



Cheswick Green Parish Council

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CHESWICK GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Thursday 14th March 2024 7pm Cheswick Green Village Hall

Present: Cheswick Green Parish Councillors: Amy Brotherton, Simon Coles, Margaret Gosling, Linda Heslington, Michelle Smith, Mick Swain (Chairman) and Gaynor Willmott.
Clerk: Marie Zizzi 2 members of the public

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

212.1 Not applicable all Parish Councillors present. Note: Borough Cllr. Ken Hawkins had sent an apology.

213. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations.

213.1 During the discussion regarding an Electric Charging Point, Cllr. Swain declared an interest, as he is a member of the Village Hall Management Committee.

214. Public Participation (15 Minutes).

214.1 A resident referred to a field at the back of a house, the fence was broken, and it had rusty barbed wire; a lady had cut her hand on it a couple of times. This lady had emailed the farmer but not received any reply. It was stated the farmer had moved back to Ireland; he had died. Due to the estate not being settled yet, nothing could be done.

215. To resolve to accept the Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 8th February 2024 (circulated to Parish Cllrs. with the agenda).

Resolved: proposed Cllr. Swain, seconded Cllr. Coles – these were accepted as a true and accurate record.

216. 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 February 2024	£786.89
M. Zizzi	Reimbursement for Instant ink	£11.99
M. Zizzi	Reimbursement for Annual Microsoft 365	£59.99
SLCC	Annual subscription	£188.00
Countrywide GM	Fell dead tree leaning against neighbours' fence	£161.28
Vision ICT	Webinar training	£30.00

More in confidential section.

Petty cash £71.27

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

Resolved: proposed Cllr. Coles, seconded Cllr. Heslington; £20,000 to be transferred from the CCLA account to the UTB savings account.

217. To consider planning applications and local development including Cheswick Place, including its adoption by SMBC and Blythe Valley.

PL/2024/00465/MINFHO - 14 Kinton Lane Hockley Heath Solihull B94 6RX; Single storey rear extension.

217.1 There were no comments to be submitted.

217.1.1 An application for change of use of a building on Blythe Valley, considered at the previous meeting was referred to. It was noted some residents were concerned about

parking. It was noted originally the premises was meant to be for a café. It was stated there was already a café facility on Blythe Valley, there was also the Virgin gym facility.

217.2 In relation to Cheswick Place; Cllr. Gosling said at the far end a gate had been moved, what had been done was not very good, it was difficult to shut it. The brambles had been cut down, but they would grow back, the bigger gate had not been fixed. There was still an oil leak by Kingfisher Way.

218. To review CGPC social media and media policies.

218.1 These two policies had been circulated by the email to all Cllrs. After various comments and suggestions, it was agreed to merge the two policies into one, to then circulated this for adoption at another meeting.

219. To discuss Facebook and the posting of messages.

219.1 This had been covered during discussion of the previous item.

220. To discuss grant applications/grants/donations policy.

220.1 This policy had also been circulated with some suggested amendments. It was agreed that any funding/grants would only be given locally.

220.2 A request for funding from the Stan Bowley Trust had been received. Members of the Parish Council did not wish to provide any funding for this.

221. To discuss car park parking.

221.1 It was stated a blue van had been on the car park for weeks and weeks now, it was not taxed. It was stated the Parish Council could arrange to remove it; however, where would it be moved to and costs would be incurred.

221.1.1 It was stated the Parish Council could contact the DVLA, to find out who owned it; it was noted the Parish Council had tried to do this on a previous occasion, but the DVLA would not give the details of the owner due to Data Protection.

221.1.2 It was not clear what the Parish Council could do. This led to a discussion on installing barriers and comments about deliveries, for the pub and rubbish collections. It was thought the people who lived above the shops, left bin bags out to be collected. It was suggested to ask them. It was stated the Village Surgery probably had collections. There were comments about empty wine bottles being left out, it was thought these were probably from the restaurant.

221.1.3 It was suggested the Parish Council could clamp the van and charge a release fee. It was stated the same person had three vans parked on the car park.

221.1.4 There were comments about getting the van scrapped and using any funds to have it removed. It was pointed out to have it put in a compound would cost money.

221.1.5 It was suggested to put a note on the van, asking that it is removed by next week, if it is not, it will be clamped and there will be a charge for the clamp to be removed.

222. To discuss car park by Village Hall.

222.1 It was noted the lamppost belonging to the brewery had still not been mended, it was still facing the ground. Photographs of the broken lamppost, a broken part of the fence and the potholes had been sent to Stonegate. It was noted someone had been out and done something to the other lamppost near to the pub, which was now permanently on. It was felt this person had worked on the wrong lamppost.

222.1.1 Cllr. Swain said the contact from Stonegate had asked when the meeting about the car park had taken place and who with; he had sent them this information. He would now contact this person again, to find out if they were going to do something about the car park or not.

223. To discuss having an electric charging point.

223.1 Cllr. Coles said with Cllr. Smith, he had attended a meeting where they had been given a presentation about having electric charging points. This had since been circulated to all Parish Councillors.

223.2 Cllr. Coles said Solihull MBC needed to identify more places in Solihull where these could be located, on land it owned. He said four areas in the parish had been suggested; the end of Foxland Close, Spinney Drive, outside the shops by the bus bay and the Village Hall car park.

223.3 Cllr. Coles explained about AC and DC chargers. There were various options to consider; three slower chargers, for use as an overnight facility, would cost £35k with

possibly £20k grant funding, there would be an annual cost of about £1,500, it would be unlikely the initial cost would be returned until 2035. Another option was for two chargers, with a shorter dwell time, the upfront cost would be £120k, repayment of the initial cost would be by around 2032.

223.4 Cllr. Coles spoke about SMBCs concession contract, this option would be at no cost to the Parish Council, however it would see some revenue in return, the amount would depend on the type of charger. He added that over time revenue could be saved to be spent on the car park.

223.5 There were comments about trying to distract people from parking for long periods of time, the need to go for a faster charger and that by 2035 more people would have electric vehicles.

223.6 More statistics from the presentation were provided. There were various comments including, why should the Parish Council pay for this; SMBC had more information available now, as it had moved forward with this, where the points would be located, as power/electricity was needed.

223.7 Cllr. Coles spoke about the possibility of using a transformer. If there were two provided, there would be a loss of one parking space. He said the most future proof option was for the faster one.

223.8 There were comments about the cost to charge vehicles; SMBC would set the rates, the land provider would receive a payment; if the Parish Council did not do this, it was possible the pub would.

223.9 Cllr. Swain said the VHMC would object to this, as the car park was for the VH customers, plus there would be costs for electric. He said he would abstain, if there was any voting on this, he declared an interest, as he was a member of the VHMC.

223.10 Cllr. Coles said the VH customers would be getting an electric charging point, it would be up to SMBC to provide electric.

223.11 Cllr. Brotherton said she would support this, if it was not the Parish Councils responsibility, and it did not cost the Parish Council anything.

223.12 Cllr. Coles said this would give a different image of what the car park was for, he was in favour of the two high power chargers.

223.13 It was queried how many car parking spaces each of the owners had. It was thought the Parish Council had 16 spaces, the Carver family 18 and the pub 20.

223.14 It was pointed out people could and did park anywhere.

223.15 It was agreed to inform SMBC the Parish Council agreed in principle, to two fast chargers, with most Councillors supporting this, on the basis SMBC would come out, look at the site and provide information about what the next steps were.

223.16 It was queried whether agreement was required from the two other landowners, whether there would need to be any legal agreement, how it would affect their land and what about these costs.

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

224.1 Cllr. Gosling said Saqib Bhatti MP was looking into the issue with BT/Broadband. She said she had received another letter, regarding getting ready to switch to the new service, stating they would upgrade you to fibre for free, but there was no fibre here. There had also been more correspondence on the Digital Voice.

224.2 Cllr. Coles said the Parish Council had been invited to the 50th anniversary of the school, it was this Saturday 16th March 10-12; it was noted a member of the Parish Council had been given 50 tree saplings, it was agreed to donate these to the school.

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

225.1 There was nothing to report, a meeting was taking place next week.

226. To discuss issues with monthly site audits of Parish Council owned land, including the Mount and trees.

226.1 Cllr. Smith had reported there were holes in the paths at the Mount, members looked at some photographs, members were unsure how these holes had been made. It was suggested to ask the Parish Councils Grounds Maintenance contractor.

226.1.1 Cllr. Smith said some work was needed on the steps; it was suggested to ask the Grounds Maintenance contractor for a quote to do this; parts needed replacing. Cllr. Smith said she may be able to get the wood for this.

226.1.2 Cllr. Smith said the bark on the steps had not been done for a while, she queried whether they wanted this.

227. To discuss events.

227.1 Cllr. Coles referred to the 80th anniversary of D-Day (Thursday 6th June 2024); he said did they want to do anything? He had no desire to do anything. It was suggested the bunting was put up.

227.1.1 Cllr. Willmott said it should be acknowledged in some way.

227.1.2 It noted it was a Thursday; it was suggested to ask the person who ran the Cheswick Café. Cllr. Heslington said she was happy to email this person, to ask them and let them know the Parish Council would supply bunting and some funding for refreshments, such as Victoria sponges and Coronation chicken sandwiches.

227.2 Cllr. Coles spoke about the craft fayres, he said the first one had been very good, people had stayed 4-5 hours; the second one was not so good, at the second event the Play Bus had been a waste of time, and the marquee was not very busy.

227.2.1 It was stated the first event had been just after a Covid lockdown, people were desperate to get out.

227.2.2 It was queried whether to have a craft fayre, after the Christmas tree lights switch on or not, or whether to have it on a different date.

227.2.3 There was a discussion about having a craft fayre in November; the Village Hall was available on Sunday 24th November; there could be 20 tables at a cost of £10 per table; the Parish Council could see what the level of interest for this was. It was suggested the Parish Council could provide refreshments. A daytime event 12-4pm, to give people an opportunity to buy Christmas presents.

228. To discuss issues raised with SMBC.

228.1 The Clerk had raised an issue regarding overgrown trees, on behalf of a resident of Cheswick Place.

228.2 Cllr. Swain referred to an email about the access to Cheswick Place; he thought the Parish Council had been given a definitive answer about this sometime ago.

229. To discuss CGPCs Action Plan.

229.1 Deferred.

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

230.1 An email regarding breast feeding was noted. It was felt the Village Hall was not an appropriate venue, as it was not always open and when it was, someone had hired it.

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

231.1 Noted.

232. Agenda items for next meeting.

232.1 There were none.

233. 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.

233.1 There was nothing further to discuss.

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

234.1 There was nothing further to discuss the meeting was closed.

235. PAYE, payroll and Pension Scheme.

235.1 Details in confidential section.

Meeting closed 20:30

Signed

Dated