



Mrs. Marie Zizzi
 Clerk to the Council
 Cheswick Green Village Hall
 Cheswick Way, Cheswick Green
 Solihull B90 4JA

Tel: 01564 700168
 clerk@cheswickgreen-pc.gov.uk
 www.cheswickgreen-pc.gov.uk

CHESWICK GREEN STATUTORY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Thursday 30th March 2023 7pm Cheswick Green Village Hall

Present:

20 local residents, including Borough Cllr. Ken Hawkins
 Cheswick Green Parish Councillors; Simon Coles, Margaret Gosling (*Vice
 Chairman*), Aimee Moloney and Mick Swain (*Chairman*).
 CGPC Clerk: Marie Zizzi

Note: - The Statutory Annual Parish Meeting is not a Parish Council meeting. It is a meeting of the electors of the Parish that must take place between 1st March and 1st June. Electors have the opportunity to learn of the activities that have been undertaken by the Parish Council during the past twelve months. The meeting is chaired by the Parish Council.

Electors can debate current issues and put forward resolutions for consideration by the Parish Council. Such resolutions will not bind the Parish Council.

The Parish Council is not obliged to pursue these resolutions, except in the case of the provision of Allotments. Following the resolution in 2010 the Parish Council despite trying, by contacting several landowners, has unfortunately, so far, been unable to find land that could provide allotments.

1. Welcome and introduction.

1.1 Cllr. Swain welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending.

2. To accept apologies for absence.

2.1 An apology was received from Parish Councillor Michelle Smith.

3. Minutes of the Statutory Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 20th April 2022.

Resolved; proposed Cllr. Gosling, seconded Cllr. Coles; the Minutes should be signed as a true and accurate record.

4. Report from 2022/23 Parish Council Chairmen, Cllr. Mick Swain

(written report attached).

4.1 Cllr. Swain said he would not read out his report, as he was aware residents had attended to discuss one matter in particular, his report would be available on the Parish Councils website.

5. Report from Cheswick Residents Association Chairman.

5.1 Cllr. Coles who was also the Chairman of the RA agreed, they should move on to matters the residents wished to discuss.

6. Reports from Borough Councillors.

6.1 Cllr. Hawkins said he was not going to give a report. He said the work the Parish Council had done this year had been excellent, in relation to the school and Blythe Valley. He said there were a few issues to look at, possibly after the 6th May elections had taken place, in relation to parking, highway issues and various roads.

6.2 It was noted members of the Parish Council had recently met with Mr. David Keaney (SMBCs Traffic Manager), to discuss various matters, which would be followed up on.

7. Issues of particular local importance.

7.1 A resident of Cheswick Place referred to parking concerns along Coppice Walk and Noble Way; he said there had been a sign with regulations, this had been removed. There were comments about a large pick-up truck parking on the corner.

7.2 Cllr. Swain said this was one of the three main roads the Parish Council had discussed with SMBC. He said it was possible the whole village would become 20 mph.

7.3 It was stated speed restrictions did nothing to help with parking issues, it was parking restrictions that were needed. A resident said they lived opposite the pub, they expected there to be parked cars, however this section was becoming quite dangerous now.

7.4 Cllr. Swain said they had put various issues forward as separate items; these had become entwined and been put together for SMBCs next plan. He added that the second intake of the school had not happened yet, things were going to get worse. He also pointed out that SMBCs Highways department had opposed the school expansion planning application.

7.5 Several residents spoke about various scenarios relating to inconsiderate/dangerous parking/driving.

7.6 It was pointed out that the school staff parking had not been done last September.

7.7 A resident referred to SMBC owning the field at the back of the school, suggesting this area should be used for school drop off and pick up, as this was common sense.

7.8 Cllr. Coles said this was not currently part of the proposal, this land would become part of the playground. There could be a proposal for something, but it is greenbelt land, this could open up issues in relation to development. He said he had lived opposite the school; the Parish Council had written to 1200 residents and only 80 had objected to the expansion of the school.

7.9 Cllr. Coles said they had to live with this, they needed to keep feeding information into SMBC/Ken Hawkins; he referred to there being no parking restrictions on Beechwood Road. He said they needed to come together as a community, to say what/where the problems were, to take photographs.

7.10 There were comments that if there was no Traffic Enforcement Officer in place, people would just continue to park wherever they wanted. A resident asked if there were any timescales in place, in relation to parking issues.

7.11 Cllr. Hawkins said the Parish Council had made a great head start by communicating with Mr. David Keaney, a report would be produced, this could result in a statutory consultation, which would take 6 weeks. He said Temporary Road Orders (TROs), were dealt with on a yearly basis. SMBC would deal with the top 20 on the list; issues regarding the school would be dealt with outside this process and funded separately. In relation to timescales, a report would go to the relevant Cabinet Member possibly in June for action in September/October.

7.12 It was stated Phase 1 of the extension of the school had ended, it was now going into Phase 2; the outcome would not be good.

7.13 Cllr. Coles said it had taken more than 5 years for the Parish Council, to get representatives from the brewery and the owners of the shops to meet, regarding the car park and potholes. The car park was part owned by all three groups; it needed a shared operation as there were major costs involved. The Parish Council was not willing to pay for all of it.

7.14 Cllr. Swain added the brewery would be filling in the potholes, on its part of the car park.

7.15 Cllr. Moloney said the three groups had agreed to have a further meeting, they were all obtaining quotes; the brewery needed to get this into its financial planning for next year; hopefully it would get the funding. Mr. Carver had agreed

to pay a part. She said the issue was not the pub it was with Stonegate as a business, it needed financial planning. It was stated the breweries Head Surveyor had attended the meeting; some progress had been made with this.

7.16 A resident referred to Coppice Walk from the car park to the river, they said there was always a lot more traffic now, they suggested some of the land between the road and the front of the houses could be used for a parking area. Cllr. Coles said this was private land, owned by the Housing Association.

7.17 There were more comments about parking. Cllr. Swain said the Parish Council was doing what it could and would continue to.

7.18 Cllr. Swain moved on to concerns about the Village Surgery.

7.19 A resident referred to receiving a text message about this, with less than one weeks' notice; saying there was more and more housing, the school was expanding but there was a degradation of GP services. They said they could not understand the rationale; there were to be longer opening hours and more clinicians, but Doctors were needed for cancer referrals etc. A clinician was ok for something like tonsillitis, but not for long term health issues.

7.20 It was stated it was okay if people could drive, to go to Tanworth Lane or Knowle. There were concerns for older residents.

7.21 It was stated new people were welcomed into the health service, but GPs were still needed. It was pointed out there had been no consultation. It was queried who had made this decision, why there had not been any consultation and what could residents do.

7.22 Cllr. Swain said before the Blythe Valley (BV) development had been approved, there had been talk about the Cheswick Green Surgery closing and there being a new Hub on BV, this did not happen. He said the Parish Council had carried out a questionnaire in 2018, when there were only 800 houses in the parish, they had received 365 replies, which was excellent; he said based on this questionnaire; 33% had lived in Cheswick Green 21-40 years and 27% 40+ years, this showed there was an elderly population. He said there were serious concerns about the Village Surgery. He asked Cllr. Hawkins whether there had been any discussion about this with the Chief of Public Health.

7.23 Cllr. Hawkins said he hoped there had been, but the Doctors was a private surgery for 10-15 years now. He said he had seen comments about this on Facebook. He referred to Section 106 funding, he said there was a formula for funding for schools/public health etc. He added what public health received was a pittance compared to what schools/education got.

7.24 Cllr. Gosling said her husband had been part of the Public Participation Group (PPG), this group had not been listened to by the hierarchy, there were no minutes from any meetings. It was thought the PPG had disbanded.

7.25 It was stated people could possibly get to Tanworth Lane on the bus, but then they could not get back.

7.26 Cllr. Hawkins said residents could wait and see, then review it, they could ask for some assurances from the providers. He said residents and the Parish Council could contact their MP.

7.27 Cllr. Coles said as a country the health care system was failing.

7.28 There were comments about going to the media.

7.29 Cllr. Coles said this was the first time they had a roomful of people for a long time. He reiterated only 80 people had bothered to object to the school expansion. He spoke about the need to follow the right process, to get people involved, there was a need to physically knock on doors, the Parish Council had printed and delivered letters to every household about the school.

7.30 There were comments about a petition and about elderly people, not being on social media.

7.31 A resident said they would sort out an electronic petition. Cllr. Moloney would draft a written petition, if people were willing to help deliver this. Some residents offered to do this.

7.1.31 It was suggested to ask the surgery why it was doing this, and reiterated people had only found out yesterday.

7.32 Cllr. Swain said they needed to gather some information and carry out some fact finding, He queried whether there had been any meetings with the CEO of SMBC and the Director of Public Health.

7.33 It was stated that if the surgery went, how long before the pharmacy went. A resident suggested when people were walking round, to talk to people and tell people, to make them aware. It was stated there were not going to be any Doctors in Cheswick Green from Monday.

7.34 Cllr. Moloney said her husband had developed a brain aneurysm, he could not drive, he had no Doctors appointments, he had been told to just walk down, to see a Doctor, but this did not work.

7.35 There were other comments about Doctors appointments; it was stated by one resident that on one occasion there had been no Manager on site, the Manager was at Tanworth Lane in a meeting, they said they had then been given an appointment in about 10 minutes, they said people needed to stand their ground.

7.36 A resident said the surgery had a responsibility, a government contract to give appointments, residents had signed up to the surgery for a Doctor, they were breaking the contract, they queried if what the surgery was doing was legal.

7.37 There were comments about not being able to park at the Tanworth Lane surgery.

Action item: Clerk to contact Mr. Paul Johnson (Acting CEO SMBC) and the Director of Public Health at SMBC; to enquire whether any meetings had taken place, whether this had been discussed and if so, to see any minutes or outcomes.

7.38 It was also suggested to contact MP Saqib Bhatti and the Solihull Observer.

7.39 Cllr. Coles said it was a privatised company; he referred to costs, he said this was step one, they could remove other staff in step two and get rid of the receptionist. There were comments about Doctor Leese clearing the mortgage on the building and about the possibility of it being re-mortgaged.

7.40 There were comments about a complaints system in relation to GPs based in Redditch. It was suggested GPS Health Care was asked to send someone to come and speak to residents, to let residents raise their concerns. It was queried whether the decision could be delayed. It was pointed out people had received the text message at 5pm on Wednesday 29th March 2023; it was stated not everyone had access to text messages.

7.41 It was stated this was a great concern and the message needed to be spread around.

7.42 It was reiterated that the pharmacy was a private business, there would be a knock-on effect.

7.43 In relation to Cheswick Green becoming 20-mph, it was thought this could happen in September.

7.44 It was stated residents of Cheswick Place had installed 20-mph signs; there were various comments about this.

7.45 A resident suggested having signs at the entrances to the village stating, 'please save our surgery'.

7.46 A resident queried whether the school was pushing for yellow lines/parking restrictions.

7.47 Cllr. Coles said there were three areas that needed lines, more people needed to write and support this. It was stated restricting parking just pushed the problem further away from the school.

7.48 There were comments about a number of blocks for garages, that were no longer used. It was stated people had tried to engage with the senior team at the school, but they did not want to know.

7.49 Cllr. Coles said he had lived opposite the school for 4 years; when he had approached people about blocking his drive, he had been called a racist, sexist and even been threatened to be thumped. It was queried whether he took registration numbers.

7.50 Cllr. Coles said he had taken photographs, which had probably resulted in more Enforcement; he referred to changes in society, saying that 40 years ago most people walked to school.

7.51 A resident said it was safer to walk 40 years ago. It was also pointed out that most people had 2 or more cars now.

7.52 It was reiterated that the situation would get worse; it was queried how far people drove; it was stated the pupils were not all from Cheswick Green and there were comments about people pulling over and children running out of cars.

7.53 There were further comments about lives changing, birth rates dropping, having to pay for things like breakfast clubs; people stopping on zig zags, opening car doors and letting children get out.

7.54 Cllr. Coles said it was refreshing to see so many people here tonight, there was usually 6-9 people only present.

7.55 Cllr. Coles spoke about the RA finishing now, due to there being no volunteers, he referred to asking for help and no-one coming forward, he said if they wanted changes, they needed to work together, people needed to get involved. He said some people that were involved, worked full time.

7.56 There were more comments about staff parking, scheduled for the last summer holiday, being done this summer holiday, as this could not be done while the children were at school. The build would be finished and then they would do the car park, this had resulted in an additional three days holiday. It was stated there would be 30 parking spaces for 45 staff; some of this was tandem parking.

7.57 There were further comments about having a turning circle, drop off point; it was stated there was a lot of traffic, this could be very dangerous; it was stated that a member of staff would be needed; it was stated that children could not go into school by themselves, until they were in Year 5.

7.58 It was pointed out drop off and pick up only happened for 40 minutes per school day.

7.59 There were comments about sacrificing greenbelt land; that it was better to guide the conversation; what was going to happen going forward, as Dog Kennel Lane already had a housing proposal in the Local Plan; Cllr. Hawkins said the Local Plan was paused due to Government guidelines.

7.60 It was stated once the Plan was adopted Cheswick Green should be okay until 2035; Cllr. Hawkins referred to 15000 homes needed by 2036; he said it had been suggested it could be half that now. SMBC may not be 1700 houses short; it depended on the Government National Planning Framework, which was to be decided.

7.61 Cllr. Hawkins referred to a Stratford and Warwick consultation, having some issues for Cheswick Green.

7.62 A resident said the parking outside St. Patricks was abominable; it was stated parking restrictions were due outside this school, it would be a 20-mph zone during school times.

8. Any other matters raised by an elector of the parish.

8.1 There were no further comments.

Meeting closed at 8:20pm

SignedPosition Date

CHAIRREP-MAR23

Chairman's Report March 2023

This report covers the period from April 2022 to March 2023.

I would like to thank my fellow Councillors and our clerk, Marie, for all their hard work during this time.

Increase in housing and the Precept

During the financial year 2016/17, the Parish comprised of 933 dwellings. In November 2022 the number of dwellings had increased to 1629, an increase of 73.5%.

During the financial year 2017/18, the precept which you pay each year was increased to £73.65, to help pay for extensive works to the Village Hall roof. Primarily since then the precept has been reduced annually through good housekeeping and aided by an increase in the number of dwellings constructed. The Parish Council precept in 2023/24 will be £31.92 for a band D property.

The secondary reason is that we have rewritten our grounds maintenance contract and sought a more economic cost, for what is our normally single largest item of expenditure every year.

Grounds Maintenance

The grounds maintenance contract was awarded to Countrywide Grounds Maintenance (CMG) from April 2022 for a period of 3 years. We are satisfied with the works that have been undertaken during the past 12 months, indeed residents have commented on this.

We thank Mr C Gaunt the manager of CMG for the contractual work that has been undertaken to date.

New housing development

As you know Solihull Council approved the construction of new housing on green belt land on Dog Kennel Lane, subject to a Government Inspectors planning enquiry. The inspectors have yet to determine their findings, but we have no doubt that this development will be built subject to planning permission.

Village Traffic

We purchased a mobile speed camera via Solihull Council in 2020, which is relocated every 4 weeks. The camera is currently rotated within the Parish on Cheswick Way, Creynolds Lane, Coppice Walk, Watery Lane and more recently in Illshaw Heath.

We hold a mass of traffic data and would highlight the following:-

1. Creynolds Lane – Since the speed limit was reduced from 40-30 mph on sections of this road, many motorists exceed the speed limit and we have many recordings of excessive speed. Some motorists slow when noting the red face on the camera and others obey the speed limit.
2. Cheswick Way – Speed violations have reduced from 12.3% to 8.35%.
3. Coppice Walk – We will not continue to measure speed on the walk because with the volume of traffic parked it is difficult to speed. Too many inconsiderate motorists are parking their vehicles from the Saxon to Noble Way. And motorists at the junction of Noble Way and Coppice Walk are also causing traffic flow problems.
4. Watery Lane – We stopped taking speed readings when Solihull Council changed the speed limit and added a “slow down” sign. We

will review this decision due to an increase in the number of accidents recently at the crossroads junction. The last readings taken in February/March 2021 showed speed violation variances of 8.33-10.62%.

Cheswick Green Primary School

The contract to extend the school from a one to a two-form entry has commenced. One part of the works involved extending the car park during the summer holiday period, to help ease traffic congestion. As we know, in particular those residents living nearby, this did not happen which unsurprisingly resulted in problems with motorists inconsiderate parking. We have been regularly sending emails with photographs to Solihull Council, depicting motorists contravening parking restrictions and are now familiar with their enforcement process, as well as the steps taken prior to issuing penalty charge notices. In particular, the issue where motorists have been parking in the bus stop space, this has been resolved and is now being used by the school bus service. The increasing presence of enforcement seems to be having a positive effect. The persistent offenders have been fined, now park elsewhere and walk to the school gates.

We thank officers of Solihull Council who have been very proactive on our behalf. Unfortunately, this is only the beginning of what will become a much larger problem as the school intake increases. We will continue to monitor the situation and follow up with the Council when necessary.

Community events in conjunction with the Residents Association

We held an event in June to mark the Queens Platinum Jubilee which Councillor Meeson, The Major of Solihull kindly agreed to open on our behalf. On Friday evening we had a bingo evening, which commenced at 5pm, at 3 minutes past 5 every seat in the Village Hall had been taken. Many residents had to wait until some people left before they could play.

On Saturday our look alike queen oversaw proceedings which included inflatables, football and various rides. Thanks to ladies from the U3A who baked cakes which all sold. The BBQ continued until 7pm and it was agreed a good family time was had by those who attended.

The event raised over £3,000 which was donated to local youth organisations who use the Village Hall.

In July, baton bearers passed through the village at 4.30, en route to Birmingham's Alexandra stadium, where the Commonwealth Games were being held. The Parish Council had been in consultation with Solihull Council for months regarding our plans and the timing of this occasion. In the early stages of planning, we were required to sign confidentiality agreements which made discussion with others somewhat difficult.

We held a picnic on the Village Green and hundreds of residents were present as the cavalcade passed through as planned.

We held a Memorial Service on Remembrance Sunday at the Boer War Memorial, which was well attended by residents and a procession by the Brownies, Scouts and Boys Brigade took place. Wreaths were laid, solemn words spoken and refreshments followed in the Village Hall.

The highlight of the day was the magnificent poppy waterfall draped over the memorial which was crocheted by a resident (the Crochet Fairy), who wishes to remain anonymous.

The event held at Christmas was a success but did not have the impact of 2021 event. We believe that this was due to the end of the Covid restrictions

Cheswick Green Statutory Annual Parish Assembly Thursday 30th March 2023

and many more people needed to get out and celebrate. The Village Hall hosted a craft fayre including a raffle and outside a play bus proved popular. Food and drink flowed. A visit from Santa on his sleigh completed the day's events.

My thanks to all those who helped in all these endeavours.

Sadly, I will end my report on a negative note. We and I mean all of us in some way, have suffered antisocial behaviour at some point during the past year.

The most regular occurrence is some dog owners not using poo bags or if they do using the bags as some form of ornament. This has a huge impact on residents' well-being.

The more serious offences were:-

1. The use of electric scooters to rip benches from their fixings.
2. Drug use.
3. Destruction of wooden planters.
4. Vandalism of the gazebo/shack.
5. General vandalism.

My thanks to the Street Watch team for helping to curb occurrences of this nature.

If you see anything untoward then please inform the Parish Council.