



Cheswick Green Parish Council

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CHESWICK GREEN PARISH COUNCIL
Thursday 12th January 2023 7pm Cheswick Green Village Hall

Present: Cheswick Green Parish Councillors: Simon Coles, Margaret Gosling (Vice Chairman), Aimee Moloney, Michelle Smith and Mick Swain (Chair).

3 members of the public

Marie Zizzi, Clerk

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

173.1 Not applicable – all Parish Councillors present.

174. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations.

174.1 Cllr. Gosling declared an interest in a planning application for 36 Saxon Wood Road, as she lives opposite this property. Note: Cllr. Coles and Cllr. Moloney are members of CG RA.

175. Public Participation (15 Minutes).

175.1 Members of the public spoke about the new No. 9 bus service operated by Travel for the West Midlands (TfWM); apparently Landflight is concerned about TfWM moving in and taking over its routes.

175.1.1 There were comments about the new service not undertaking the complete route to Kingshurst; it was stated Stagecoach did not have enough drivers and there were comments about one company undercutting another.

175.1.2 It was stated if the service was not viable, in 12 months it would be taken off again.

175.1.3 It was stated the A7 and A8 were good services; there were comments about bus stops that were in use and also ones that were not in use.

175.2 There were comments about a house by a bungalow, which was having work carried out on it, having two cars parked on the drive and one blocking the pavement, causing people to have to walk in the road. It was stated this was something the Traffic Warden needed to deal with.

175.2.1 Cllr. Swain referred to a meeting some members of the Parish Council had attended with Mr. Paul Tovey (*SMBCs Head of Highways*), it had been stated that at present Enforcement Officers were unable to book cars, as the Council had to be able to prove breaches, unless it was a very, very serious breach, drivers would not be booked.

175.2.2 Cllr. Coles said he had not seen anyone patrolling for a while. It was noted Cllr. Coles had sent photographs of the situation outside the school to SMBC with a copy to Borough Cllr. Ken Hawkins; Cllr. Smith suggested this was sent to Mr. Rob Wyatt (*SMBCs School Crossing Patrol Manager*).

175.2.3 There were more comments about parking by/outside the school.

176. To resolve to accept the Minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 8th December 2022 (circulated to Parish Cllrs. with the agenda).

176.1 Cllr. Coles requested a small amendment to 160.2.3; subject to this -

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

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

Payee	Reason	Total
TML Ltd.	Cherry picker for poppy waterfall	£225.00
Shirley Roundtable	Donation	£50.00
SMBC	Rotation of speed sign Nov, Dec & Jan 2023	£603.88
Vision ICT	Hosted email Feb 2019 - Jan 2020	£43.20
Countywide GM	Install 3 signs	£36.00
Countrywide GM	Grounds maintenance Dec	£786.89
M. Zizzi	Reimbursement for instant ink	£16.49
Countrywide GM	Tree works 06/01/2023	£2,592.00
More in confidential section.		
Petty cash £90.98		

Quote received

TMC Ltd. removal of one noticeboard £85 + VAT; install noticeboard (per one) £170 + VAT - price includes materials/labour and all waste removed from site
 £255 to remove existing noticeboard and replace at Illshaw Heath
 £510 to install 3 new noticeboards

177.1 It was noted the exercise class numbers/attendance had improved.

177.2 The quote to install the new notice boards was accepted.

177.3 In relation to the money taken at the Christmas event (£426.54); £300 had been given to the charity 'I'm homeless please help me'; £100 was to be given to the PTA, however no bank account details had been provided.

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

178. To receive third quarterly comparison and bank reconciliation (issued to Parish Councillors with the agenda).

178.1 There were no queries or comments.

179. To resolve 2023-24 Precept and to delegate authority to the Clerk to submit form to SMBC.

179.1 Information in relation to setting the Precept and Council Tax was noted.

Resolved; proposed Cllr. Swain, seconded Cllrs. Gosling/Smith; the 2023-24 Precept is £52,000 and authority is delegated to the Clerk to submit this.

179.2 Cllr. Swain pointed out that this was a reduction to Band D properties of £3.19.

180. To consider planning applications (sent separately by email) and local development including Cheswick Place and Blythe Valley.

PL/2022/02692/MINFHO - 36 Saxon Wood Road Cheswick Green Solihull B90 4JN; Proposed erection of first floor side extension. Proposed rendering.

180.1 It was stated the neighbours at 38 Saxon Wood Road had not received notification about this application; neither had the residents who lived opposite to the property. It was pointed out there was also no notice on a lamppost.

Action item: Clerk to inform Planning Officer and ask them to consider an extension on the time to comment.

180.1.1 There were comments about pointing out that the properties were linked by garages and to possibly object to this, as the building would go right up to the boundary, therefore it would cross/encroach onto the neighbouring property and party wall.

Action item: Cllr. Swain to put appropriate wording to be submitted to SMBC.

180.2 Cllr. Swain said he had spoken to the neighbour of 254 Creynolds Lane, who had informed him that the rebuild to this property had specific conditions attached to it, regarding Severn Trent and water. However, what the applicant had done had affected neighbours' properties. The resident had spoken to the applicant about this.

180.2.1 There were comments about people living in a garage with a 12-13-year-old; It was noted the Parish Council had raised concerns about this with the appropriate officers of the council; there were worries about them having a CO2 alarm and about sanitation. It was noted they had been living in the garage for about 3 years now, since before Covid.

There were comments about the application to demolish the existing house and one wall being left, then the new development had not been carried out.

180.3 In relation to Cheswick Place; an email from SMBC regarding trees was noted; it was still being called Cheswick Plane by the planning officer. An email in relation to the bridge was referred to.

Action item: Clerk to respond to the email; the Parish Council has been informed by Solihull MBC that the bridge is as it should be, it meets the required specification in the planning permission. When it floods there is a secondary access between Cheswick Green and Cheswick Place.

180.4 In relation to BV; it was stated there were lots of complaints on Facebook about building delays and flooding.

181. To discuss progress with Cheswick Green School expansion.

181.1 It was stated over 80 complaints had been sent to SMBC; building was behind schedule; no work had taken place since Christmas; it was like a mud bath at the school.

181.2 There were comments about development at Dog Kennel Lane and people/families coming from Hong Kong.

182. To discuss the Recreation Committee.

182.1 It was stated there had not been a Recreation Committee (RC) meeting for a long time. This committee used to meet on Fridays, but two Councillors could not attend on Friday mornings. Cllr. Moloney queried why they had a RC; it was stated originally the RC met on a Wednesday morning and previously there had been more to deal with.

182.2 It was noted there had also been a Planning Committee.

182.3 It was suggested to tack any RC matters on to the Full Council meeting; there were concerns this would make the full council meeting very long.

182.4 In relation to having a separate RC and when it could meet, this would depend on when the Village Hall was available.

182.5 There were comments about setting up separate sub-committees to deal with certain tasks, however any recommendations would still need to come to full council for approval.

182.6 It was stated there had used to be a lot of items in relation to land the Parish Council owned and its maintenance. It was agreed things appeared to flow quite well now. It was agreed to leave this until the Annual Meeting of the Council.

183. To discuss what to do for the Coronation – May 2023.

183.1 Cllr. Moloney suggested they had a party on Sunday 7th May, as the coronation was on the Saturday and the Monday was a Bank Holiday. She said it could be similar to the Queen's Jubilee event. It could be a family fun day, hopefully they would have good weather.

183.1.1 Cllr. Moloney said they could change a few things; it was suggested to hold the event 12-6pm; it was agreed the inflatables had worked well and people thought it would be good to have Zorb balls.

183.1.2 Cllr. Moloney said she had completed the form for St. John's Ambulance and asked for some quotes for inflatables. She said they already had the gazebos and the fryers.

183.1.3 There were comments about using the Village Hall for soft drinks, skittles and a bar; it was felt that this may need to wait until the PC knew who the pub manager would be. However, it was stated the current manager could still provide a bar for the event. Cllr. Coles said they could have the open-mic people again 5-7pm.

183.1.4 There were comments about a pizza van that had been outside the pub; that this had been a bit hit and miss as people were asked to pre-order. It was suggested to provide burgers and chips and to possibly invite an ice-cream van.

184. To receive any reports from Chair, Councillors and/or the Clerk.

184.1 The Clerk had attended WALCS cost of living event. She said there had been speakers from six Councils. WALC had suggested this was on councils' agendas, as councils should be talking about it.

184.1.1 Cllr. Coles said the chairman of the VHMC had spoken to him, about the need for a warm hub in CG. It was queried how to inform those that needed this. It was suggested it would be a good idea to provide a cup or tea/coffee for people to get together. Cllr. Swain said the Village Hall was only available on a Sunday.

184.1.2 There was a discussion about possibly setting up an event, for a few hours on a Sunday. It was stated some people were lonely.

184.1.3 There were comments about Street Watch members knocking on doors to check on people; it was felt this was more appropriate in the summer rather than winter.

184.1.4 It was felt that something could be organised on a Sunday, to gauge interest, once a month. Cllr. Coles said they could provide bacon sandwiches and tea/coffee.

184.1.5 Cllr. Swain said that not one of the U3A groups had gotten its numbers back up to the levels they were before Covid. He said often despite good intentions, you did not get the people who needed to attend.

184.1.6 Cllr. Smith suggested printing some leaflets and handing these out to people, as well as displaying information on notice boards, to get people involved.

184.1.7 There were comments about advertising this via word of mouth; setting this up and testing the water.

184.1.8 Cllr. Moloney said in relation to groups like the Brownies, it had really helped that the VHMC had not put the cost of renting the hall up. Cllr. Swain said the VHMC had negotiated its energy costs until next September. This was not the case for other Village Halls, such as Earlswood whose price had increased 12-fold, this had resulted in adjusted costs for some users.

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

185.1 Cllr. Swain said some work was required on the ridges and hip tiles on the roof, moss needed to be removed. There were comments about work on peoples' gutters/facias, about cleaning moss and spraying roofs and the costs involved for this work.

Action item: Cllr. Smith to obtain name of possible company to approach.

185.2 Cllr. Swain said the VHMC was looking for a new booking clerk.

186. To receive a report/update from Cheswick RA.

186.1 Cllr. Coles said the RA wasn't really at RA anymore, this had been discussed at the last two meetings. He said the people involved that had supported the RA, had personal changes in their lives.

186.1.1 It was noted two members of the RA were Parish Councillors; the only other people that attended RA meetings were also Parish Councillors. It was felt what remained of the RA was not really working any more. It had been suggested RA members should become Parish Councillors and that the Parish Council may need to increase due to more housing.

186.1.2 Cllr. Coles said he would sit on the RA until May; He referred to possibly spending the RA money on the coronation event. It was noted there was £2500.

186.1.3 It was stated the RA organised a kids Christmas party and queried whether the PC would do this; There were comments about giving out free tickets for this and people not turning up. It was suggested to charge for tickets and to refund those that turned up.

186.1.4 In relation to a Halloween event, it was felt this could be a family event rather than a kids disco.

187. To discuss issues raised with SMBC.

187.1 The Clerk said she had attended a meeting regarding SMBCs piolet scheme, to look at the call centre/connect and how it dealt with matters. She explained about a glitch in the system. It had been suggested the Solihull Area meeting (SAm), could invite someone to talk about this.

188. To discuss CGPCs Action Plan.

188.1 Noted.

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

189.1 An email from SMBC in relation to the PC planting a tree for residents to hang memorials was noted. There were comments about when this should be planted and what type of tree. It was felt the PC needed to seek advice about this.

Action item: Cllr. Swain to carry out some measurements.

189.2 An email from IM regarding having a PC notice board was noted.

189.3 An email from Borough Cllr. Ken Hawkins in relation to Warwick and Stratford was noted; it was stated if the PC was to comment, what notice would be taken.

189.4 Correspondence from a resident in relation to a bus stop on Lady Lane, lighting and shelter was referred to. It was stated SMBC had spent millions on cycle lanes which only a handful of people used and SMBC wanted to encourage people to use public transport. However, as soon as someone asked about lighting and shelter, the answer had been no. It was stated people did queue at this bus stop, often stood there in the pitch dark.

189.4.1 It was stated this bus stop was the only one that did not have lighting or shelter. It was pointed out Parish Councils could buy bus shelters; however, this bus stop was not actually in Cheswick Green parish, it was in Dickens Heath parish. It was suggested to pass the request and information on the DHPC to see if it could/would do anything.

189.5 An email from Curson Estates about repairing potholes on the car park was noted. It was stated doing this was a waste of time; a full survey was needed and a proper replacement; it was stated some of the holes were more like craters.

189.5.1 It was noted Cllr. Coles had obtained a quote; which was from his brother's company. Cllr. Smith asked a few questions in relation to this. Cllr. Swain said the quote detailed the works that were required, including lifting the drains, it was not just about resurfacing. The total cost of the quote was in excess of £60,000.

Action item: Clerk to forward this quote to the managing agent for the shops and the brewery, informing them this was what was needed, and that the PC was happy for them to obtain their own quotes.

189.6 It was noted Cllr. Moloney had arranged to meet with a representative from the company Kompan, recommended by DHPC, to look at the Recreation Ground and what could be done. Cllr. Coles and Cllr. Smith had also been in attendance.

189.6.1 A quote, drawings and lead times to under the project, had been sent through – this was looked at by everyone present. There was a discussion about this and some suggestions to the layout were made.

Action item: Cllr. Moloney to go back to Kompan and ask for several alterations, once a new drawing and quote had been received, subject to permission from Kompan – to circulate this and seek residents' opinions/preferences of items of play equipment.

189.6.2 Cllr. Swain suggested a way forward with this to keep a timeline. It was queried whether it would be possible to obtain two other quotes on the same basis. It was felt this would not be possible, as companies had different types of equipment.

189.6.3 It was agreed a report could be written, containing details regarding why the PC should accept one quote. This is permissible under 11.1d of the PCs Financial Regulations; the report to include, but not be restricted to residence preference, DHPC experience, ESPO and quotes not possible on a like for like basis.

190. To discuss and resolve any actions in relation to the ongoing CGPC action list (issued to Parish Councillors with the agenda).

190.1 Cllr. Swain and Cllr. Moloney to attend the Solihull Area Meeting (SAM) on Thursday 26th January in Meriden.

191. Agenda items for next meeting.

191.1 To discuss having an Events Committee/Working Party.

192. 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.

192.1 Cllr. Swain said there was nothing further to discuss and closed the meeting.

193. To discuss and resolve any actions regarding any items of correspondence or matters considered confidential.

193.1 There was nothing to discuss.

194. PAYE, payroll and Pension Scheme.

194.1 Details in confidential section.

Meeting closed 9:10pm

Signed

Dated