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CHESWICK GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Wednesday 12th January 2022 7:30pm Cheswick Green Village Hall

Present: Cheswick Green Parish Councillors: Simon Coles, Len Cresswell, Margaret Gosling, Sam Sedgley (Chairman), Michelle Smith and Mick Swain.

Clerk: Marie Zizzi

5 members of the public

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

183.1 Not applicable all Parish Councillors present.

184. Declarations of Interest.

184.1 There were none.

185. Dispensations.

184.1 There were none.

186. To discuss 'Public Participation' at Parish Council meetings.

186.1 Cllr. Swain queried if this had to state 15 minutes.

186.2 Cllr. Sedgley said it was at the Chairman's discretion to extend the period of time. It was pointed out that public participation had often gone on for longer than 15 minutes at meetings.

187. Public Participation (15 Minutes).

187.1 A number of residents present were concerned about a planning application for 254 Creynolds Lane. It was stated objections to applications for this property had been submitted on previous occasions.

187.1.1 A resident referred to the impact this application would have on their lighting/heating. The resident said previous objections had been ignored, these new plans submitted were the same as the previous ones. The resident said they had left five messages for the planning officer to call them back and sent emails but received nothing in reply.

187.1.2 Members of the Parish Council made comments about the plans possibly undermining neighbours' foundations; about the applicant putting a basement in; about the boundary gap on the side and a pinch point; it was queried if the dimensions were the same as before.

187.1.3 A resident said in relation to the possible affect on foundations, they believed this was why the application had been stopped previously, the applicant was not digging down any further now; there had been a basement in the building previously; the applicant wanted to extend the surface area to complete the area of the house; that the neighbours on the other side were closer to the boundary.

187.1.4 Cllr. Swain commented that the roof line was unclear. A residents said it was no higher than their roof line, but agreed the plans were not 100% clear.

187.1.5 Cllr. Smith said there had been an application before and then the house had been cordoned off, before being demolished.

187.1.6 It was stated the house had been demolished bit by bit; there were comments about the resident living in a purpose build converted double garage, with a child; there

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were concerns about this. A resident said the explanation for demolishing it bit by bit, they had been given was to reduce the affects on neighbours in relation to noise/dust etc.

187.1.7 It was pointed out that if the foundation walls were left in place, the building was not considered to be demolished. There were comments about breach of party walls.

187.1.8 Cllr. Swain referred to building regulations.

187.1.9 It was stated the application was the same as the previous one but smaller, the proposed building had been shortened and made narrower, with alterations to the pitch roof. It was noted an application had been rejected in 2014 and also in 2018 because it was for a two-storey building; this was the fourth or fifth application that had been submitted.

187.1.10 There were comments about a two-storey building being erected 2½ metres away from neighbouring properties, when there had been nothing there for 2 years.

188. To resolve to accept the Minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 8th December 2021 (*circulated to Parish Cllrs. with the agenda*).

Resolved; proposed Cllr. Gosling, seconded Cllr. Smith – the Minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

189. To receive a report on the finances of the Council and to approve any payments made since the last meeting and any payments to be made (*circulated to Parish Cllrs. with the agenda*).

Payee	Reason	Total inc. VAT
Meadowfields	Removal of bin bags from Village Hall	£48.00
WALC	Clerk to attend Climate Change training	£36.00
Combat Stress	Donation	£45.00
Vision ICT	Hosted email account	£43.20
DM Payroll Services	Administer payroll second quarter	£90.00
Pell Frischmann	Write further technical note in response to SMBCs recent document re: CG PS	£1500.00 + VAT

More in confidential section.

Petty cash £98.65

189.1 Cllr. Sedgley said they had made £1455 for Combat Stress from the Christmas Craft Fayre and party; she confirmed everyone was happy for the Parish Council to add £45 to make this up to £1500; there were no objections.

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

190. To receive third quarterly comparison and bank reconciliation (*circulated to Parish Councillors with the agenda*).

190.1 Noted, there were no queries.

191. To adopt the 'Donations and Grants policy' (*draft circulated to Parish Councillors 05/01/2022*).

Resolved; proposed Cllr. Cresswell, seconded Cllr. Swain – the policy was adopted.

192. To review CGPCs policy on requests to add links to its website (*circulated to Parish Councillors 24/12/2021*).

192.1 Cllr. Sedgley said the whole website needed some TLC. She had spoken to their website provider, Vision ICT regarding spam mails which looked like they were being sent from her, she was being targeted, this matter was with the police now.

192.2 It was agreed to maintain the policy of only putting links to public bodies on the Parish Council website.

193. To consider any planning applications received (*circulated by email*) **and local development including Cheswick Place and Blythe Valley.**

PL/2021/03289/MINFDW - 254 Creynolds Lane Cheswick Green Solihull B90 4ET; New 3 storey (including basement) domestic dwelling.

193.1 It was agreed CGPC would object to this application; Cllr. Swain to write objection to be submitted on behalf of CGPC.

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PL/2021/03307/MINFHO - 1 Willow Drive Cheswick Green Solihull B90 4HN; Addition of rear dormer, front porch and conversion of garage to incorporate new annexe.

193.1.1 There were no comments to be submitted.

PL/2021/03293/ADV - Blythe Gate Blythe Valley Park Shirley Solihull; Erect cast concrete signage.

193.1.2 There were no comments to be submitted.

193.2 In relation to Cheswick Place; there were comments about the paths and bridge still not being sorted out.

193.3 In relation to Blythe Valley; it was stated the roads were full of mud; there were very few people there at present; there had been some trouble with tree planting at the side of the roads, trees had been knocked down.

194. To discuss SMBCs proposal to expand CG Primary School.

194.1 Cllr. Sedgley thanked Cllr. Swain for the immense amount of work he had put into writing the Parish Councils further objections to this.

194.1.1 It was stated there could possibly be an extra 180 vehicles twice a day.

194.2 A resident queried if it was possible to measure the air quality outside the school, at weekends compared to during the week. It was stated that people left their car engines running outside the school.

194.3 Cllr. Smith commented about a drop kerb survey, being carried out all round the school, which nobody had been informed about; she said this was to look at how much room there is/will be.

194.4 It was stated the remedial works at the junction had not been completed yet; Cllr. Swain said the work in relation to the cricket club had not been carried out.

194.5 There were comments about buses being unable to travel down Illshaw Heath Road; Cllr. Cresswell said most of the money for the buses came from SMBC; it was stated buses turned right into Creynolds Lane; that Andy Street was meant to be looking into the bus services; about priority road changes and listed buildings.

194.6 Cllr. Cresswell referred to a map he had, which showed the pipeline from Coventry to South Birmingham via Cheswick Green. He referred to lorries coming in to build the extension and the Mount being an archaeological site.

194.7 There were comments about speeding vehicles logged by the speed camera; reduced speed limit on Creynolds Lane; the number of cars doubling at school drop off/pick up times; about checking the number of cars on a normal day or a Saturday/Sunday compared to a school day.

194.8 It was noted SMBC was relying on its traffic survey, in which it stated, the impacts of Covid had been taken into consideration.

194.9 Cllr. Coles said there had been a Traffic Warden outside the school over the last three days. There were comments about Traffic Warden's not actually doing anything.

194.10 Cllr. Cresswell said there was no CIL money from Blythe Valley; Cheswick Green would pick up all the infrastructure work. Cllr. Swain referred to £3 million from Section 106 funds; he added the developers had said there would be costs of £6 million for road improvements.

195. To discuss resident's proposals for the Recreation Ground and children's play equipment.

195.1 Cllr. Gosling said the children's equipment needs replacing; she referred to two items which had needed to be welded. Cllr. Smith said one of these was the large swings which was to be expected. It was stated the other item was on the children's play area. Cllr. Cresswell said this did not mean it was wearing out.

195.2 Cllr. Sedgley said they had discussed this at the Recreation Committee meeting; it did need some improvement.

195.3 Cllr. Swain said they were able to use CIL money for this. He said with Cllr. Coles he would investigate some possible funding, such as match-funding. It was stated the children's play area was a priority.

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195.4 It was stated the ponds on the Recreation Ground were working fine. Cllr. Sedgley said they needed to get locks for the gates, to protect the fresh plants; she suggested getting a plaque to inform people this was a wildlife area and putting information on social media, letting people know why they were doing this, to enable the area to become established. Cllr. Cresswell said children would go round the gates if they were locked.
195.5 Cllr. Sedgley said they needed to move the bug hotel.

196. To discuss the car park.

196.1 It was stated there was a need to get the brewery involved now.

Action item: Clerk to email Michelle Dove from Enterprise Inns to set up a remote meeting.

197. To discuss holding an additional Parish Assembly in February.

197.1 Cllr. Sedgley said at the last WALC Chairman's forum it had been suggested to hold two Parish Assemblies, one in February and one in June; to ask residents to put forward any projects they had in mind.

197.2 There were various comments about this, it was noted the Annual Parish Assembly was scheduled to take place on Wednesday 9th March at 7pm, prior to the monthly Parish Council meeting at 7:30pm; however, this would not be possible as Brownies would be using the hall. It was agreed to hold the Annual Parish Assembly on Wednesday 20th April 2022 at 7pm.

198. To receive any reports from Councillors and/or the Clerk.

198.1 It was agreed that the Grounds Maintenance Specification should be added to the website.

Action item: Clerk to send Word document to Cllr. Sedgley for her to convert into a small pdf. file for Cllr. Gosling to add to the website.

198.2 Cllr. Gosling said in relation to Broadband, she had checked and CityFibre was coming no further than the top of the field on Creynolds Lane. She had spoken to Saqib Bhatti's office, they had been in contact with Openreach and hopefully there would be more on this during the year, she said they were pushing for fibre for the village; she added that the Parish Council had offered to use CIL for fibre to the Cabinet and that copper was used to the Cabinet, but aluminium was used to houses, this was the reason for so many breakages in the line.

198.3 It was noted Cllr. Sedgley and Cllr. Cresswell would attend the next remote SAC meeting.

198.4 Cllr. Swain said a new company was taking over from Amey for SMBC, Veolia; he suggested that at the SAC meeting, Alison McGrory was asked if members of the Parish Council could meet with representatives from the new contractor, to discuss what did not get done every year.

198.4.1 It was queried whether SMBC had penalty clauses in the contract and whether it was a partnership contract.

198.4.2 Cllr. Swain commented about knowing which Officers at SMBC were responsible for things.

198.5 Cllr. Sedgley said in relation to the Queen's Jubilee, which was over 4 days, there could be four separate events; she said the plans were for people to have beacon lighting on the Thursday, church services on the Friday, horse racing on the Saturday and a party on the Sunday.

198.5.1 Cllr. Sedgley said Cheswick Green could possibly have an outdoor church service, hold some football games such fathers and sons, mothers and daughters. It was suggested to have a family day with races such as hobby horse, egg and spoon, sack races and three-legged races.

198.5.2 Cllr. Sedgley referred to the 'Big Lunch' event on the Sunday with a Marquee/Ti Pi, a bar and live music, like they had at Christmas. She said she had sent for the pack and the Parish Council could register for this.

198.5.3 A person present that worked with the Brownies, said they had flags and suggested a parade with/for the church service.

198.5.4 Cllr. Swain said a Union Jack Flag had been found in the Village Hall.

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198.5.5 It was stated to try and get everyone involved; suggested to have cream teas/cucumber sandwiches in the Village Hall, to decorate the halls with the help of the Brownies.

198.5.6 Cllr. Sedgley spoke about having a road closed off; she queried whether they would fund raise for a charity; she said if they did this, the road closure would be free; there were comments about whether to have just one charity or more.

198.5.7 Cllr. Coles asked if they were going to have a budget for this? It was suggested the RA and the VHMC could contribute.

198.5.8 There were comments about inviting the Mayor, booking the food van, having Marquee/Ti Pis, the party bus and involving the pub. Cllr. Sedgley asked members of the Parish Council if they were in agreement to go ahead and book these services; there were no objections.

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

199.1 It was noted the accounts had been circulated to members of the Parish Council.

199.2 Cllr. Swain said the VHMC had a new caretaker.

200. To receive a report/update from CG RA.

200.1 Cllr. Coles said Street Watch had been discussed, Cllr. Sedgley was handing this over, an Officer was meant to attend the meeting to talk to the RA about this, however they had been unable to attend as they had Covid.

200.2 Cllr. Coles said the shop frontages had been discussed, it was possible the RA would have a clear up day including the flowerbeds.

200.3 Cllr. Swain said he had seen two people from SMBC carrying out a litter pick in front of the shops last Friday.

200.4 Cllr. Coles said the RA were going to pay for the Youth Clubs DBS costs; he said the Youth Club had postponed reopening until March.

200.5 Cllr. Coles said the RA was going to organise three events; an Easter egg hunt, a Halloween party and a Christmas party.

Note: at 21:10pm the members of the public left the meeting.

201. To discuss any matters related to Covid-19.

201.1 There was nothing to discuss, Covid was an ongoing issue.

202. To discuss issues raised with SMBC.

202.1 Cllr. Swain said he had looked at everything that had been logged since the last meeting, everything had been answered except for a couple of matters; for one of these a reminder had been sent and a reply came back the same day; he could not remember what the other outstanding matter was, he said it was something that had been sent in October or November 2021, a reference number had been given, the matter may have been closed due to this.

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

203.1 Two Model/template letters from WALC regarding councils being allowed to hold remote meetings had been received; one to send to local MPs and one to send to Kemi Badenoch the Governments Minister for Equalities; it was agreed to put these on CGPC headed paper and tailor them as necessary, to be sent.

203.2 An email and documents sent from SMBC in relation to the Commonwealth Games were noted; it was agreed CGPC Chair and Vice Chair would be included in any further correspondence on this and that the Clerk should sign and send the Non-Disclosure Agreement.

203.3 An email regarding John Crossling retiring from WALC was noted; it was agreed to send a card to John from CGPC.

203.4 Emails regarding a proposed diversion of footpath SL78, Winterton Farm, off Illshaw Heath Road, B94 6DJ were noted.

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203.5 Two emails requesting links to be added to CGPC website were noted (Virgin Media and Wiki jobs); it was felt it would not be appropriate to add these.

203.6 An email from SMBC regarding Commonwealth Games Baton Bearers was noted.

204. Agenda items for next meeting.

204.1 To discuss an Electric Charging Point.

204.2 Dog Kennel Lane.

204.3 Cllr. Sedgley's actions list.

205. Ongoing actions list (*issued to Parish Councillors with the agenda*).

205.1 Cllr. Sedgley had put together an actions list, with items marked in green, amber and red. She said some projects did not currently have names next to them; this list was not exhaustive, she asked members to look at it and see what they wanted to be involved with. It was suggested a column was added for dates. It was agreed to look at this at the next meeting.

205.1.1 Cllr. Swain said at present there were too many people involved with matters; he suggested having one or two people with delegated authority, to deal with the various ongoing issues on the list.

205.2 Cllr. Cresswell said he could not see the point of having a bench on Saxon Wood Road (*Site A on CGPC Grounds Maintenance Specification GMS*). Members considered having a bench on Saxon Wood Road by the Parish Councils notice board, it was stated that parents often stood there in the mornings. Members thought that a bench could be put on Saxon Wood Road (*Site A GMS*), close to the Cherry tree.

205.2.1 Members suggested that a bench could be located on the Village Green, at the junction of Spinney Drive and Greenside. Cllr. Cresswell explained that the Parish Council put a bench there in remembrance of the Nall brothers, but it was removed after several years as it was always covered with bird droppings, so it was placed in the centre of the Village Green.

205.3 It was noted the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) was on the list; Cllr. Sedgley said the remaining funding they had for this, had to be returned if it was not spent by the end of March 2022. It was stated the NDP had not been looked at for a long time; Cllr. Sedgley said they needed to add photographs and put a positive spin on it; It was queried whether the Parish Council could reapply for funding.

Action item: Cllr. Sedgley to circulate the most recent version of the NDP.

206. 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.

206.1 There were no members of the public present; there was nothing further to discuss.

207. PAYE, payroll and pension scheme.

207. In confidential section.

Meeting closed 21:40pm