



*Cheswick Green Parish Council*

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## CHESWICK GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2023 7pm Cheswick Green Village Hall**

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

Clerk: Marie Zizzi

3 members of the public

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

64.1 Cllr. Coles had emailed the Clerk, to inform her that he was not in Cheswick Green, he would try to return in time for the meeting, but it was possible he would not make it, in which case he sent his apologies.

Note: Borough Councillor Ken Hawkins had sent his apologies.

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

65.1 There were none.

### **66. Public Participation (15 Minutes).**

66.1 A member of the public referred to notifying SMBC about the bushes between Spinney Drive and Foxland Close.

66.2 There were comments about a passageway with overhanging Oak tree branches; it was stated the bottom of the branches needed to be lifted, as they were so low people could not use the path. It was stated SMBC needed to look at all the trees in the parish.

66.2.1 A member of the public said SMBC had looked at the trees, red circles had been put around certain trees.

66.3 A member of the public said they were out every morning regardless, walking their dog, they referred to three grass areas by Snowhill Drive and a fence which was supported by a log. They said nothing had been done, this had not been moved.

66.3.1 Cllr. Swain was aware of this, he said he had spoken with the resident concerned about this, he said it needed to be left for now.

66.3.2 The resident went on to say, if someone went into this log they could die. The Parish Council should be far more stringent about this, to warn the resident concerned that it could cause an accident.

66.3.3 Cllr. Gosling said it was reported to the Parish Council via the monthly site audit form. The resident said this did not get rid of it or change it, he suggested giving the resident a week at the most to sort it out. He added if someone collided with it, you would not see them again, if something drastic happened the Parish Council would be in trouble.

66.3.4 Cllr. Swain said it was on Parish Council owned land, it was a risk he was willing to take at present, he could not go into detail about this.

66.4 The same resident enquired why the Boys Brigade had special treatment, as there were Boys Brigade notices on Parish Council noticeboards. Cllr. Moloney said that was probably due to her putting these on the wrong noticeboards.

66.4.1 The resident went on to say they were on every single Parish Council noticeboard, other groups such as the Brownies, Guides/Scouts etc. were not being helped, it should be even for everyone.

66.4.2 Cllr. Swain initially said if he had his way all the noticeboards would be open for everyone, he then added this would not work. It was noted the Parish Council parts of the noticeboards were meant for Parish Council notices only and pointed out that these parts were usually lockable. At 19:10 this resident left the meeting.

**67. To resolve to accept the Minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2023** (circulated to Parish Cllrs. with the agenda).

67.1 This item was deferred.

**68. 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
Kompan	Items for playground, installation and freight costs	£72,702.43
Zurich	Add above to insurance policy	£160.68
E D Lavery	Work on Youth Shelter September 2022 and trial holes dug by a resident's property in relation to roots	£350.00
RoSPA	Post installation inspection/annual inspection of Recreation Ground	£498.00
Countrywide GM	Grounds maintenance June 2023	£786.89
M. Zizzi	Reimbursement for Instant ink 25/05-25/6	£16.49

More in confidential section.

VAT claim submitted for £2,594.28 payment received. Petty cash £56.16

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

**69. To receive first quarter (April-June 2023) comparison and bank reconciliation** (circulated to Parish Cllrs. with the agenda).

69.1 Noted, there were no queries.

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

**PL/2023/01363/MINFHO** - 15 Chartwell Drive Cheswick Green Solihull B90 4JZ; Rear single storey extension to provide enlarged kitchen/dining accommodation. Side first floor extension to provide additional bedroom accommodation. Addition of porch canopy and pitched roof over front of garage.

70.1 There were no comments to be submitted.

70.2 In relation the Cheswick Place; Cllr. Gosling said the Parish Council had complained about the paths, but not received any reply. Photographs had been sent and an email had been received stating the overgrowth would be cut back, the part the Parish Council had reported was not done. Cllr. Gosling had bumped into the Bloor maintenance person, he said they had been told to cut back on the old path, not the new one. She had explained to him, shown him the photos and the location, hopefully it would be done tomorrow. She said they would also weed kill the area. It was stated there were lots of stingers.

70.2.1 Cllr. Gosling spoke about a tree, which may have been hit by lightning, beyond Leese Drive, it was across a footpath, a big Oak tree's trunk had split. She said all the wind and rain could also have caused this, she had taken photographs and sent them to Bloor maintenance person, who would report it.

70.2.2 A latch on a gate by the flood defences was referred to, it was stated this was broken, it was hoped this would be sorted out as well.

**71. To discuss progress with Cheswick Green School expansion.**

71.1 Cllr. Heslington said the playground was a bit restricted, she added it was the last week of term. She said they had been digging holes. It was thought it may be finished by Christmas rather than September.

71.2 Cllr. Swain said this could suit SMBCs purposes better, as the Local Plan was still on hold.

71.3 There were various comments about the possibility of a new school being built and about asbestos; Cllr. Swain said if any asbestos had been found, the whole area would be tented, with an inner and an outer area, people would be wearing special suits. There were comments about a building disappearing very quickly at the school and about a teacher who became ill and then left quickly.

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

72.1 The Clerk said she had received an email from the Auditor, in relation to the AGAR. One tick box had not been complete Section 2, box 11a – Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable) yes or no – the Council, as a body corporate, acts as sole trustee and is responsible for managing Trust funds or assets. It was agreed to tick yes and to initial this

amendment accordingly. To replace this page on the website and noticeboards and return this to the Auditor.

72.2 The Clerk referred to the exercise class ceasing at the end of July; it was noted the instructor had been teaching the class since about 2011, she had not increased her charge in all the years, the Clerk queried if the Parish Council should get the instructor some flowers and a card. It was agreed to purchase a £50 M&S voucher for her.

72.3 The Clerk referred to the WALC survey; members felt training was not at suitable times; it was agreed the top issues faced by CGPC was the possibility of the precept being capped and money from new developments (CIL), being reduced or put into a general pot, to have to bid for it.

72.4 Cllr. Gosling spoke about an email she had circulated to Councillors in relation to Open Reach and Broadband. It had been suggested the Parish Council contact the Chair of Open Reach. It was stated in all the correspondence sent about this, no questions had been answered or issues addressed in any replies. It was agreed to include Saqib Bhatti MP in any further correspondence sent.

72.5 Cllr. Heslington referred to the recent meeting about the surgery/doctors, it had been felt the problem was getting appointments, the actual service was okay. There would not be any further meetings. There was a new system in place from Monday, appointments were to be phased through the day, as well as introducing evening appointments as well.

72.5.1 Cllr. Moloney said most of the feedback had been positive, the negative was that people wanted their own named doctor, she said the meeting had become a bit repetitive.

72.5.2 It was noted people could see a Nurse Practitioner, they did not need to see a GP, but people wanted to see a GP. It was pointed out the Patient Participation Group (PPG), held monthly meetings and people were able to join this group. There were comments about the difficulty of parking at the Tanworth Lane surgery.

### **73. Update/report from Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC).**

73.1 Cllr. Swain said the Boys Brigade, Girl Guides and Brownies had all been informed the use of the Village Hall would be free, for the next 12 months.

73.2 Cllr. Swain said the external plug was okay to be used. He said the VHMC had purchased two large fans, due to the recent hot weather. It was felt users appreciated this.

73.2.1 Cllr. Smith said in her conservatory she had an air conditioning unit fitted, which did hot and cold, both were pretty good.

73.2.2 Cllr. Heslington said the fans were more a temporary measure, the VHMC would look at alternatives in the future.

73.3 In relation to solar panels, Cllr Swain said the VHMC was concerned these could possibly get damaged.

### **74. To discuss the Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC).**

74.1 Cllr. Swain referred to the previous meeting, when the VHMC constitution had been spoken about, in relation to the Chairman not exceeding 3 years; he suggested on behalf of the VHMC there was an addendum - The chairman may serve a subsequent(s) term if approved by the Parish Council.

74.2 It had also been pointed out there should be an AGM in May and that no AGM had been held last year. Cllr. Swain said the reason for this was due to Covid. He referred to the accounts and audit needing to be completed, which could not be done for May. He therefore suggested this was altered to September.

74.3 In relation to there being 6 instead of 7 members, Cllr. Swain said they could advertise the seat, he suggested this was left until after the school holidays.

74.4 It was verbally agreed that the AGM/report should be altered from May to September, as well as advertising the vacant seat.

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

75.1 Cllr. Smith suggested they did both, the usual Christmas tree lights and lights on the Village Hall.

75.2 Cllr. Swain said they would need a generator to use the existing lights on the Village Hall and to get them converted.

75.3 It was agreed SMBC had the Parish Council over a barrel with this.

75.4 Cllr. Smith said the lights were the only thing the residents and visitors to Cheswick Green saw, the residents would be up in arms, if they were not on the tree. Cllr. Gosling felt the lights had become a bit of a tradition. Cllr. Moloney did not agree. The two residents present were asked for their opinion, one agreed with Cllr. Moloney, the other felt there would be a backlash if the lights were not there this year.

75.5 Cllr. Heslington pointed out there were no plans to hold a summer event in 2024, due to this she thought they should go ahead with the Christmas tree lights.

**Action item: It was agreed the Clerk should complete and sign the agreement to be sent to SMBC.**

75.6 There were further comments about this equating to £100 a day; that it was too late to ask residents to vote on this for this year. However, for next year to inform residents about the cost involved and to ask them yes or no, if they wanted to go ahead with this. It was suggested a notice was placed in the Chemist (with the Chemists consent), with a ballot box for people to vote.

**Action item: Clerk to add this to the list of ongoing actions.**

## **76. To discuss guidelines for future events, including expenditure and income.**

76.1 Cllr. Swain said for any future events involving Parish Council money, they needed to have some rules and regulations to follow.

76.2 It was noted Cllr. Moloney had offered to put something together, but she had not been able to this week.

76.3 Cllr. Swain suggested they pool their thoughts together, they looked at the Financial Regulations and in relation to events any outgoings and incomings. He referred to one-off costs, such as hiring a Bouncy Castle not being a problem.

76.4 Cllr. Moloney said she had spent £300 of her own money on crafts, in case the weather was not good, so people had something to do in the Village Hall. She said this money, had not come back to her nor had the float she set up. She said Cllr. Coles was also out of pocket, more got spent than was acknowledged.

76.5 Cllr. Swain said she should not be putting her own money into events.

76.6 Cllr. Moloney said she had also needed to bring in family from Bristol, to help, due to the lack of volunteers, she said there needed to be a balance.

76.7 Cllr. Swain said the Parish Council just needed to be able to show what it had spent, it needed to be accountable and to also have a contingency plan.

76.8 Cllr. Gosling said she had spent money for events, which she did not claim for.

76.9 Cllr. Smith said this was the first they knew about this; they needed some guidelines for when the Parish Council were doing events now.

76.10 Cllr. Moloney pointed out the majority of the event was funded by the RA; she said the event had operated in the same way as the Jubilee event last year and the Christmas event.

76.11 There were lots more on this about volunteers running things and using the card readers, about calling people's integrity into question, members of the Parish Council not being notified who was using its card readers, that the card readers could only take money in, they had been used at the Jubilee and Christmas events, all money taken went into the Parish Council Co-operative bank account.

76.12 Cllr. Moloney said on the day she had only seen Cllr. Swain and Mr. Gosling, they were there, there were no other volunteers.

76.13 Cllr. Swain said he was not particularly concerned, as this had been funded by the RA money and not Parish Council money. He said they needed things in place for events, before they poured oil on troubled water, he referred to joint working.

## **77. To discuss issues with monthly site audits of Parish Council owned land.**

77.1 Cllr. Gosling asked the Clerk to contact the Grounds Maintenance contractor, to ask them to look at the land by the garages on Snowhill Drive on Saxon Wood Road, as there was overgrowth which needed cutting back.

77.2 It was noted overhanging trees had been reported at the Mount, it was stated the lamppost could not be seen. Cllr. Smith said the brambles by the steps had been done. She asked for others to look at how high the trees were.

77.3 It was noted the Grounds Maintenance contractor had informed the Parish Council, there were three dead Saplings on the Recreation Ground, they had enquired if these should be removed, the answer was yes.

**78. To discuss the speed sign/camera.**

78.1 Cllr. Swain referred to speed being monitored on Creynolds Lane and Tanworth Lane.

78.2 Cllr. Smith said the Parish Councils speed camera was on Creynolds Lane, there had been one on Coppice Walk at the same time, this had now been moved to Blackford Road.

78.3 Cllr. Swain referred to all the items in relation to traffic being wrapped up into one report for around the school.

78.4 Cllr. Heslington said some mobile speed cameras were being put around now.

78.5 It was queried whether Mr. Rob Wyatt still worked at SMBC, the Clerk was asked to check.

78.6 It was queried whether the speed camera was still required. It was agreed it was, as it was a deterrent, and the Service Level Agreement was in place until next year.

**79. To discuss the new play equipment and the RoSPA report.**

79.1 It was noted the new play equipment was being well used.

**Action item: Clerk to forward RoSPA report to the Parish Councils Grounds Maintenance contractor; to ask what jobs they could do and for how much, as well as if they could recommend companies to do the work they could not do.**

79.2 It was stated the trampoline depth was okay, it was on a flood plain, therefore it would get flooded.

79.3 Cllr. Moloney asked if the Brownies could put some signs they had made, asking people not to litter, around the Recreation Ground, there were no objections.

**80. To discuss issues raised with SMBC, including bins.**

80.1 Cllr. Swain read the email he had sent to SMBC about the bins (sent 04/07/2023), he said he had not yet received a reply.

80.1.1 Cllr. Heslington said all the bins were full and overflowing, including the ones on the Recreation Ground.

80.1.2 Cllr. Swain said part of the problem was people picking up parcels from the Post Office, then opening them and putting the packaging into the bins.

80.2 It was noted people were complaining on Facebook, about the smell from the burning of manure again.

80.2.1 Cllr. Smith said she smelt it again on Tuesday evening, there were mounds on the far side of Vicarage Road. Cllr. Moloney said it was worse when it rained and the burnt manure was smouldering.

80.2.2 Cllr. Swain said the report on the manure on the Parish Council online account with SMBC, stated the case was closed. He suggested the Parish Council should send an email to Borough Councillor Ken Hawkins, asking him to look at this as a matter of urgency, as residents were upset, nothing had been done this year, or in the past year, what was going to happen in the future, they needed to know.

80.2.3 Cllr. Heslington said she had seen Officers standing there some months ago. It was not known who these people were, it was suggested they could be Fire Officers.

80.2.4 It was stated the farmer concerned was not allowed to keep any animals and that the Fire Brigade had been called out last year.

**81. To discuss CGPCs Action Plan.**

81.1 The Kompan reference to be removed, as this item had been completed now.

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

82.1 An email from Warwickshire Wildlife Trust (WWT), asking how the Parish Council was getting on with the management of the wetland WWT had created and to see if there were any questions, was noted. It was suggested some photographs were taken and sent to WWT. It was pointed there were Water Lillie's on the pond.

82.2 An email from Paul Vernon about the defibrillator for Illshaw Heath, had been circulated; it was agreed the Parish Council was happy to support Paul as requested.

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

83.1 The Clerk asked if anyone could attend the Solihull Area Meeting on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> July, no-one was available.

**84. Agenda items for next meeting.**

84.1 None were given.

**85. 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.**

85.1 There was nothing further to discuss, Cllr. Swain closed the meeting at 20:55

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

86.1 There was nothing further to discuss.

**87. PAYE, payroll and Pension Scheme.**

**Meeting closed 21:00**

87.1 Details in confidential section.

Signed .....

Dated .....