Parish Council could start work on the Recreation Ground the better.

**Action item: Cllr. Sedgley to write up what needed to be done to/on the Recreation Ground and email this to everyone.**

10.2 It was suggested to ask the Grounds Maintenance contractor to quote for the works, to possibly get a team of people involved, to put a few jobs together with a brief outline of what was required, then companies could quote for all the work or a mix of the works, they could have a variety of contractors carrying out works.

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10.3 Cllr. Sedgley referred to trees needing to be strimmed and their tops reduced, she commented about getting the goal posts out because the ground was like a swamp and they were damaging the ground due to the weather conditions.

10.4 Cllr. Townsend said in relation the Recreation Ground, WWT were dragging on and this was holding the Parish Council back, as it was a key project. He reiterated to inform them the Parish Council was meeting next week, and an update was needed, as they had been waiting and waiting.

10.5 Cllr. Sedgley said the Parish Council did not need to wait to do what it wanted, what WWT were going to do would have no impact on what the Parish Council wanted to do.

10.6 Cllr. Townsend added that what WWT planned to do would have an effect on the area, he said thinking about seasonality and planting, now was the time to do this.

**11. Condition of Cheswick Footways.**

11.1 Cllr. Swain referred to work SMBC had carried out in Cheswick Green, cutting back trees, on gully's and the culvert he said they had done a good job.

11.2 It was stated that there had not been any work on paths.

11.3 Cllr. Smith said she would go round tomorrow with the list and see what had and what had not been done.

**12. Discuss refurbishment of car park.**

12.1 Deferred.

**13. Review of actions list.**

13.1 It was queried whose land the tree used for the Christmas tree lights belonged to, whether it was SMBC or the shop owners.

13.1.1 Cllr. Sedgley said when they had met an SMBC Officer regarding the telephone kiosk, the Officer had suggested putting it further back as the area did not belong to SMBC, however it had been pointed out that SMBC cut the grass on this piece of land.

13.1.2 It was stated that the tree needed cropping or more lights were needed.

**Action item: Clerk to ascertain if the land/tree belongs to SMBC and if so to ask that the tree is trimmed.**

13.1.3 It was stated the tree should not be trimmed too much, just what was suitable for 1000 Christmas tree lights.

13.1.4 Cllr. Smith suggested getting a couple of designs to install on lamp posts near to the tree.

13.1.5 It was suggested to possibly look at getting coloured lights.

13.1.6 Cllr. Sedgley referred to an email the Clerk had sent in relation to a second tree in Marston Green, for people to hang burbles in memory of loved ones. She said they could have a tree on the Recreation Ground for this purpose.

13.1.7 It was also suggested to have one on the Village Green close to the footpath and one by the Boer War memorial for the residents of the new development.

13.1.8 There were comments about obtaining 3 rooted trees that could be decorated at Christmas. Cllr. Cresswell referred to Notcutts possibly getting rid of trees now. He was asked to try to obtain 3. It was stated the Grounds Maintenance contractor could be asked to plant them and that they needed to be located near an electric source for lights. It was pointed out solar lights could be used.

**14. To consider and resolve any action(s) in relation to any items of correspondence received.**

14.1 There was none.

**15. Date and time for next meeting and any agenda items.**

15.1 Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021 at 17:30.

**Meeting closed 7:15pm**