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CHESWICK GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Thursday 11th July 2024 7pm Cheswick Green Village Hall

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

Clerk: Marie Zizzi 6 members of the public (including Borough Cllr. Keith Green)

Cllr. Swain introduced Borough Cllr. Keith Green and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

61.1 Apologies were received from Cllr. Smith and Cllr. Willmott.

62. Declarations of Interest/Dispensations.

62.1 Cllr. Coles declared an interest in agenda item 8. To discuss the car park; as his brother is a director of the company that had provided quotes to repair the car park.

63. Public Participation (15 Minutes).

63.1 A resident from Beechwood Close, referred to SMBCs proposals for yellow lines; they said this was really going to affect the people who lived there.

63.1.1 Cllr. Swain said this had been going on for some time now possibly 2 years; members of the Parish Council had met with Borough Cllrs. and SMBC Officers, these proposals were Phase 2. He said things had been delayed due to two officers leaving SMBC.

63.1.2 Cllr. Swain spoke about an email he had received from a resident, who would not be able to park outside where they lived, this would affect this person's job. Cllr. Swain said he had sympathy for this person.

63.1.3 Cllr. Swain said the road in question had plenty of trees, which were not being looked after. He added that in October 2023, with Cllr. Gosling, they had walked around the parish with an SMBC officer, looking at overgrowth, nothing had been done since then. Cllr. Swain said he was not sure what the Parish Council could do.

63.1.4 Cllr. Swain said he had enquired about Badger Close in relation to dropped kerbs, residents could not have these because of the trees. He said he could see the need to preserve trees, but time had moved on, people needed space, what was for the good of all, what seemed to be the best thing to do. He said there would be a Phase 3, but they could not keep on pushing the traffic back.

63.1.5 Cllr. Gosling said she used to live in Snowhill Drive, people used to have gardens, parking had been an issue there for 50 years.

63.1.6 A resident said school times were a nightmare, SMBC had extended the school, it would get worse in 5-6 years. They queried why there was no car park, but there was a proposal for 2 football pitches.

63.1.7 Cllr. Coles pointed out that when people had been asked, about having a car park at the back of the school, people did not want that option, they wanted to keep it as greenbelt, as in sports fields. He queried whether having a dropped kerb would make any difference.

63.1.8 A resident from Beechwood Close spoke about building a patio in the front, applying for a dropped kerb and being told they could not have one, because someone in the Close had objected. They had applied again and been told, there were enough as there were 3.

63.1.9 Cllr. Swain referred to being told a sapling had been planted in Beechwood Close. There were comments about no-one being asked if this was wanted, about planting on a

grass verge and about one tree being cut down, which was why a new sapling had been planted.

63.1.10 There were comments about some trees being over 100 years old and about Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs).

63.1.11 Cllr. Swain said SMBCs Forestry Team were concerned the removal would not be supported. He referred to costs for a dropped kerb being £1200-1500, he said it had been stated it could cost £10k, due to the possible effects. It was the Forestry Team that objected.

63.1.12 Cllr. Brotherton queried whether it could be a residents only parking area. There were comments about there being a cost for a permit and each house having to apply.

63.1.13 Cllr. Swain said if residents could not have a dropped kerb, there should be an exception.

63.1.14 It was queried whether all the yellow lines were because of the school, why this could not be for termtime only. It was stated some parents parked there all day – this prevented residents from having access, this had resulted in a skip being blocked from being removed.

63.1.15 It was stated outside school times it was fine, why did the parking restrictions have to be 24/7 and that this would devalue peoples' properties.

63.1.16 Cllr. Swain said this was the time for residents to put their suggestions forward. He said the resident that had contacted him, had stated one house had been sold three times, but the sales had fallen through due to the parking situation.

63.1.17 There were further comments by residents about electric cars, using the crossing and about a dropped kerb on the corner of Beechwood Close.

63.1.18 Cllr. Swain said he did not know what the answer was, residents had brought a few things to the attention of the Parish Council, which it would raise with SMBC.

63.1.19 It was stated the situation was going to get worse, the school needed to provide sufficient parking for staff, there should be a car park at the back of the school.

63.1.20 It was stated the Parish Council had raised all the issues mentioned within its objection to the expansion of the school.

63.1.21 There were comments about no school being built on Blythe Valley, as it would not be profitable. There not being enough children for a 2-form entry school and about people coming to the school, from other areas.

63.1.22 Cllr. Heslington said the numbers were increasing; Y1 had taken on another Teacher, pupil numbers had gone from 16-17 to 20-21, children were coming from the new development on the Stratford Road, as well as families from Hong Kong.

63.1.23 Cllr. Coles reiterated the Parish Council had argued all the points raised within its objection to the school expansion.

63.1.24 Cllr. Green said he would urge people to contact their neighbours, the more people that wrote individually, rather than collectively, the better.

63.1.25 It was stated people complaining on the Only Way is Cheswick, would not do anything, people needed to contact SMBC.

63.1.26 It was stated the letter and map that had been sent to residents, did not provide any information about the length the lines would be.

63.1.27 It was queried whether SMBC would take any notice and stated most people in Beechwood Close had sent letters/emails.

63.1.28 Many of the comments already made were reiterated. It was pointed out that the spaces provided for staff at the school, were rarely used because it was double/tandem parking. It was stated some teachers parked on Foxland Close and Glenwood Drive for the whole day.

63.1.29 It was again queried why the field at the back of the school was not used. Cllr. Coles said this had never been part of the plan, residents could put this suggestion forward, but they would lose greenbelt for a car park.

63.1.30 It was pointed out the land could be valuable for the future. It was suggested this area could be for drop off and pick up only. At 19:25 Cllr. Swain said they needed to move on.

64. To resolve to accept the Minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 13th June 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.

65. 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 June 2024 | £786.89 |
| M. Zizzi | Instant ink | £11.99 |
| HMRC | Under payment | £124.39 |

More in confidential section.

Petty cash £84.35

To approve a transfer of £2000 from the UTB savings account to the UTB current account.

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

65.1 Quotes to replace/repair the steps at the Mount had been circulated to all Cllrs. It was agreed to accept the Countrywide Grounds Maintenance quote.

65.2 A quote to reduce trees at the Mount was noted. Cllr. Smith had suggested the Parish Council asked for a quote for trees to be reduced on Saxon Wood Road, then the work at the Mount and Saxon Wood Road could be carried out at the same time. Cllr. Swain asked the Clerk to look at the tree report to see what this stated.

66. To receive quarterly comparison (budget/actual expenditure April-June 2024) and bank reconciliation (*issued to Parish Cllrs. with the agenda*).

66.1 There were no comments.

67. To discuss Financial Regulations.

67.1 Cllr. Swain said the new model financial regulations circulated had some typos, these were being corrected, they would wait to receive the updated version before reviewing these.

68. To discuss the car park.

68.1 Three quotes had been received; a map of the car park was shown. The quotes were 1) in relation to repairing part the Parish Council and the Carver family owned, 2) a larger area the Parish Council and the Carver family owned and 3) the whole car park including the parts the brewery owned.

68.1.1 Cllr. Coles said if the car park went into the winter, in the state it was currently in, it would get worse. He suggested contacting the other owners and providing them with a timeline to respond by.

Action item: Cllr. Coles to obtain a few more quotes.

68.2 Cllr. Coles said in relation to CCTV, he was waiting to meet with someone from the company. It was queried what area the CCTV would cover; Cllr. Coles said they could have a full 360-degree views. It was noted the cost was in the region of £10k.

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

PL/2024/01173/MINFHO- 56 Coppice Walk Cheswick Green Solihull B90 4HZ; Two storey side extension and single storey rear extension. New 1.8m garden fence and gate to rear garden behind new 1m high garden wall to back of footpath. Extended driveway for additional parking.

69.1 Comments made by Cllr. Smith were noted. It was agreed there were no comments in relation to this application.

69.2 In relation to Cheswick Place; It was noted a photograph had been sent to SMBC, showing that it was not possible to see the bridge.

69.2.1 It was stated what was growing in the swales was ridiculous.

69.2.2 Cllr. Swain said the Parish Council had contacted SMBC, Bloor Homes, the River Authority/EA, they were just going round in circles with this, he said he would draft something to sent to all these groups.

69.3 There were no comments about Blythe Valley, however it was stated there were proposals to build 1500 dwellings on Dog Kennel Lane, with a school, as well as proposals for the Stratford Road. Cllr. Swain said SMBC had approved a proposal for a 48-bedroom extension to the Village Hotel, this would result in more cars and traffic.

69.3.1 There were comments about the Plough and The Barn becoming hotels. It was pointed out the Plough had made three planning applications to extend, which the Parish Council had objected to. It was stated the Plough was still serving food to hotel guests.

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

70.1 Cllr. Gosling had circulated an email which was a draft message to send to CityFibre's CEO. Cllr. Gosling said the CityFibre exchange was nearby, it was to try and offer residents more choice.

70.1.1 Cllr Heslington said in 30 years she had never had a problem with her Virgin Media service; however recently about 4-6 weeks ago she had no service, no internet and no TV. Virgin kept sending the wrong team/people to sort this out, then they had installed the wrong terminals. It was sorted out now. Cllr Brotherton said she had never had a single problem with her Virgin service.

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

71.1 Cllr. Swain said for the 80th anniversary of D-Day event, the Parish Council had given £100 and the VHMC had contributed £109. It has been a successful morning; a couple of residents had donated a bottle of Calvados. Cllr. Brotherton said it had looked like a lovely event.

71.2 It was noted the Village Hall would be closed from 22nd July until 2nd August for redecoration.

71.3 The VHMC was meeting next Wednesday.

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

72.1 This had been covered when the quotes had been considered.

Action item: Clerk to ask Countrywide Grounds Maintenance to remove the old wreaths and the moss, to tidy up the Boer War Memorial area.

73. To discuss CGPC noticeboards.

73.1 It was noted at the previous meeting it had been stated, a blow torch could be used to clear the Perspex. It was suggested this was tried out, on a small area of one of the noticeboards.

73.2 In relation to the noticeboard outside the Village Hall, it was agreed to look at purchasing one from a clearance sale the Clerk had circulated, with a magnetic background, costing £400.

74. To discuss whether to submit a motion to NALC, in relation to co-opted Councillors being able to receive members allowances.

74.1 Cllr. Swain explained that currently only elected members could receive an allowance, co-opted Cllrs. could not. He said it was only a small allowance, he asked what people thought.

74.2 It was stated it was unfair, all Cllrs. put in a lot of time, the allowance was only to help with things like members use of paper/ink/telephone calls. It was stated this would not be accepted anywhere else.

74.3 It was unanimously agreed a motion should be put forward, to enable co-opted members to receive the same allowance as elected members.

75. To discuss issues raised with SMBC and the speed sign.

75.1 There were various comments about the speed sign; some felt people did not pay any attention to it, others felt it was a bit of a deterrent.

75.2 It was stated no penalty fines were issued as a result of the speed sign; it was meant to show a green smiley face if drivers were at the correct speed. Cllr. Brotherton said she had never seen this. It was pointed out it recorded speeds vehicles travelled at, one vehicle had been driving at 80 mph on Creynolds Lane.

75.3 It was noted it cost roughly £550 per quarter, this was for SMBC to rotate it every 4-weeks and check it was in working order.

75.4 There were comments about the importance of road safety. There were mixed feelings about whether or not to continue with the speed sign. It was stated the Parish Council should not carry on with this. It was queried where the sign was currently.

75.5 It was stated Tidbury Green Parish Council had a speed sign now. There were comments about Fulford Heath Road and Lady Lane, as well as the road through Tidbury Green needing work.

76. To discuss CGPCs Action Plan.

76.1 Noted, nothing had changed since last month.

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

77.1 An email from Ron Bailey, researcher for Lord Don Foster, who is campaigning on the safety of lithium-ion batteries, e-bikes/scooters and their disposal, was noted; It was a request for support. It was agreed CGPC would support this.

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

78. It was stated the PC had agreed to hold a craft fayre on Sunday 24th November 2024 from 12 noon, before having the Christmas tree lights switched on Sunday 8th December at 5pm followed by a disco in the Village Hall at 530pm.

79. Agenda items for next meeting.

79.1 Christmas – fayre/lights/party.

80. 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.

80.1 There was nothing further to discuss.

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

81.1 There was nothing further to discuss.

82. PAYE, payroll and Pension Scheme.

82.1 In confidential section of the minutes.

Meeting closed 8:40pm

Signed

Dated