



Cheswick Green Parish Council

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CHESWICK GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Wednesday 9th March 2022 7:30pm Cheswick Green Village Hall

Present: Cheswick Green Parish Councillors: Simon Coles, Len Cresswell, Margaret Gosling, Aimee Moloney and Mick Swain (Chairman).

Clerk: Marie Zizzi

4 members of the public

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

236.1 An apology was received from Cllr. Michelle Smith, this was accepted.

237. Declarations of Interest.

237.1 Cllr. Coles declared interests in agenda items 10 (*to discuss CGPC Donations/Grants policy; in relation to an amendment; setting a budget and regarding two grant applications in principle*) and 15 (*to discuss resident's proposals for the Recreation Ground and children's play equipment*); as Chairman of Cheswick Green Residents Association (CGRA).

237.1.1 Cllr. Swain declared an interest in agenda item 15, as he had agreed to help Cllr. Coles complete a form for CGRA to apply for funding.

237.2 Cllr. Moloney declared an interest in agenda item 7 (*to discuss CGPC monthly meeting start time*), as she is involved with the Village Hall Wednesday night user being part of the Girl Guides/Brownies/Rainbows.

238. Dispensations.

238.1 There were none.

239. Public Participation (15 Minutes).

239.1 There were no matters raised by members of the public.

240. To resolve to accept the Minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 9th February 2022 (circulated to Parish Cllrs. with the agenda).

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

241. 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
WALC	Good Councillors Guide	£ 5.00
Marie Zizzi	Reimbursement for Microsoft Office 365	£ 59.99
Glasdon UK	6 benches	£3,086.17
WALC	Clerk to attend Council Friendly Policies training	£ 36.00

More in confidential section.

Petty cash £97.89

241.1 It was noted the WALC annual membership/subscription was due soon; details of benefits of membership had been circulated to all Parish Councillors.

241.2 The Clerk said they had to repay the unspent funding/grant received from Groundwork UK for the Neighbourhood Development Plan, she said she was checking how much had been spent and she would confirm this as soon as possible, they had until 31st March 2022 to repay this.

Resolved: proposed Cllr. Swain, seconded Cllr. Gosling – all payments were approved.

242. To discuss CGPC monthly meeting start time.

242.1 Cllr. Moloney said the Girl Guides had the hall booked until 8pm on Wednesday evenings; she was aware of a verbal agreement made 10 years ago with the Parish Council, for it to hold its meetings from 7:30pm, which meant the group had to finish at 7:15pm, which was 45 minutes earlier. She would like to request this no longer happened.

242.1.1 Cllr. Moloney said she had checked with the Village Hall bookings clerk and she would like to propose the Parish Council either moved its meeting to an 8pm start or changed the day to Thursday, when it could meet any time after 4pm.

242.1.2 Cllr. Cresswell said he could not do Thursday evenings; It was noted that when the agreement had been made with the Parish Council, to have the hall on Wednesday evenings, the Brownies had to clear it from 7:15pm onwards. Cllr. Cresswell suggested moving the Brownies to a Thursday evening.

242.1.3 Cllr. Swain asked how many children would be affected if this were to happen; Cllr Moloney said potentially 50-55.

242.1.4 It was agreed to put this matter on hold for now and to discuss it again.

243. To agree agenda for annual statutory parish assembly, Chairman to sign this to be displayed on CGPC notice boards/website.

243.1 It was noted Cllr. Coles would attend and update on what Cheswick Residents Association was doing.

243.2 It was suggested to ask the Chairman of Illshaw Heath Residents Association to attend as a guest speaker.

243.3 It was agreed to invite the three Borough Councillors to attend as guest speakers.

243.4 It was noted the agenda had to be displayed 14 days prior to the meeting taking place, therefore to ask the invited guest speakers to let the Clerk know if they intended to do this by a specific date.

243.5 Cllr. Cresswell referred to planning applications for Cheswick Green from SMBC having the word Shirley on them. There were comments about boundary changes.

244. To discuss CGPC - Social media policy; including website/social media moderators.

244.1 A draft policy had been circulated to Parish Councillors by email. Cllr. Coles spoke about moderators and administrators.

244.1.1 Members discussed commenting on social media as individuals or as a Councillors and on behalf of the Parish Council, it was stated members needed to be clear about this.

244.1.2 Cllr. Coles referred to what they would share on social media, if they were in agreement.

244.1.3 Cllr. Cresswell said Councillors could use social media/Facebook and call themselves a Councillor, as long as they declared what they stated was their own opinion and not the Parish Councils.

244.1.4 There were comments about being able to link Instagram, Twitter and Facebook.

Resolved; proposed Cllr. Swain, seconded Cllr. Coles – the policy was approved; to be added to the website.

245. To discuss CGPC Donations/Grants policy; in relation to an amendment; setting a budget and regarding two grant applications in principle.

245.1 A number of proposals Cllr. Swain wanted to discuss had been circulated to Parish Councillors by email. The first one was to add a paragraph to the grants and donations policy as follows; '*A Parish Councillor(s) at a Parish Council (PC) meeting may nominate grant funding in principle to a resident or organization of this Parish. The Councillor(s) must outline their reasons for a grant which may be either a single or an annual grant. If approved, the Clerk will contact the individual or organization concerned and say that a grant will be considered should they apply for grant funding and disclose all information requested. Following receipt of a valid application for a grant, the PC will decide whether a grant is applicable and the amount of grant to be awarded.*'

Resolved; proposed Cllr. Coles, seconded Cllr. Moloney – this should be added to the policy.

245.2 Cllr. Swain's next proposal was that for 2022/23 there was a new budget line entitled Donation/Grants Policy. The budget could either be given a specified sum or be set at zero. Funding will be met from reserves. It was noted there was already a heading that covered this within the budget.

245.3 Cllr. Swain's third proposal was that the PC agree in principle to an annual grant in respect of The Charlie Jay Foundation, which was established following an appeal by Mr. & Mrs. Jay. The foundation is managed and run by Mrs. Jayne Brown who provides professional counselling services for troubled children.

245.3.1 Cllr. Cresswell asked if the PC currently gave any money; the answer was no.

245.3.2 Cllr. Swain referred to a series of questions that would be asked in relation to this grant, that the PC would discuss when the answers were received.

245.3.3 Cllr. Swain said Cllr. Smith had suggested adding another question to the list; to ask for examples of how the foundation had tried to raise funds elsewhere.

Resolved: Cllr. Gosling said she was happy with this proposal – there were no objections.

245.4 Cllr. Swain's fourth proposal was for the PC to agree in principle to an annual grant in respect of Cheswick Green Residents Association (CGRA). He had stated that members were all aware that funds raised by CGRA are via resident subscriptions. Income from subscriptions over time have reduced and currently elderly residents generally contributed most of the funding. Unless younger generations contributed CGRA would not be able to continue indefinitely without an injection of funding.

245.4.1 It was queried if this would be the same for Illshaw Heath Residents Association (IHRA). Cllr. Swain said CGRA would need to apply to the PC for a grant, it would be the same for IHRA. It was stated there were also Residents Associations for Cheswick Place and Blythe Valley; it was stated they could all apply. The same questions would be asked as for the Charlie Jay Foundation, including the additional one suggested by Cllr. Smith. There were no objections

245.5 Cllr. Swain's final proposal was in relation to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations in June 2022. The group organizing the events had been unable to hire a marquee; he therefore proposed the PC agreed to purchase marquees for this event and subsequent use thereafter and as a separate proposal the PC agreed to gift ownership to CGRA to store and maintain for future use. Cllr. Moloney said she thought community events were important.

Resolved; proposed Cllr. Gosling, seconded Cllr. Moloney – that the above proposals are endorsed; with the provision that the PC can also use these marquees if it wanted/needed to, as the PC may require them for its Christmas event (for example).

246. To receive a report from the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations organising group.

246.1 Cllr. Coles said the group had met on Monday 21st February 2022; a number of ideas had been discussed; he provided members of the PC with a handout detailing the events to take place over the Jubilee weekend, this included items to hire/purchase and the costs.

246.2 Cllr. Swain said some members of the U3A were making cakes for the Saturday afternoon tea. He noted the events included a lot of things for the younger generations, he suggested the U3A could receive afternoon tea for free. Cllr. Coles said they could look into issuing tickets for this.

246.3 It was noted the PC had previously agreed a policy, whereby users of the Village Hall were not permitted to use the Recreation Ground for bouncy castles, marquees or BBQs, there was a form to be completed for anyone wanting to use the Recreation Ground.

246.4 Everyone was in agreement for the items listed on the handout to be ordered/hired, as well as the cost involved for these.

247. To resolve which company to award CGPC Grounds Maintenance works to from April 2022 to March 2025.

247.1 All the tenders submitted had been circulated, as strictly confidential to Parish Councillors with comments from Cllr. Smith and Cllr. Swain, as well as a recommendation for which company should be award CGPCs grounds maintenance works 2022/25.

Resolved; proposed Cllr. Gosling, seconded Cllr. Coles – CGPC grounds maintenance works/contract 2022-2025 will be awarded to Countrywide Grounds Maintenance.

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

PL/2022/00440/MINFHO - 18 Chartwell Drive Cheswick Green Solihull B90 4JZ; Two storey side and front extensions, first floor front extension and single storey rear extension.

248.1 Members that had looked at this agreed it was a massive extension; it was stated the 3-bedroomed property was to become a 6-bedroomed property. There were comments about Oak trees that had been removed. Cllr. Swain said it would not affect any adjoining properties, it did not overlook any properties, it was next to fields and set back. It was agreed there were no comments to be submitted.

248.2 In relation to Cheswick Place; it was stated still nothing had been done in relation to the gravel paths, SMBC would inherit the problems and issues with the site once it was adopted. Cllr. Gosling said some mowing had taken place at the top of the flood defences/swales.

248.3 In relation to Blythe Valley; it was stated the same materials were being used for paths as the gravel paths on Cheswick Place.

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

249.1 Cllr. Swain said everyone knew it had been approved by SMBCs Planning Committee. It was felt this had been 100% about educational needs. He said an email had been sent to the Senior Planning Officer, enquiring if the PC could appeal this decision, if so how and how much time there was to do this; no reply had been received yet.

249.2 There were comments about the need for the PC to be involved with any conditions/Temporary Road Orders (TROs) for this application; about the number of parking spaces; it was stated there were 62 members of staff and 24 parking spaces.

249.3 It was stated TROs had to be advertised and consulted on.

249.4 It was stated at the same Planning Committee meeting, more houses on the Green, between Dog Kennel Lane and Shirley had been approved.

249.5 A resident referred to a Tidbury Green development; he said it had been for 200 houses, this had been increased to 300 and then 600.

249.6 There were comments about land between Tidbury Green and Cheswick Green, it was stated there were 5 sports pitches, which would all become housing and the developers would build new stadiums.

249.7 Cllr. Cresswell said plans for Earlswood had seemed to have died and plans for Becketts Farmland had fallen through now. Cllr. Swain referred to a disagreement between developers. Cllr. Cresswell said CG Primary school was the only one in the area that was not an Academy, therefore it had not stood a chance, as Academies had more control.

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

250.1 Cllr. Coles said CGRA had applied to Severn Trent for funding, to await the outcome of this.

250.2 Cllr. Cresswell this was for the Recreation Committee to discuss and decide.

251. To discuss Cllr. Sedgley's action plan list.

251.1 Cllr. Swain said they appeared to be getting on with most of the things on this list now.

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

252.1 The Clerk stated Cllr. Gosling wanted to join the Recreation Committee.

252.2 It was queried how/when committees and membership to committees was decided. The Clerk said this took place at the Annual Meeting of the Council in May. Cllr. Swain asked Cllr. Gosling if she would wait until May; Cllr. Gosling replied no.

252.3 Cllr. Coles said CGRA had discussed Street Watch, it was looking into this and for volunteers; he said ideally dog walkers could do this, it was about informing people about the right channels to approach for various issues.

253. To discuss issues raised with SMBC.

253.1 Cllr. Swain said he would like to cover this later in relation to an item of correspondence received.

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

254.1 An email from WALC regarding the White paper was noted.

254.2 In relation to an email from SMBC about the Commonwealth Games. Cllr. Swain said with the Clerk he had a meeting about this on Tuesday 15th March; they would update members when this had taken place.

254.3 Cllr. Swain referred to documents that had been issued by the Chairman of the Solihull Area Committee (SAC); from SMBC regarding communication between SMBC, Borough Councillors and Parish Councils. It referred to not contacting officers directly and how to deal with issues. He said an example in relation to street lighting had been included.

254.3.1 Cllr. Swain said he was aware it had been raised at SAC meetings, that SMBC was not dealing with things, it was thought it was former Cllr. Sedgley who had raised this.

254.3.2 Cllr. Swain said these documents had been approved and there would be implications for Parish Councils. He pointed out that SMBC had omitted to include the word 'Town Councils' in the documents. He said he would be raising this at the next SAC meeting.

254.3.3 Cllr. Cresswell spoke about an issue with lampposts on Foxland Close, which he had reported to SMBC, he was impressed with how this had been dealt with.

254.3.4 It was stated there were plans to close Solihull Police station; it was pointed out the custody suites had been lost in Shirley and Chelmsley Wood; it was stated people were driven to Coventry to be dealt with, to be put in holding cells; it was felt the previous system when people went into court the next day had worked; it was also stated people were taken to Great Barr or the Bristol Road which were in Birmingham; there were comments about the Core possibly being used, for people to take information for police officers.

254.4 An email circulated by Cllr. Smith with proposals for the Village Green was noted. Cllr. Swain said he had taken a walk around the area; Cllr. Smith thought the area by the bus stop needed tidying up before the Jubilee celebrations, it was agreed this was a good idea.

254.4.1 Cllr. Cresswell enquired if this was where the tulips were, opposite the telephone kiosk. He said the WI had planted lots of daffodils and tulips, it may look uneven, but they would be coming out soon; he referred to the suggestion about digging these up and taking them out; it was suggested to leave these and to add summer bulbs. It was noted Cllr. Smith was to obtain a quote; it was queried whether a second quote was needed, it was felt this may not be necessary. Cllr. Coles said he would ask Borough Cllr. James Butler and Love Solihull about bulbs.

Resolved: proposed Cllr. Cresswell, seconded Cllr. Swain – Cllr. Smith's proposal for the Village Green should go ahead*.

255. Agenda items for next meeting.

255.1 Cllr. Moloney gave an apology for the next meeting, as she would not be able to attend.

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

256.1 Cllr. Coles pointed out the date for the Christmas tree lights needed amending on the list.

257. 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.

257.1 A resident referred to a planned closure on Creynolds Lane; she said it had been postponed, Severn Trent had not been aware it was a bus route, it had been agreed the work would take place over a weekend or during half term, however no date had been confirmed yet.

Resolved: proposed Cllr. Swain at 21:10 members of the public were asked to leave.

258. PAYE, payroll and pension scheme.

258.1 Details in confidential section.

Meeting closed 21:25pm

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 9th March 2022

*Cllr. Smith’s proposal for the Village Green (circulated by email 08/03/2022):-

I think the Village Green is in need of some TLC and my proposal is that we should have some work done ready for the Queens Platinum Jubilee.

I've asked my neighbour if he would quote on this (he's the guy that tided up the small memorial in the Recreation Ground FOC). I've also asked him to quote for the yearly upkeep which should be just a few times a year at the most - This is not part of our new Maintenance Contract.

Proposal.

Border at the bottom of the green to the right of the telephone box fronting the bus lane currently looks a complete mess and has not been touched for years. I suggest we dig it out, define the border and add new topsoil, we can leave a couple of bushes that have already started to sprout new shoots but to take out the twigs to the left and plant new evergreen bushes that flower - possibly Rhododendrons for example - maybe a Red White & Blue theme. (We could ask Love Solihull if they can help us source them). My neighbour pointed out that the daffodils and bluebells are already sprouting, we can either make this a priority to get it done in time for the Jubilee or have it ready for summer. Whoever does the work will be asked to save the daffodils and bluebells and re-plant.

As a matter of course we will get a comparison quote, but I would like to point out that we need someone who will take pride in the work and do it to a high standard, being a resident, I think my neighbour would be sure to do this.

I should receive a quote ready for the Recreation Meeting (Friday 18th March 2022).

Signed

Dated