



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 PARISH COUNCIL

Thursday 13th June 2024 7pm Cheswick Green Village Hall

Present: Cheswick Green Parish Councillors: Simon Coles, Margaret Gosling, Linda Heslington, Mick Swain (Chairman) and Gaynor Willmott.

Clerk: Marie Zizzi

3 members of the public

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

40.1 Apologies were received from Cllr. Brotherton and Cllr. Smith – they were accepted.

41. Declarations of Interest/Dispensations.

41.1 There were none.

42. Public Participation (15 Minutes).

42.1 A resident referred to a letter received from Solihull MBC, stating an issue was under investigation. Further to this, photographs had been taken and sent to Solihull MBC. This was in relation to residents planting things.

42.2 Cllr. Gosling spoke about walking round the village, with someone from Solihull MBC in October, to look at overgrowth and what needed to be done. She said nothing had been carried out since then. There were comments about Solihull MBC not contacting residents, in relation to any overgrowth.

42.3 It was stated only one piece of grass had been cut last week. All the bushes and overgrowth were becoming more and more dangerous.

42.4 Cllr. Swain said the new contract had started last month. There were comments about a resident's plants being cut down.

42.5 A member of the public asked who was responsible, for the maintenance of the path by Saxon Wood Road and the new estate (Cheswick Place). There were comments about the amount of overgrowth and stingers. It was stated the old footpath had been cut, but the new one had not.

42.6 Cllr. Gosling said the catch on the gate had been repaired, but due to the warped fence, it did not fit.

42.7 Cllr. Swain said only one piece of grass had been cut. Cllr. Gosling added that the area was not maintained. It was pointed out the Parish Council had emailed Bloor Homes again and again, complaining about the overgrowth.

42.8 It was stated the area was overtaken by tall weeds. It was queried whether the residents of Cheswick Place complained, whether to go directly to Bloor Homes, as Solihull MBC had taken over the roads, but not the footpaths.

42.9 It was stated the turning into Noble Way was dangerous, drivers could not see, the visibility was appalling, it was a bad junction. Cllr. Swain said apparently it complied with regulations.

43. To resolve to accept the Minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 9th May 2024 (circulated to Parish Cllrs. with the agenda).

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

44. To approve in principle the draft Minutes from the 2024 Annual Statutory Parish meeting (*sent to Parish Cllrs 01/05/2024*).

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

45. To receive a report on the finances of the Council, to approve any payments made since last meeting and any payments to be made (*issued to Parish Cllrs. with the agenda*).

Payee	Reason	Total
Countrywide GM	Monthly grounds maintenance May 2024	£786.89
M. Zizzi	Instant ink	£11.99
Vision ICT	Hosted email	£96.00
Mr. W. Robinson	Internal audit 2024	£224.00
CG VHMC	Community Café 80 th Anniversary of D-Day	£100.00
The Defib Store	New pads for the defibrillator	£190.80

More in confidential section.

Petty cash £84.35

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

45.1 It was agreed to transfer £15,000 from the UTB current account into the savings account.

46. To receive (*emailed to Cllrs. 14/05/2024*) **and if appropriate accept the Internal Auditors report.**

46.1 There were no comments about this.

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

PL/2024/00757/VAR - 66B Salter Street Earlswood Solihull B94 6DE; Vary condition No. 1 following planning approval PL/2017/02885/PPFL.

47.1 It was noted approval had been given for application PL/2017/02885/PPFL; the applicant now wanted to vary this approval, to make it bigger. It was noted the change of use was for two people for medical assistance. It was agreed to object to this, as per objections to previous applications. It was pointed out this site had been there for a long time.

47.2 In relation to Cheswick Place; it was felt this had already been covered; there were further comments about the lack of care, the swales being really compact, trees/bull rushes filling up over the bridge and about sediment/silt/roots/weeds/rubbish. It was noted the application had been approved in 2015, the site was 8-10 years old now, the swales had been left, no maintenance care had been carried out. It was stated it looked beautiful by the Parish Council bench, the part the Parish Councils grounds maintenance contractor looked after.

48. To resolve CGPCs response/comments/objection to the planning application for 550 houses on land near Dog Kennel Lane (PL/2024/00598/PPOL).

48.1 There were comments about a meeting with Taylor Wimpey; the site having much more open space, that this site had been more thought out, it could be the best development in the area.

48.1.1 There were comments about the proposal for 550 dwellings in one section of this area, taking up one third and another 670 dwellings and a school etc. on the other side.

48.1.2 It was noted so far, there had been 4 objections from residents and 4 from organisations submitted.

48.1.3 There were concerns about the impact this development would have on roads/traffic, which was already very bad.

48.1.4 It was stated this application would be approved; it would possibly be more than 550 dwellings.

Resolved; proposed Cllr. Coles, seconded Cllr. Gosling; the CGPC response was approved.

49. To receive any reports from Councillors and/or the Clerk.

49.1 Cllr. Gosling spoke about the ongoing Broadband situation; she said Virgins cable was reaching the end of its life, there was a CityFibre exchange on Monkspath, the main fibre cables for the whole of the country came down Creynolds Lane. Creynolds Lane had Virgin and BT as well as CityFibre.

49.1.1. Cllr. Gosling said it was possible CityFibre could add something, in relation to infrastructure. She referred to spending a long time trying to get something done; meeting with Openreach Directors; that it had been implied something would happen before the copper was turned off, but nothing had been done. She said the internet was so bad in Cheswick Green, it would not support the Digital Voice. Cllr. Gosling said she would draft an email to send.

49.2 The Clerk said the Parish Council needed to update its Financial Regulations.

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

50.1 Cllr. Heslington said the 80th anniversary of D-Day event had been really good. About 50 people attended. They did not know how it had worked out financially yet.

50.2 Cllr. Heslington said Rainbows had finished in April, due to a lack of volunteers. Brownies was to finish on 3rd July for the same reason. Boys Brigade was struggling as well. Beavers on Salter Street had closed.

50.3 Cllr. Heslington said the glass panels between the halls were to be filled in, so the new curtains could be installed above the doors, to save money. The curtains needed to be fire retardant; 3 companies were being invited to quote.

50.4 Decoration of the halls would take place from 22nd July for 2 weeks.

50.5 Cllr. Swain said the accounts had been completed, they were being audited now and they would be sent to the Parish Council. The Village Hall was financially quite sound.

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

51.1 Two quotes for repairing the steps at the Mount had been received. It was agreed to ask Countrywide for a like for like quote, based on using sleepers and type one infill.

51.2 Cllr. Coles was in the process of obtaining a quote to repair the potholes, on parts of the car park the Parish Council owned. It was hoped this could be considered at the next meeting. It was stated the Parish Council needed to get 3 quotes, on the same basis. It was queried what material would be used.

51.2.1 It was noted the potholes by the pub had been filled in, however, what had been used to fill them was already coming out. It was pointed out the car park had been blocked, the company carrying out the work had caused a lot of mess, there had been 6-7 people working on them, there was tarmac everywhere, it had caused chaos.

52. To discuss suggestion to install a Living Willow Den.

52.1 It was queried where a Living Willow Den could go. It was suggested one could be installed to replace the Youth Shelter. It was stated the Youth Shelter was falling apart and deteriorating.

52.1.1 It was stated the Parish Council would not spend any more money on the Youth Shelter.

52.1.2 It was noted during previous discussions about the Youth Shelter, it has been agreed that whatever replaced it, would not have a roof on it, so people could see what was happening inside.

52.1.3 There were comments about it being used to deal drugs, and that there was a lot of litter in the shelter. It was stated there had been a lot of youths in it yesterday afternoon.

52.2 Cllr. Swain said Willow Dens required too much maintenance. It was noted that because they required a lot of water, they grew and grew.

52.2.1 It was stated if a large one was installed, it would create a place for people to hangout. It was stated once the existing shelter showed any signs of being unstable, it had to go.

52.3 It was agreed to park the ideas for both for now.

53. To discuss CGPC noticeboards.

53.1 It was queried whether the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), had to be on all the Parish Council noticeboards.

53.1.1 It was noted there was limited space on noticeboards. Cllr. Willmott asked if the Parish Council could use a QR code for the AGAR.

53.2 It was stated the noticeboard on Cheswick Place was okay, however the Perspex was hazy and had deteriorated. Cllr. Gosling had tried cleaning it; it was not possible to read notices very well.

53.3 Cllr. Coles said a blow lamp could be used to clean them.

53.4 It was stated the Perspex had been replaced on the board on Saxon Wood Road, there was enough Perspex left to do another noticeboard.

53.5 It was stated the noticeboard in front of the Post Office needed cleaning.

53.6 There were comments about the noticeboards having metal backs, about the chipboard that had been used deteriorating, as the cork had worn away now. It was pointed out Perspex deteriorated in sunlight.

53.7 It was suggested to look at replacing noticeboards and to see where the newest ones had been purchased from.

54. To discuss issues raised with SMBC.

54.1 An email from a resident in relation to parking on Snowhill Drive was referred to; Cllr. Gosling had done some counting, at the bottom there were 8 houses with no parking or road outside, every house had a garage at the other end where the bushes were, there were 9 houses with no driveway.

then. Since then, cars had got bigger, people did not use their garages for their cars. There had always been a parking problem on Snowhill Drive, people had 2+ cars per house, driveways were put in, there was space by garages.

54.1.2 Cllr. Swain said there were 60 properties, 8-10 with garages, probably 27 drives built on 45 garages at the rear. It was stated the garages were probably too small for the cars.

54.1.3 Cllr. Gosling spoke about an incident, when a fire engine had needed to get into Snowhill Drive.

54.1.4 Cllr. Swain read a reply received about this from Solihull MBCs Head of Highways Management.

54.1.5 Members of the Parish Council pointed out, there were also parking issues in other roads, it was noted it had been suggested to contact the police, members felt sorry for the residents of Snowhill Drive.

54.1.6 A reply to the resident was discussed; members of the Parish Council did not believe the situation would meet the requirements for a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO), there were also concerns about the already delayed TRO programme, having to go back to scratch. Members of the Parish Council agreed with what the Head of Highways Management had stated.

55. To discuss CGPCs Action Plan.

55.1 Cllr. Swain had updated this document and it had been circulated to all members of the Parish Council.

55.2 In relation to CCTV, Cllr. Coles said he was waiting for a date for a representative to come out to look at the site.

55.3 Cllr. Heslington said on a Street Watch walk carried out last night, it had been noted there was rubbish dumped by the Surgery, the company doing this had been caught, the Surgery had been informed. It was suggested to report this to Environmental Health.

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

56.1 At the previous meeting, there had been comments about a property on Coppice Close, what it was going to be used for. Cllr. Swain and the Clerk had tried to find out some information. It was stated the property appeared to be being used now, as there were pictures on a wall. There was a separate access/front door, a communal space, one car parked on the drive, the building appeared to have a lot of doors inside it. It was thought there was one member of staff, and it was being used for male and female teenagers.

56.1.1 It was pointed out it had previously been a care home for older people, it had been empty for 8-10 years, most of the complaints had been about the ongoing building works.

56.1.2 It was stated it would have been cheaper, to have demolished the building and rebuild it.

56.2 An email regarding having a car club pilot scheme in the area was noted. It was felt this would not work in Cheswick Green.

56.3 An email asking the Parish Council to support a campaign, to improve the safety of lithium batteries, used in e-bikes and scooters, and their disposal was noted. It was agreed to wait until this had moved to the next stage.

56.4 Information from Solihull MBC, regarding its consultation on its Local List Selection Criteria and Nomination Form, in relation to listed buildings and heritage sites, in Solihull was noted.

56.5 An email circulated by Cllr. Coles, in relation to car park proposals for near to St. Patrick’s church and Primary School was discussed. It was noted the landowner and Solihull MBC would need to be approached about this, planning permission would be required. The Parish Council had no issue with what was proposed, however it was not something the Parish Council could instigate.

56.6 An invitation to attend Solihull MBCs Civic Service, on Sunday 30th June was noted; no-one present could attend. It was agreed to ask Cllr. Brotherton and Cllr. Smith, a response was required by tomorrow.

57. Agenda items for next meeting.

57.1 The car park – quotes for repairing the potholes.

57.2 CCTV.

58. 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.

58.1 There was nothing further to discuss. Meeting closed at 8:55pm.

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

59.1 There was nothing to discuss.

60. PAYE, payroll and Pension Scheme.

60.1 In confidential section of the minutes.

Meeting closed 8:40pm

Signed

Dated

