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CHESWICK GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Thursday 10th October 2024 7pm Cheswick Green Village Hall

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

Clerk: Marie Zizzi

4 members of the public

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

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

108. Declarations of Interest/Dispensations.

108.1 There were none.

109. Public Participation (15 Minutes).

109.1 A member of the public referred to tarmac and CCTV. They said the speed sign on Creynolds Lane was not working properly; others had seen it working.

109.2 A resident from Blythe Valley (BV); referred to the previous meeting, with suggestions about the barrier at the Business Park had been mentioned. It was felt Borough Cllr. Keith Green was going to take this forward, rather than the Parish Council (PC).

110. To resolve to accept the Minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 12th September 2024 (circulated to Parish Cllrs. with the agenda).

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

111. 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 Sep 2024	£786.89
M. Zizzi (instant ink)	£11.99
M. Zizzi (reimbursement for mobile phone/charger/cover/screen protector)	£146.97
M. Zizzi (reimbursement for 2 x poppy wreaths & donation to RBL)	£100.00
More in confidential section.	
Petty cash £62.20	

Transfer £1365.63 from the UTB savings account into the current account

Resolved: proposed Cllr. Heslington, seconded Cllr. Coles – all payments were approved.

112. To receive quarterly comparison (budget/actual expenditure April-September 2024) and bank reconciliation (circulated to Parish Cllrs. with the agenda).

112.1 Cllr. Swain said they were halfway through the financial year, and everything was in line.

113. To discuss the car park/resurfacing.

113.1 It was noted the Managing Agent for the owners of the shops, had obtained a quote to repair parts of the car park they were responsible for. The Parish Council was being totally ignored by the brewery. Cllr. Heslington had spoken to Mr. Carver and agreed to contact him for an update.

114. To consider planning applications (sent separately by email) and local development including Cheswick Place and Blythe Valley, including adoption by SMBC.

114.1 There were no planning applications.

114.2 In relation to Cheswick Place; Cllr. Gosling said nothing further had been done and it had been flooded.

114.3 In relation to Blythe Valley (BV); It was noted the Parish Council was unable to progress providing Christmas tree lights or the speed sign, until Solihull MBC had adopted the site.

114.3.1 It was noted a member of BV RA had managed to obtain a Christmas tree, free of charge, the issue was finding a power source for lights and having a risk assessment. It was stated it was too late, to sort this out for this year.

114.3.2 In relation to the speed sign, a lamppost on Kineton Lane had been suggested, which Solihull MBC was responsible for (No. 2/3). It was noted Cllr. Smith was dealing with this.

114.3.3 There were comments about the antisocial behaviour taking place on BV; it was queried whether Solihull MBC/the police were doing anything about this. It was stated a meeting had been held, Borough Cllr. Keith Green had attended, reps from IM Properties had attended, however, no-one from the police had turned up.

114.3.3.1 It was stated the antisocial behaviour included stealing from the Co-op, a group of youths cycling their bikes in front of cars and smashing bottles, as well as other things. Some examples were given.

114.3.3.2 Cllr. Swain spoke about antisocial behaviour taking place in Tidbury Green; it was stated drug dealing was taking place, someone had told the police where this was happening; there had been a police raid, drugs and guns had been found at the location. Someone had told people involved, who had informed the police. A person had almost been kicked to death and it turned out it was the wrong family, that had been attacked.

114.3.3.3 There were comments about CG Street Watch; Cllr. Coles explained there was a video to watch, BV needed to find volunteers, to obtain the names of people who wanted to be involved, as there was a person that could co-ordinate this. He said the police went out with groups; volunteers wore high visibility jackets. Having Street Watch did increase having a police presence. Volunteers just walked around the area; they did not engage with people. It was stated it could just be for 2 hours a month; the group would keep a log. It was up to the Street Watch group how often and how long and when they did this. There were comments about boys on bikes and the darker nights.

114.4 In relation to BVRA request for the PC to provide a defibrillator; it had been discovered there was one at Virgin Active, which was open from 6-10 Monday to Friday and 7-8 Saturdays/Sundays. There was also one at One Central Boulevard, behind the reception, they had trained staff, who would go out with it if necessary. They were open 730-530 Monday to Friday.

114.4.1 There was also one at Blythe Rose (a dementia home). The entrance was at the back of the building, a member of BVRA had visited the home; they said the front was lovely; when they had walked into the building there was no-one there, there was a doorbell and a screen; they had entered a very plush area; they had asked if there was a defibrillator, but it was not readily available for 24 hours.

114.4.2 It was noted the PC would assist with providing a defibrillator, the location suggested was the Co-op, however there were concerns it would be vandalised. It was noted there were several different types of defibrillators. Cllr. Coles went outside and brought back the PCs defibrillator, to show how it worked. There were comments about training and having a cabinet.

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

115.1 Cllr. Swain referred to the bins outside the shops; he said recently they had only been emptied on a Tuesday for two weeks, they were overflowing. He had contacted Solihull MBC, as he understood they should be emptied on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. He had received a reply stating the contract had not been changed; there had been a change in pattern/employees, which was why this may have occurred, on these two occasions. It was stated when people from Street Watch had been out on Monday night, the bins had been emptied.

115.2 Cllr. Swain referred to emails about Winterton Farm; he said fires had taken place on Saturday at 215; a resident from BV said there had been something about this on BV What's

App group; early on Monday fires were burning. Solihull MBC had been emailed and replied that action would be taken, this would be dealt with.

115.3 It was noted a member of BVRA, who had been present at the previous PC meeting, had spoken about the Refuse Disposal Amenity Act 1978, in relation to the car park. Cllr. Swain had spoken to someone at Solihull MBC about this; he had been asked to send an email with details, which he had done but no reply had been received. Cllr. Swain said he had looked at the Act, he did not think the PC could use it, he would follow up on this.

115.4 At the previous meeting there had been comments about the two derelict properties on Creynolds Lane. The Clerk had made enquiries with Solihull MBC, it had been confirmed Solihull MBC had not obtained these properties by compulsory purchase.

115.5 Cllr. Swain said he had contacted Solihull MBC, in relation to the condition of fencing along Watery Lane. This had been ongoing for the last five years. Some parts had been renewed and other parts had not. He explained some background/history in relation to this fence, a car going through part of the fence 5-years ago, temporary barriers being installed; parts that were rotten, which could be pushed over. He said Solihull MBC had previously stated, the fence needed to be inspected, and vegetation needed to be removed prior to renewal. He added that 2 years ago, he had been informed Solihull MBC's contractor had 12 months to carry out these works. Cllr. Swain said he had received a reply from Solihull MBC, because of this he, with Cllr. Heslington had met with representatives of Solihull MBC on Friday 20th September to look at the fencing. 14 areas had been marked, where renewal was required. The representatives were going to look at what funding was available and come back to him about this. He said he had requested that if the works needed to be phased over more than one financial year, a mechanism was put in place to ensure the works were undertaken without the need for him to contact Solihull MBC about this again.

115.5.1 Cllr. Swain said the Clerk had reported fly tipping in two areas along Watery Lane, which still had not been removed. It was vegetation, which had been dumped by a resident, who had requested overhanging bushes and trees were cut, they had not received any reply. The resident had therefore carried the work themselves. The PC had also contact Solihull MBC requesting cutting back was required in this location, but nothing had been done.

115.5.2 Cllr. Swain said Vicarage Road, Watery Lane and Tanworth Lane all had debris and litter, which was never removed, as well as overgrown vegetation obstructing residents. He had asked if Solihull MBC maintained these areas.

115.6 Cllr. Coles said on Saturday he had stopped two kids with spades, making a bike jump on the Recreation Ground, behind the Youth Shelter. They had dug a foot deep hole and were using it as a bike track. He had received a message from a resident, enquiring if there were any plans to make this a permanent fixture. It was stated the PC needed to keep an eye on this and pointed out there was a purpose built one at BV.

115.7 Cllr. Heslington said this morning on Creynolds Lane, she had seen three people in high visibility jackets, who looked like they were talking about the area behind the school. There had been 2-3 cars parked.

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

116.1 There were comments about the VHMC AGM, no-one had attended. It was stated no invites had been sent out. Cllr. Coles said he had not known about it. It was stated people were invited via social media and that the AGM was not for hall users, there was to be a separate meeting for users.

116.1.1 Cllr. Heslington said users had been asked to let her know if there were any issues, she would take these to the VHMC. Cllr. Heslington explained that she was the Booking Clerk for the VH.

116.2 Cllr. Coles said 2 or 3 of the small tables were getting dangerous, they needed replacing, there were no rubber feet, and they were wobbly. It was noted a visual check was carried out on the tables, but they were not put up.

116.3 Cllr. Swain said there had not been any applicants for the VHMC, therefore the VHMC had no choice, but to re-elect each other. It was queried how this had been advertised.

116.4 There was a discussion about insurance for the VH; it was stated the VHMC only insured the contents, the PC needed to insure the building for fire/flooding etc.

116.5 It was noted the Community Café had £575.57 cash, that sometimes 30 people or more attended. The VHMC had needed to purchase extra mugs. It was stated it had been running for 12 months now, there was to be a Christmas/birthday party for this. Cllr. Coles

said this would be considered a formalised food business, as it was making a profit and serving food.

116.5.1 Cllr. Heslington said people gave a donation and it was only biscuits that were served. She referred to making enquiries with Solihull MBC, when the café had been set up, they had been told it was okay.

116.5.2 Cllr. Coles said it was making a profit now, not just covering overheads/costs; he referred to reinvesting the money into the community.

116.5.3 It was stated initially this had been Warm Hub, set up after Covid, it was a free session. However, it had continued, people gave a donation of £2 for as much tea/coffee and biscuits as they wanted. It was stated they could have applied for a grant, however this involved attending training sessions etc.

116.5.4 It was pointed out someone was opening a café in CG, this person would be paying rates etc. There could be a need for the Community Cafes accounts to be audited. It was noted the VHM paid subsidised rates at 50%.

116.5.5 Cllr. Coles suggested the costs were assessed and people were charged accordingly. Cllr. Heslington said they never knew how many people would turn up; the hall was paid for at £7.50 an hour.

116.5.6 It was suggested the funds could be used for new kitchen worktops for the Village Hall (VH). Cllr. Swain said the funds could not be spent on the VH, as these funds were a separate entity. It was suggested the funds could be given to charity.

116.5.7 Cllr. Heslington said it would be a shame not to keep it going, friendship groups had been formed and it was mainly people who lived on their own, who attended. It was suggested a trip was organised.

116.6 Cllr. Heslington said the Youth Club was abandoned, many of the kids were hanging around in Dickens Heath now. A Youth Club was being set up in DH with Solihull MBC. She said some of the items the Youth Club owned could be given to the Boys Brigade.

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

117.1 Cllr. Swain spoke about the land opposite the Post Box, a tree stump children played on, had been removed. It was stated the Cherry Picker could not access the area without removing it.

117.2 Cllr. Coles said there were a lot of leaves on the Village Green.

117.3 There was a discussion about fireworks; it was stated it was a public offence to explode fireworks, there were concerns about the Recreation Ground and residents living close being upset, as well as their children and pets. It was agreed to put a notice on PC boards and social media, asking people not to use any fireworks.

118. To discuss grounds maintenance contract.

118.1 The existing contract was due to expire on 31st March 2025; the grounds maintenance company had been asked to provide a cost to continue for an additional two years, this had been circulated to all Cllrs. Everyone was more than happy to extend the existing agreement, for another two years.

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

119.1 Shirley Round Table had confirmed CG had been added to its timetable for Sunday 8th December at 530pm, for Father Christmas, to attend. It was noted it had been requested the sleigh is parked on the car park, rather than in the bus stop. An area would be cordoned off.

119.2 Cllr. Coles said everyone was welcome to attend; it was queried how many children could be at the Disco. Cllr. Coles said 50 children and the DJ; he said they had never reached 50 so far. It was noted the Christmas lights would be switched on before the Disco.

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

120.1 It was suggested to cancel BT and to go with Virgin/O2. There were comments about the need for Broadband/internet for the Village Hall. It was stated the hive required internet for the central heating.

120.2 It was felt no landline was needed for the PC; it was queried whether there would be any installation costs for Virgin. It was suggested the PC could use pay as you go; to contact Virgin and see what the cheapest deal was. Cllr. Coles agreed to do this.

121. To discuss CGPC noticeboards.

121.1 Two boards to replace the one outside the VH had been paid for, including removal/installation. A quote had been received to replace the one outside the PO, including removal/installation. It was suggested to get a replacement for the one on Saxon Wood Road at the same time. The Clerk needed the dimensions to send to the company for a further quote. It was hoped the company would remove/install this one for free.

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

122.1 These matters had already been covered.

123. To discuss CGPCs Action Plan.

123.1 Remembrance Sunday was discussed. It was suggested the Community Café funds could be donated to the Royal British Legion. It was noted 3-4 people would need to help with refreshments.

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

124.1 In relation to an email from Solihull MBC, regarding an EV Charger, it was felt CG was probably at the end of a long list.

124.2 An email about Christmas Circus performers was noted; it was agreed to ask for more information and costs.

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

125. Noted.

126. Agenda items for next meeting.

126. To discuss the RoSPA inspection report.

127. 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 20:40.

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

128.1 There were no matters to be discussed.

129. To discuss insurance claim.

129.1 In confidential section of the minutes.

130. PAYE, payroll and Pension Scheme.

130.1 In confidential section of the minutes.

Meeting closed 20:40pm

Signed

Dated