



Cheswick Green Parish Council

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CHESWICK GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Thursday 8th June 2023 7pm Cheswick Green Village Hall

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

Clerk: Marie Zizzi

3 members of the public

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

41.1 There were none all Councillors present

Note: Borough Councillor Ken Hawkins had sent his apologies.

42. To resolve to co-opt Linda Heslington on to the Parish Council.

Resolved; proposed Cllr. Swain, seconded Cllr. Gosling.

42.1 Cllr. Heslington completed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, the Code of Conduct; pecuniary interest form and two dispensation forms.

43. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations.

43.1 There were none.

44. Public Participation (15 Minutes).

44.1 There were comments about posts on the Only way is Cheswick, Facebook page - about parking and showing car registration numbers. It was stated items were being posted anonymously, it was pointed out it was not possible to turn this off.

45. To resolve to accept the Minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 18th May 2023 (circulated to Parish Cllrs. with the agenda).

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

46. 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
Countrywide GM	Grounds maintenance May 2023	£786.89
M. Zizzi	Reimbursement for Instant ink 25/04-25/5	£16.49
Ian Russell	Reimbursement for plants	£16.00
Vision ICT	Hosted email	£72.00

More in confidential section.

Petty cash £56.16

Resolved; proposed Cllr. Swain, seconded Cllr. Moloney; that all payments were approved.

47. To discuss the Monday exercise class.

47.1 Despite the price increase, the class was still not self-funding. It was stated the average attendance was 4-5 people. It was agreed that unless attendance improved, the class would have to stop, it could continue until the end of July 2023.

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

PL/2023/01116/ADV - Gymshark Unit 2 Connexion Central Boulevard; The installation of 3 No. flags on wall mounted 45-degree angled poles.

48.1 There were no comments to be submitted.

PL/2023/01101/TPO - 40 Longleat Drive Cheswick Green Solihull B90 4SN; Reduce one side by approximately 2metres and reshape Oak trees as marked Tree 1, Tree 2 and Tree 3 on sketch plan 1.

48.1.1 There were no comments to be submitted.

PL/2023/00835/COU - 40 Creynolds Lane Cheswick Green Solihull B90 4ER; Change of use from existing outdoor log cabin to part-time dog grooming for four dogs a day, four days a week, weekdays only between hours of 09:30 and 16:00hrs. One dog at a time, no crating. On drive parking for drop offs, six spaces on driveway in total. All other times log cabin is to be used for personal use.

48.1.2 There were no comments to be submitted.

48.1.3 It was noted the Parish Council had objected to a planning application made for 353 Tanworth Lane. Solihull MBC had refused permission for this application, however the applicant had approached the Secretary of State, to appeal this decision. It was noted all representations in relation to this had to be submitted by 6th July 2023.

48.1.4 It was noted SMBCs Local Plan had been delayed again.

48.2 In relation to Cheswick Place; It was stated it looked distinctly unloved; overgrown vegetation and dampness were referred to; the paths were as bad as ever.

Action item: Clerk to ask Countrywide Grounds Maintenance to trim around the bench by the end swale, to do this on a monthly basis.

48.2.1 There had been an email from a resident of Cheswick Place, in relation to a 'strange' noise, happening for the last week at regular intervals, querying if the Parish Council knew what it was, was raised. A recording of the sound had also been sent; this was listened to. It was suggested it could be a vacuum or a leaf blower. It was stated in the fields behind Cheswick Place, there was a farm that had a device, which made a sound to scare birds away, that went off every hour was used. It was concluded this was the noise being heard.

48.3 In relation to Blythe Valley (BV); It was stated there had been some talk about security patrols and whether this was included in the payment residents made, for the 'upkeep' of the BV. Cllr. Coles said the Parish Council notice board had been tampered with, some letters were missing. There were comments about there being good work at BV, in relation to the environment and clearing up. It was noted BV already had bins. An interlocking fence with soil in it for plants to grow was spoken about.

48.3.1 There were comments about Taylor Wimpey wanting to replicate what was happening at BV.

49. To discuss progress with Cheswick Green School extension.

49.1 Cllr. Coles said it was progressing at a rapid rate.

49.2 Cllr. Heslington said the two classes that were increasing in numbers, classrooms would not be ready in time for September, they would be put somewhere else in the school.

49.3 There were comments about the parking for teachers. It was stated an update had been sent out to parents; Cllr. Coles read from this (*attached to minutes*); it included comments such as; *the extension is still only a shell but it is amazing; the unusual nature of this project has brought with it additional challenges. The fact the project fell behind schedule almost immediately has meant that every minute of the six-week holiday period is now needed by Mantons (the contractors) to ensure the project finishes on time; Work on the new EYFS unit started at half term and this will continue through to December 2023.*

49.4 Cllr. Heslington said if you went to pick up before 3:30, you had to go to Reception and a different gate, it changed every week. It was noted there was a play area for the children now, people could not see what was happening, as work was taking place at the back where the field is.

49.5 Cllr. Swain said the Council put the scheme together, but it used contractors (Manton's) to do the works. It was stated a former school governor felt let down.

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

50.1 Cllr. Swain referred to an email he had sent to SMBC, about resurfacing on Tanworth Lane and burst mains, as well as about the crossroads here and in Illshaw Heath having a blocked drain. He said he had received a reply; that SMBC would request that the gully on Illshaw Heath Road is emptied by its tankers team. That SMBC is also looking at revising the drainage at the crossroads, the engineer designing the work, would be spoken to, to see if

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anything can be done to improve the drain, as part of the wider scheme. In relation to Tanworth Lane, an Officer had checked and agreed, there was still a concern about water under the carriageway. The Officer would speak with the surfacing team, about what can be done to either find the source or at least intercept the water, before it damages the structure of the highway in future.

50.2 There were comments about some potholes being repaired and others not being done at all. Cllr. Smith queried whether anything had been done on Vicarage Road. It was stated the end of Vicarage had been done, by the field all the way along.

50.3 Cllr. Swain referred to there being no improvement, in the state of the parking on Coppice Walk; he said this was part of the package involving the school, roads and the surrounding area. He said they needed to make sure SMBC was aware, of how they Parish Council and the public felt. Cllr. Smith said they needed to take photographs; the whole road was full of cars. There were comments about this being very dangerous, especially when children were playing there.

50.4 Cllr. Gosling referred to the speed sign on Coppice Walk and Creynolds Lane, not recording anything. It was state one belonged to SMBC and one belonged to the Parish Council. Cllr. Smith said the officer from SMBC did not know who the other speed sign belonged to.

50.5 There were comments about the reply from SMBC, in relation to information the Parish Council had sent about the burning of manure. It was stated the person concerned was well known to SMBC, there was probably a file on this person, as complaints had been made in previous years.

Action item: Clerk to draft reply to SMBC, which should include that the Parish Council was perturbed with SMBCs response, and that emails have also been sent to the EA and Saqib Bhatti MP. Cllr. Swain to check this before it is sent.

50.6 Cllr. Moloney said work in the Recreation Ground was progressing, it was due to finish on Friday 23rd June, she added the equipment was due to arrive tomorrow, everything was good so far. She spoke about the workers having a port-a-loo, as they felt embarrassed to use the pub.

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

51.1 Cllr. Swain said the accounts had been audited, there were no problems. There was a finance report to send to the Parish Council, they were waiting for a report from the Chairman. He added that the auditor had suggested, in relation to party booking payments, to take these by bank transfer only. He spoke about one particular booking, when the payment had been by a Building Society cheque, he said the users had left the hall in a state, the VHMC had kept their deposit and the user had threatened to take the committee to court.

51.2 Cllr. Swain asked Cllr. Coles and Cllr. Moloney about the Boys Brigade and Brownies, in relation to subscriptions etc.

51.2.1 Cllr. Moloney said they were struggling a bit; it was £38 per 12-week term, they had to chase payments, she said as it was a charity, they had to spend what they received. She added that money had come in better before, it had got worse over the last 12 months and that they used to do more trips. She said they had to make a payment to Girl Guiding from what they took, this had gone up a third.

51.2.2 Cllr. Moloney said one person had paid subs due in January last week, they had been apologetic about this and said other things had taken priority. She added that if there were for example sisters, the cost would be £70 and not £35; for camping £100 not £50; this cost was in the midst of everything else that was going on, for families.

51.2.3 Cllr. Swain said the VHMC finances were very good at present, they were meeting next week, it was possible the VHMC would give a discount for these groups to use the Village Hall.

51.2.4 Cllr. Coles said it was £25 per term for Boys Brigade, it had been £20 until 12 months ago. It used to be paid in cash the first week of the term, it was paid by BACS now, they had to chase payments. He referred to doing a camp at the weekend and this being subsidised. He said a reduction for use of the hall would help them to plan going forward.

51.2.5 Cllr. Moloney said it certainly would help, it would enable them to offer more enrichment activities.

51.2.6 It was pointed out there were other costs, for example, if the groups were going camping, the children needed things like waterproofs etc.

52. To discuss the Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC).

52.1 A couple of queries were raised in relation to the VHMC Constitution, as well as the number of people on the VHMC.

52.2 Cllr. Swain said he would raise these matters at the meeting next week.

53. To discuss what to do in relation to Christmas, in particular tree lights and quote/cost, required signed documentation from SMBC.

53.1 Cllr. Coles asked if the VHMC would be happy for the Parish Council to decorate the Village Hall externally and to use the external plug. He said less on the tree and more around the roof.

53.2 Cllr. Smith said they may not be able to get decorations in time for Christmas; Cllr. Coles referred to purchasing from Amazon. Cllr. Smith was concerned about this.

53.3 It was stated lots of people used the Village Hall, to make this the focal point this Christmas.

53.4 There were comments about the cost for SMBC to do the lights on the tree; it was stated it was too expensive, the cost was extortionate.

Action item: Clerk to contact SMBC, to enquire about the measurement of the Christmas lights and whether they are on one continuous loom/line.

53.5 It was stated the Parish Council was responsible for the external building, the only issue with using the Village Hall would be the electrical supply.

53.6 It was noted the Parish Council had previously discussed having a Christmas tree for resident to hang tributes, a memory tree, there were concerns about how to police this and it was stated, it was dark by 4pm. It was agreed not to go ahead with this.

54. To discuss former RA Halloween/Christmas party.

54.1 Cllr. Smith said they needed to set some guidelines for future events, in relation to payment for pitches, and payments from the pub/caterers, who should also pay for a pitch.

54.2 Cllr. Moloney said a percentage had been taken from the people selling food.

54.3 Cllr. Coles said the pub had given a donation. Cllr. Moloney pointed out the pub paid for the TENS etc. this cost about £1000.

54.4 Cllr. Coles said the first year they had held the Christmas event, was just after Covid, it had been very successful, everyone wanted to go out after lockdown. The following year had been nowhere near as busy. It was the same for the Play Bus, the first year this had been well used, the next year not so much. It was the same with Bingo.

54.5 Cllr. Smith reiterated some guidelines were needed for future events. She said she knew the RA had paid for the majority of the Coronation event. It was queried by Cllr. Coles what she meant, she said in relation to buying catering stock.

54.6 Cllr. Moloney said all the money was paid into the Parish Councils Co-operative bank account, from the card machines and the cash, they had used the Parish Councils card machines. Cllr. Smith said she had no idea about this and preceded to ask Cllr. Swain and Cllr. Gosling if they knew about this, they both answered that they did not.

54.7 It was stated the RA had spend £1900 and about £1900 had been taken. It was pointed out, at the Jubilee event, the only person who had not paid, was the ice cream van, but they had been encouraged and had made a donation. The pub didn't pay, as it was operated independently and it had paid for the TENS.

54.8 It was stated, the issue now was what to do in the future, if anything.

54.9 Cllr. Swain said did they want to hold big events, if they were not going to get people who were willing to help. There was a lot of work involved.

54.10 Cllr. Moloney said this was a village and there needed to be a community spirit.

54.11 In relation to Halloween, it was stated there was a trail around the village, people did their own thing and the school held events. It was pointed out, that if people were happy to join in 'trick or treat', they put a pumpkin outside their home. If there was no pumpkin, the resident should not be bothered. It was agreed not to hold an event for Halloween, but to perhaps support the trail.

54.12 In relation to Remembrance Sunday, it was agreed the Parish Council should do something for this; there was a need to work on the timings. Cllr. Smith suggested looking into having an amplifier which worked with batteries, so people could hear.

54.13 It was noted the Village Hall was booked for Sunday 3rd December 2023. It was suggested there could be a children's party, followed by the lights switch on, people could come and have a drink, possibly mulled wine and a mince pie.

54.13.1 It was pointed out the event used to include carol singing. It was queried whether to hold another craft fayre.

54.13.2 It was stated the RA event had been subsidised, each child was given a selection box. There were comments about whether to charge or not, whether to have tickets, whether to charge on the day, to possibly charge for a drink and a snack. It was pointed out if there was a nominal charge, people may not turn up – this had happened in the past. There were comments about the event being advertised via Facebook, which used to be popular, but it wasn't any more.

54.13.3 Cllr. Swain said people were already paying the precept.

54.13.4 It was felt there was no need for a marquee, to use the Village Hall and the pub. It was queried whether something could be sent out via the school (parent pay) system, on a first come, first served basis. Or to look at having 100 numbered tickets available.

54.13.5 It was agreed not to have a separate Christmas party, but to possibly have a craft fayre separately later, as 20 stalls had been taken very quickly.

54.13.6 There were comments about the amount of money taken for raffle tickets one year compared to the next.

Action item: It was agreed to discuss the detail at a future meeting.

54.14 It was agreed not to have a large event in summer 2024, to possibly look at doing something in 2025. It was stated if people asked why there was no event, to point out not enough volunteers came forward to help, it was left for about 8 people to do everything that needed to be done.

55. To discuss a donation to a homeless charity.

55.1 Cllr. Coles said the Open Mic people had been at the Christmas and Coronation events, for free. He said the Parish Council had given them a donation after Christmas, to a homeless charity they supported.

Resolved; proposed Cllr. Coles, seconded Cllr. Swain; the Parish Council will donate £400 to the same homeless charity, from the money taken at the Coronation event.

56. To discuss issues raised with SMBC.

56.1 Burning manure had already been discussed.

56.2 An email from Borough Cllr. Ken Hawkins was noted; Cllr. Coles said enforcement was not working. The single yellow line restriction is only enforced when a parking warden is present or if someone in a high vis jacket is present. Otherwise, the single yellow line restriction along Cheswick Way is ignored in most cases. It either needs double yellow lines or an automatic fine camera put into place.

56.2.1 He went on to say the School Bus stop on Cheswick Way, is still being parked in and has meant the bus over hangs the crossing and School entrance on many occasions. There is no deterrent unless a warden is present.

56.2.2 Foxland Close, the parking down there is becoming dangerous. He suggested an extension of the single yellow line restrictions is required for the length of this road.

56.2.3 Saxon Wood Road, the area in front of PC land is now a permanent parking spot. This again presents a danger, the double yellows need extending all the way across this area.

56.2.4 Creynolds Lane, Cllr. Coles believes a double yellow is now needed from Cheswick Way to the Stratford Road, to prevent dangerous parking on this road and to aid the flow of traffic.

56.3 In relation to Cllr. Hawkins comments about the Boundary changes. It was stated the Parish Council could not comment on this, until it had been informed about this.

57. To discuss CGPCs Action Plan.

57.1 It was felt a number of items had already been covered.

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

58.1 An invitation to SMBCs Civic Service on Sunday 25th June was discussed; Cllr. Swain was going to be away, Cllr. Gosling could not attend; other Councillors were going to be away. Cllr. Coles said he would see if he could attend.

58.2 Information from Curry's about the laptop/printer were noted and needed to be looked at in more detail.

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

59.1 In relation to Broadband, the Parish Council was waiting to hear back from Saqib Bhatti MP.

59.2 The form to register the Village Green had been resubmitted to SMBC.

59.3 In relation to the car park, Cllr. Moloney said she had heard nothing back from the brewery or the managing agents for the shops. There were issues at Stonegate, it was restructuring, it was moving to being more app. based, there could be redundancies.

38.3.1 It was noted the brewery had said it could not afford to do the resurfacing, but it would do the potholes. Cllr. Moloney said some emails sent had bounced back.

60. Agenda items for next meeting.

60.1 Bins.

61. 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.

61.1 There was nothing further to discuss, Cllr. Swain closed the meeting at 21:10.

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

62.1 There was nothing further to discuss.

63. PAYE, payroll and Pension Scheme.

Meeting closed 21:10

63.1 Details in confidential section.

Signed

Dated

Dear Parents

I am sending you an update on progress and details of the expected changes during the coming weeks as we move nearer to the Summer holiday and a new phase of our building project.

I recently had the opportunity to look around the new extension for the first time. After years of planning, many battles over the design and continual frustrations over the lack of communication from the project team, it was quite overwhelming to see the plans coming to life. The extension is still only a shell but it is amazing and I see no reason why it should not serve the children of Cheswick Green really well long into the future.

As you already know we have been allocated extra days added to the summer holiday to help us prepare for the movement of classes around the school after the summer. The unusual nature of this project has brought with it additional challenges. The fact the project fell behind schedule almost immediately has meant that every minute of the six-week holiday period is now needed by Mantons (the contractors) to ensure the project finishes on time. This requires that:

- The School premises must be handed over completely to Mantons on Wednesday 26th July for the whole of the summer holiday period. We will not be allowed into the building because it will be a building site and therefore unsafe. There is a lot of work in the existing building to be completed in this time.
- Before this date (26th July) we have to pack up every classroom, the office, the meeting room and the art room. It all has to be boxed and labelled carefully to ensure it is taken to the correct spaces for September. Some things will be stored in the school hall but much will be taken off site for the whole period of the holiday. Although we can start packing up after school and at weekends in our own time, the only school day allocated to do this without children in school is Tuesday 25th July. It is going to be an enormous challenge to get all this work done to enable Mantons to take over the site completely on Wednesday 26th July.
- Work on the new EYFS unit started at half term and this will continue through to December 2023. From September, all of EYFS (Playgroup, Nursery and Reception) will be held throughout the Autumn term in the present KS2 area until their Unit is completed by Christmas (2023). However, we cannot move them into the KS2 area until the start of the Autumn term.
- At present the internal areas in the new extension are planned to be completed by mid-August with all associated external pathways, canopies etc being completed before September. All year groups 1 to 6 will have a new classroom in the new build in September. The new space includes wide corridors for group work and a new toilet area. As we are unable to access any part of the school during the Summer holiday these classrooms will need to be set up at the start of the new school year - hence the need for additional days without the children on 4th and 5th September.
- During the Summer holiday there will also be a lot of internal work taking place in the existing building. The office and entrance hall is being changed to incorporate a new meeting room, the staffroom is being extended into the existing meeting room and a new library will be created. All the existing KS2 classrooms will be having sinks fitted and classrooms that have had walls or windows changed will be redecorated and have new carpet fitted.
- As has already been explained, we have been given the two days at the start of term, Monday 4th September and Tuesday 5th September, to put the school back together again ready for the new school year. There will be porters to help move the furniture but we have to unpack all the boxes and set up for the Autumn Term.

I am sure you will be aware that all teachers would normally spend several days during the summer holiday preparing their classroom. Whilst I know they will be doing all they can at home to prepare themselves there will be much that cannot be done until they are in the school building.

I know that for some of you finding childcare for an additional three days in the summer is difficult but I hope you appreciate that this time was not given to us lightly and, even so, we are going to find both packing and unpacking the school within the allotted time a huge challenge.

In addition to the continuing building work, both the internal works and the completion of the external canopies and pathways during the summer, the new carpark area will also be completed. This means that during this time, there will be no access to the site for pedestrians or vehicles through the usual entrances.

During the Autumn term the builders will continue to work on the EYFS unit and the new outdoor areas including the MUGA. (Multi-Use Games Area).

So that you can see the plans for the extended school for yourself without having to go online, I have asked the project team for a large copy so we can put it on display in the entrance hall. Please come into school and have a look and feel free to ask any questions you may have. If we are unable to answer we will pass them onto the Project Team for them to answer for you. I will add labels to the plan to show where each class will be in September and as we get photographs of the new build I will also add these to the display.

Thank you all for your patience and cooperation during this very challenging time for us all, it is much appreciated.

Regards

Carol Mason
Headteacher