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CHESWICK GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Thursday 12th September 2024 7pm Cheswick Green Village Hall

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

Clerk: Marie Zizzi 7 members of the public (including Borough Cllr. Keith Green)

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

83.1 Apologies were received from Cllr. Heslington.

83.2 It was noted Cllr. Brotherton had resigned, a casual vacancy needed to be advertised.

84. Declarations of Interest/Dispensations.

84.1 There were none.

85. Public Participation (15 Minutes).

85.1 A resident said part of the guttering on the Village Hall roof was leaking/pouring water out on the corner. Cllr. Swain said he would get this looked at.

85.2 Mr. James Butler former Borough Cllr. was present, it was noted he had stood down for the May 2024 elections. He said he had lived in Blythe Valley (BV), for a couple of years, there were many issues. He said they were looking at forming a Residents Association (RA), they wanted to talk to the Parish Council and to work together.

85.2.1 There were comments; about the expansion of the dentist, it was stated the Parish Council was aware of this, it had objected to it. It was queried whether SMBC had approved this, it was though it was going through consultation. There were comments about parking issues.

85.2.2 It was stated there was antisocial behaviour/criminality taking place on BV. There were comments about an issue involving a local farm, this becoming a huge police incident, which needed to be tackled, for matters to move forward. It was stated a small group of residents had helped to resolve this, what was taking place was serious. Drugs were the bottom rung, there were fires and burning.

85.2.3 There were comments about a letter SMBC had sent to residents in relation to this. It was pointed out Environmental Health (EA), had turned up. The outcome had resulted in an abatement notice being issued. It was stated the occupiers of the farm had threatened to kill people.

85.2.4 It was stated commercial waste was being burnt/buried, 6-7 police riot vans had also been present.

85.2.5 A Parish Cllr. said no burning had taken place last night, however last Monday they had seen a van with garden waste. They said it was quite tidy, but it still appeared waste was being delivered, which was potentially very dangerous.

85.2.6 There were comments about the road from Wedges Bakery being very narrow and about it being blocked by a car and a van.

85.2.7 It was queried whether what had been burnt was garden waste; it was stated it was tyres/lots of sofas and furniture. It was stated a local farmer burnt animal waste, which was horrendous as it stank. This had stopped for a while, then started again, as it could be smelt the other week.

85.2.8 A resident from BV spoke about there being a professional air quality monitor set up; in relation to monitoring 0-50 was okay, about 50 was a problem, above 100 was an issue, the baseline was 8; two weeks prior to the police attending it had been 170. It was stated you did not need to smell it for it to be a problem.

82.2.9 It was stated there were 21 days to Appeal the notice; there were comments about applying for a permit and there being no faith in the EA.

82.2.10 There were comments about BVRA and the PC joining together, to put an objection forward; as residents did not need this on their doorstep.

82.2.11 In relation to the antisocial behaviour, it was noted CG had a Street Watch Group; the PCSO went out with the group, it was suggested to possibly run one in BV. A Parish Cllr. referred to problems with drugs on the Recreation Ground, they said since Street Watch, this had lessened.

82.2.12 It was stated there were certain road causing issues, the level of antisocial behaviour was burning bottles being thrown at cars. It was noted residents had tried speaking with Housing Associations (Bromford); as a lot of people had spend a great deal of money on their properties in BV. It was agreed it was worth having a conversation about Street Watch.

82.2.13 It was stated speeding was horrendous at BV; it was noted CGPC had a speed sign, which was rotated on a 4-weekly basis.

82.2.14 A BV resident said one problem with BV was due to planning errors, it was used as a cut through, as there were 2 ways in/out with one main road through BV, it was used to get to the Business Park and Virgin Active. Satnavs took people via this route, there were dead-end signs on roads, which had been put there by the developers, the roads were not adopted, there was no traffic calming. There was a brilliant solution, the bus exit from BV had a big, wide road, 2-way traffic could be used, this would be a simple fix at no cost. It was stated this had been muted in the past, as a paper-based exercise, before the site had been developed.

82.2.15 There were comments about Box Trees island over the motorway and a massive junction, to open this would solve the issues.

82.2.16 It was reiterated that the PC had a speed sign detector, which could be moved. It was agreed to contact SMBC to make enquiries about this. It was queried where would be the best place to locate this and for the BV residents to find out lamppost numbers. It was stated speed limits were not enforceable, as the site was not adopted. BV residents were asked to send the Clerk a photograph of where they would like the speed sign installed. It was stated IM Properties owned the gate; it was felt this would not be an issue.

82.2.17 There were comments about Winterton Farm/BV and a right of way, which had been filled in, it was impossible to walk through, however the PC had been told a new footpath by IM Properties was to be installed. It was stated the footpath had been cleared by a bulldozer, the whole walkway had been cleared.

82.2.18 It was suggested to look at having a multiagency approach; it was noted a SBMC Assistant Directors PA had been in contact with the PC, regarding setting up a meeting; it was agreed to look at expanding this, to possibly include representatives from BV.

82.2.19 A resident from BV asked if the PC could possibly consider funding a defibrillator for BV, to look at this being installed by the Co-op. It was noted the PC had offered to purchase a defibrillator for Illshaw Heath, however Illshaw Heath RA had managed to obtain one, which was still due to be installed at Wedges Bakery.

82.2.20 It was noted there was a vacancy on the PC, if no election was called, it was suggested someone from BV could be co-opted. It was pointed out Cheswick Green was the nearest polling station for BV residents.

82.2.21 Cllr. Swain said a couple of BV residents had asked why they were paying the Parish Precept; he said the PC was happy to do what it could for BV; he was thanked for this. It was stated there were 1500-2000 people on BV; this could account for half of the Precept, or just under 50%.

82.2.22 It was queried whether the PC could arrange for Christmas lights for BV. It was stated the PC was aware that these were very, very expensive. It was noted the PC had a new set of lights for 2024, therefore its old set was going to be spare. It was stated residents of BV did not think they were getting anything from the PC; Christmas lights would be something visible. There were comments about where they could be located and the need for power, possibly provided by the site developers.

82.2.23 Cllr. Swain said the PC had received Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds, it had enquired if money could be set aside for BV; however, the PC had spent these funds now, on new equipment for the children, on the Recreation Ground.

82.2.24 Cllr. Coles spoke about trying to join the BV Facebook page; he said the PC had not been accepted, as no-one knew anyone from BV.

82.2.25 Cllr. Gosling said quite a lot of the Precept was used for grounds maintenance on land the PC owned and other costs such as the Clerk.

82.2.26 It was pointed out residents of BV also paid a service charge.

82.2.27 Cllr. Swain said CGPCs Precept was the second lowest in the Borough, out of 16 Parish/Town Councils.

82.2.28 A BV resident said the green area around BV was incredible, he referred to the football areas; he said the residents had to pay £250-£270 each multiplied by 700 properties; however the area was open to anyone, it was frustrating, especially when places were being vandalised. There were comments about this not being the same people as the Science Park; it was Encore, which would be handed over to a private company or BV could set up a company or the PC could set up a company to take responsibility.

82.2.29 It was stated BV residents currently paid three organisations for grounds maintenance, they paid SMBC, the PC Precept and a service charge. It was stated residents would probably rather pay the PC to do the grounds maintenance, this would be £250 x 700.

82.2.30 In relation to Facebook, Cllr. Coles said he would try again on behalf of the PC; it was stated it was strange as BV Facebook appeared to let anyone/everyone join.

82.2.31 There were more comments about Christmas lights; finding a location and obtaining costs, it was queried whether there was a tree that could be used. It was suggested to use a corner, on a bend where people charge their cars/vehicles. It was stated the PC usually had Shirley Round Tables Father Christmas involved with the Christmas tree lights switch on, followed by a party in the Village Hall, everyone was welcome. Residents were informed the PC was holding a Christmas Craft Fayre on Sunday 24th November in the Village Hall. The Christmas tree lights event was taking place on Sunday 8th December.

At 19:40 the public participation section was closed.

86. To resolve to accept the Minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 11th July 2024 (*circulated to Parish Cllrs. with the agenda*).

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

87. 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	Total
Countrywide Grounds Maintenance July 2024	£786.89
M. Zizzi (instant ink)	£11.99
Countrywide GM - fill potholes on car park	£795.95
Countrywide GM - Repair steps at the Mount	£1157.98
Countywide GM - remove fly tipped waste	£72.00
Vision ICT - hosted email acc. Oct 2024-Sep 2025	£48.00
DM Payroll Services Ltd. April-Sept 2024	£90.00
Countrywide Grounds Maintenance Aug 2024	£786.89
M. Zizzi (instant ink)	£11.99
Noticeboards online 2 x boards, removal/install	£1778.40
Moore - external auditor's review AGAR	£504.00
More in confidential section.	
Petty cash £62.20	

It was agreed to transfer £25,000 from the UTB current account into the savings account

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

88. To discuss the car park/resurfacing.

88.1 It was noted several quotes had been obtained by the PC, including a recent one from the company that had carried out some work on trees, on PC owned land. It was agreed until the PC had a definitive answer from the owner of the shops, it could not move forward with this.

88.1.1 Residents from BV offered to provide company contact details/information for others that could quote for the car park. A resident from BV said SMBC had the power, if the

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organisations who were responsible for the car park could not reach an agreement collectively, to carry out the work and charge the owners.

88.2 There were comments about abandoned cars on the car park. A BV resident said it was easy to get rid of these; they referred to the Refuse Disposal Amenity Act 1978. There were comments about serving an abandoned vehicles order. It was stated SMBC had told the PC it could do nothing, as the car park was private land. There were more comments about vehicles left/abandoned on the car park.

89. To discuss applying for CIL.

89.1 It was stated the PC could not apply for the CIL available for Blythe. It was suggested that a RA could apply. A BV resident spoke about development in Blythe/CG which affected these areas, but the CIL being for the Shirley South area. It was stated applications for the current pot of CIL had to be submitted by 1st November 2024.

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

PL/2024/01381/MINFHO - 260 Creynolds Lane Cheswick Green Solihull B90 4ET; Part ground floor extension to existing garage and first floor extension above to include side dormer (re-submission of PL/2023/00420/MINFHO).

PL/2024/01659/MINFHO - 26 Boscobel Road Cheswick Green Solihull B90 4JY; Single storey rear/side extension and new pitched roof to garage and porch.

PL/2024/01620/MINFHO - 224 Creynolds Lane Cheswick Green Solihull B90 4ET; Ground floor rear extension to form a bedroom and reroofing of front porch.

90.1 The above three applications had been received after the July PC meeting, during the August recess; by email members had confirmed they had no comments; the Clerk had submitted this via the SMBC planning portal, before the deadline to respond dates.

90.2 In relation to Cheswick Place; it was stated the tops of the swales had been hacked but nothing had been done in relation to the brook; it was stated Cheswick Place had been there for about 5 years now, but it was not all adopted by SMBC; overgrowth was getting bigger and bigger, but nothing was being done.

90.3 In relation to BV; there were comments about the change of use for a salon, empty units, a tanning shop, food/café facility; it was stated a change of use could be for anything. There were comments about a dental school and problems with parking for staff and those coming to be trained; it was stated units should be for local use, not for outsiders to come in to use. There were comments about Dickens Heath being sorted out now, as parking on pavements had been banned. It was noted there were more parking restrictions due for CG. A resident of BV referred to muted support/signatories, if needed. Cllr. Smith spoke about 'Fix my Street' and asking for drains that were full of plants to be cleared, she said a few days later this had been done.

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

91.1 Cllrs. Gosling and Smith had attended a meeting on Monday in Dickens Heath (DH), regarding a planning application, there was a programme for people to object. A representative from CPRE (Campaign for the Protection of Rural England), had been present; they had spoken about BL2 being an application from Wimpey, but it was not it was from Richborough Estates. 1000 houses would affect DH. DH did not want football pitches. BV had been raised as there was no school or doctors/medical facilities, children were expected to come to CG.

91.1.1 Cllr. Gosling spoke about Creynolds Lane being very dangerous, she said it was used as a cut-through from Redditch to Solihull. Cars went too fast 40-mph and 80-mph; drivers took no notice of the speed camera, the markings on the road were still 40-mph, there were problems at the traffic lights onto the Stratford Road, people jumped these lights.

91.1.2 It was stated in SMBCs Local Plan, nothing had been included about traffic. CG had been described as an island in a sea of traffic, junctions were very dangerous.

91.1.3 A BV resident said BV was also an island in a sea of traffic, but people just drove over BV.

91.1.4 Cllr. Swain referred to 3-4 developments, he said all the building work was in the first 5 years; he referred to the furthest away site being full of football pitches and the need to find where to build elsewhere, he spoke about proposals for at the back of the school.

91.1.5 There were comments about 2 derelict properties on Creynolds Lane, it was possible they had been sold to SMBC. It was stated this area could be used as an access/egress point.

91.1.6 There were further comments about football pitches, in relation to floodlights, stadiums and noise.

91.2 The Clerk said she had a meeting with WALC on Wednesday 18th September, to look at putting forward a motion to ask NALC to progress sorting out that co-opted Cllrs. could receive the same allowance as elected members.

91.3 It was noted Remembrance Sunday was on 10th November; it was agreed to get the poppy waterfall installed on Monday 21st October 2024; Cllr. Coles said the Boys Brigade would be involved. It was noted the new Head Teacher for CG Primary School, had contacted the PC to arrange to meet. It was suggested he was asked if the school wanted to be involved in the PC Remembrance Service. It was also suggested the lady who ran the Community Café was asked; there would be refreshments in the Village Hall afterwards. Note at 2012pm a couple of residents left the meeting.

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

92.1 The VH accounts, with the Treasurers and the Chairmans report had been circulated to members of the PC, along with the current timetable.

92.2 Cllr. Swain said the hall had been redecorated and new curtains were in place.

92.3 Cllr. Smith enquired if there could be a new kitchen. There were comments about whether to have a dish washer or not.

92.4 It was noted the VHMC AGM was on Wednesday 25th September at 8pm.

92.5 An update from Cllr. Heslington, who is also the VH Booking Clerk was noted; there would be two new classes this Autumn, Pilates class 10:30 Mondays in addition to the 11:30 class and baby massage was to return on a Wednesday 9-1pm; the Youth Club was set to return on Friday 13th September, on the second Friday of each month, however it had been cancelled again, due to there not being enough volunteers, this was going to be discussed in the near future, as to whether the timetable would be open to them, preventing other bookings, should this situation continue.

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

93.1 Cllr. Smith referred to a resident she had spoken to of Coppice Walk, who was taking photographs of a tree that had been cut down; this resident was complaining about trees overhanging their garden, they had cut the tree down and left the branches within the fenced area, their friend was going to come and cut it up to take it away. The resident said it did not seem to be anyone's responsibility anymore, SMBC did not even come and prune them. Cllr. Smith told the resident she was from the PC and asked the resident to email the PC, so the PC could pass this on to SMBC. The resident was also complaining about Watery Lane which looks horrendous.

93.1.2 Cllr. Smith said chippings from the trees being cut would be used at the Mount.

93.2 Cllr. Gosling had spoken to someone about the deadwood on trees on Saxon Wood Road by the garages, this was okay for now.

93.3 Cllr. Smith said at the back of the school/the Mount, where Forest School took place, there was a padlock/key; she said the company cutting the trees could not get the machine in, to shred the wood from the cuttings. Cllr. Coles agreed to make enquires about this.

94. To discuss grounds maintenance contract.

94.1 Cllr. Swain said the current agreement was due to expire on 31st March 2025; he asked the Clerk to look at the existing specification. He asked members of the PC if they were in agreement, to extend the existing arrangement for another 2 years, it was unanimously agreed to do this, should the company carrying out this be willing to continue.

95. To discuss Christmas – fayre/lights/party.

95.1 It was noted there were currently 15 applicants for a table at the craft fayre so far. In relation to the food truck selling waffles etc. a form had been completed confirming they would pay £10; it was suggested a percentage of the profits, or a pitch fee could be agreed, as this was a modified ice cream van, which would be taking up space on the car park. It was agreed to bear this in mind for next time.

95.1.1 It was noted the Village Hall would need to have the Christmas decorations in place before the craft fayre.

95.2 It was noted the Christmas tree lights switch on was booked with SMBC for Sunday 8th December 2024 at 5-530pm; followed by a party/disco in the Village Hall.

Action item: Clerk to contact Shirley Round Table regarding Father Christmas, to request the sleigh is parked on the car park rather than in the bus stop.

96. To discuss CGPC mobile phone/broadband/landline and existing BT contract due to expire November 2024.

96.1 Cllr. Smith said BT was doing away with landlines, letters had been sent to homeowners. She referred to Wavenet and BV contracts, it was stated these were still via BT.

96.2 Cllr. Gosling said she was waiting to hear from CityFibre, she suggested the best route would be via Virgin.

96.3 It was stated the PC did not need a landline; Broadband could be provided by Virgin. It was stated the PC needed a new mobile phone, perhaps one from Tesco. There were comments about purchasing a handset and having a pay as you go service. It was suggested to ask Virgin for a quote. It was noted the Village Hall needed to provide Wi-Fi for its users.

97. To discuss CGPC noticeboards.

97.1 It was stated the noticeboard outside the PO needed replacing, the existing legs were okay. There were comments about the type of board to purchase.

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

98.1 SMBC had been contacted regarding the footpath at Winterton Farm and in relation to the two derelict properties on Creynolds Lane; there had not been any reply on either matter to date.

99. To discuss CGPCs Action Plan.

99.1 Noted, nothing had changed since last month.

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

100.1 It was noted the new Head Teacher from CG Primary school had contacted the PC regarding setting up a meeting; it was reiterated to invite the school to be involved with the PCs Remembrance Service.

100.2 An email from a PA to one of the Assistant Directors at SMBC was noted, also in relation to setting up a meeting, to look at a Partnership Plan; it was agreed members of the PC were happy to meet and to also discuss issues at BV.

100.3 An email from the PCs payroll provider, with changes and terms and conditions was noted; it was agreed the Clerk could sign and return this.

100.4 An email from Cllr. Smith about registering the PCs CCTV was noted; it was agreed not to do this as the PC was looking to upgrade its CCTV provision. There were comments about having new cameras, existing kit/new kit and a monitoring station provision.

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

101. Noted.

102. Agenda items for next meeting.

102. None were put forward.

103. 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.

Resolved; Cllr. Swain proposed members of the public were asked to withdraw from the meeting, at 20:55.

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

104.1 There were no matters to be discussed.

105. To discuss insurance claim.

105.1 In confidential section of the minutes.

106. PAYE, payroll and Pension Scheme.

106.1 In confidential section of the minutes.

Meeting closed 20:55pm

Signed Dated