



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

### **RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2017 10:30am Cheswick Green Village Hall**

#### **Present:**

Cheswick Green Parish Councillors: Brian Brown, Ian Bruce, Len Cresswell, Penny Phillips (RC Chair) and Mick Swain.

#### **In attendance**

Mr. Matthew Gardner, SMBC Neighbourhood Co-ordinator, Blythe

Clerk: Marie Zizzi

0 members of the Public

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

117.1 Not applicable all members present.

#### **118. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations.**

118.1 None.

#### **119. Public Participation.**

119.1 Not applicable no members of the public present.

#### **120. To discuss any issues that relate to Solihull MBC. Mr. Matthew Gardner invited to participate.**

120.1 Mr. Gardner was thanked for the donation of the Daffodil bulbs, which had now been planted by Cllrs. Brown and Swain.

120.2 There were comments about the concrete planter by the bus stop being full of a thick ivy type shrub. Mr. Gardner was asked if SMBC could arrange to tidy this up. It was stated if this was cleared a local resident would look after and maintain this planter. It was stated that there was a small conifer inside and that this should be left. It was suggested that some of the plant growing should be left, so that it looked decorative around the concrete planter.

#### **Action item: Mr. Gardner to look at this planter and if possible to try and arrange for it to be tidied up and some top soil to be added. To review this again next Winter.**

120.3 It was noted that there were two concrete planters by the school, which pupils/teachers had maintained in the past. It was stated that they looked a mess now. Mr. Gardner explained that as part of the school education programme, they had been tied up in the past. It was suggested that either the Parish Council or SMBC could approach the school and possibly offer to assist with a tidy up of these planters.

120.3.1 Mr. Gardner referred to his colleague, Sarah Jones, he said via the Clerk he would get her to contact Cllr. Phillips about this. He said 3-4 years ago, there had been a big tidy up, there was a need for momentum and for things to be continued. It was suggested that the Parish Council or SMBC could provide plants and/or bulbs.

120.3.2 It was suggested that this could be put forward as a project for the Rural Ward Action Plan.

120.4 It was also requested that the cleaning of all road signs in the whole parish should be put forward for the Rural Ward Action Plan.

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120.5 There were comments about the footpath from Saxon Wood Road to Cheswick Place, where hedges had been chopped and the debris had been left on the ground, at the back of the houses by the rights of way area, alongside 50 Saxon Wood Road

**Action item: Mr. Gardner to look into this and ask the Rights of Way Officer for feedback about whether any work had been carried out.**

120.6 It was stated that a hedge had overgrown and was covering the road name plate sign by 28 Saxon Wood Road.

120.7 Mr. Gardner informed members that there was an order for more signs to be cleaned and that this would hopefully be done over the next month.

120.8 Cllr. Bruce referred to a new lampstand that had been put in place, he said the old one was still there, it had not been removed, in Illshaw Heath. It was explained that there were different teams that installed to the teams that removed these.

120.9 It was stated that Western Power had put the bin on the Village Green in the wrong place and only one Jubilee clip had been used. It was pointed out that the bin had not been emptied for 3 weeks and there had been dog mess on top of the bin and falling below it. Then the bin had been removed, possibly by a resident.

120.9.1 Mr. Gardner said he had spoken with the Street Care team about this and that this had happened before.

120.9.2 It was suggested that this could be one of the reasons, for the issues that had now been raised regarding the litter pick outside the shops.

120.9.3 It was requested that Mr. Gardner arranged for the bin to be replaced on the Village Green, at the right height and with appropriate connections.

120.10 The issue of the recent tyre tracks across the Village Green was raised. Mr. Gardner said there were no records. It was suggested this could have something to do with Western Power, when work was carried out, the bin had been removed and that put back incorrectly, as there were no records, it was possible it was a Western Power van.

120.11 Mr. Gardner said he would check the rounds for the emptying of the bins, he thought it was twice a week. It was stated that twice a week was enough, if they were done twice a week and Mr. Gardner was asked to provide information about which days they were to be emptied. It was agreed that this should be reviewed again in 3 months and stated that this work was contacted out to Amey. Mr. Gardner said he was not sure what the specification stated, it could just state to empty them consistently or in line with other work.

120.12 Mr. Gardner was informed that the missing piece of ranch fencing from outside the Village Surgery, was in the bushes by the Jubilee Garden. In relation to the shrubs by the bus stop at the side of the Village Surgery Mr. Gardner said these were due to be cut back in February.

120.13 Cllr. Cresswell said that Watery Lane was looking bad again with overgrowth, at the Coppice Walk end.

120.14 Mr. Gardner was informed about 40mph signs that were missing on Cheswick Way where entering/leaving the village, as well as one missing on Watery Lane.

**121. To resolve to accept the Minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2016.**

**Resolved;** proposed Cllr. Brown, seconded Cllr. Swain; that these were accepted as a true and accurate record.

**122. To discuss litter picking etc. outside the shops.**

122.1 It was noted that information had been circulated about some of the shops considering withdrawing from the scheme, where they contributed a monthly amount towards a weekly litter pick. Apparently, some of them were happy to do their own litter pick.

122.2 Cllr. Brown suggested a meeting was held with members from all the shops and the Parish Council. There were comments about no litter pick being done in front of the Bangla restaurant or Palmer News and about Arden kitchens and the hair and beauty shop possibly arranging something themselves, for outside their front doors. It was

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pointed out that litter picking would not be carried out up to the footpath. It was stated that outside Arden kitchens and the hair and beauty shop it was quite clean.

122.3 There were comments about some criticism regarding waiters from the restaurant leaving cigarette ends on the floor.

**Action item: As a result of some people in the scheme now wishing to withdraw, it was agreed that the Recreation Committee should recommend at the Full Council meeting, that from 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 this scheme ceased.**

**123.To discuss Grounds Maintenance Specification quotes April 2017-2019.**

123.1 It was noted that four quotes had been received, but only two of these had submitted a separate quote for the litter pick outside the shops and an hourly rate.

123.2 It was stated that the existing grounds maintenance contractor did a good job and any additional work requested was carried out quickly. This contractor had been doing the work since 2009/10, there had been no issues and everyone had been happy.

123.3 Due to the decision that had now been made in relation to the scheme for outside the shops, it was agreed that the contractors should be informed about this, that the second part of the specification may no longer proceed and may be cancelled, to therefore invite them, to reissue their figures in view of this and to confirm their prices/quotes by Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2017, for them to confirm their prices and/or resubmit their quotation.

**124. To report any issues from site risk assessments since the last meeting and to provide Clerk with reports for filing. To decide who will risk assess the Recreation Ground.**

124.1 Members provided the Clerk with forms which were filed.

124.2 It was noted that unfortunately Mr. Wareham had resigned and agreed that Cllr. Swain would risk assess the Recreation Ground, on a temporary basis, until more members could be co-opted.

**125. To discuss Recreation Committees terms of reference.**

125.1 Deferred.

**126. Review of actions list (*issued to committee members with the agenda*).**

126.1 Cllr. Cresswell referred to the Mount, he said logs needed to be put back, that were used as barriers and this was an additional job.

126.2 Cllr. Cresswell said the Jubilee Garden sign was now in the process of being moved.

126.3 It was suggested to possibly look at the Recreation Committee plan again in April/May.

126.4 In relation to the River Blythe, it was noted that the Clerk had recently sent an email to the EA regarding possible pollution.

126.5 It was suggested that the Christmas tree lights were looked at in June/July. Cllr Swain queried why they were taken down each year. It was thought that this was to avoid them deteriorating or to prevent, for example, squirrels eating through the cables.

126.6 In relation to the Great War Memorial garden, it was noted that the roses had been pruned and to wait and see if there were still 16 when they bloomed.

126.7 There were comments about the strip of land by the Saxon pub and being told to prune the shrubs there fairly low.

126.8 There were comments about asking the Parish Councils Grounds Maintenance contractor to prune the roses in front of the Bangla restaurant and to sort out the bark dressing alongside the Saxon, to ask him to provide a price for this.

126.9 The children's guide to the Mount, it was noted that this was being progressed.

126.10 Cllr. Phillips spoke about some loose planters that had been moved on to the car park from outside the Bangla restaurant, ones with logs around them.

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

127.1 It was noted that Mr. Wareham had sent an email to inform the Clerk he had decided to resign from the Recreation Committee. Members felt this was a pity. It was agreed that letters of thanks should be sent to Mr. Wareham and Mrs. Carr – with an explanation about why there had been a delay in doing this.

**128. Report/update on Grounds maintenance, litter picking and bin emptying.**

128.1 There was nothing to report.

**129. To discuss co-opting members.**

129.1 It was agreed that a notice should be produced to inform residents that the Recreation Committee was looking for two people to join as co-opted members.

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

130.1 Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at 10:30am.

130.2 To invite a rep. from Grounds Work to speak about possible grants.

**Meeting closed 11:15am**