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RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday 6th March 2017 10:30am Cheswick Green Village Hall

Present:

Cheswick Green Parish Councillors: Brian Brown, Len Cresswell and Penny Phillips (RC Chair).

In attendance

Mr. Matthew Gardner, SMBC Neighbourhood Co-ordinator, Blythe

Clerk: Marie Zizzi

0 members of the Public

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

131.1 An apology was given for Cllr. Mick Swain and this was accepted.

132. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations.

132.1 None.

133. Public Participation.

133.1 Not applicable - no members of the public present.

134. To discuss any issues that relate to Solihull MBC. Mr. Matthew Gardner invited to participate.

134.1 In relation to the planter by the bus stop, Mr. Gardner said he hoped that this would be worked on this week. It was stated that this planter was full of a thick ivy type of plant and about 75% of this needed to be removed, that the small tree should be left, as well as some of this ivy type plant, to break up the concrete.

134.2 Mr. Gardner informed the committee that hedge work was due to take place by Spinney Drive/Foxland Close.

134.3 It was noted that a road sign for Cheswick Way had been ordered and Mr. Gardner said he would chase this up.

134.4 Mr. Gardner told the committee that his colleague Chris Barr, from the Streetcare team, had informed him that due to the bin on the Village Green being stolen/going missing, four times now, he was not in a position to replace it again. It was stated that it had only been removed twice and agreed that Cllr. Cresswell would contact Chris Barr directly in relation to this.

134.5 There were comments about how often bins were or should be emptied.

Action item: Mr. Gardner to send details to the Clerk regarding when collections were due to take place.

134.6 Mr. Gardner said his colleague, Sarah James was liaising with the school about the planters by the school.

134.7 There were comments about the footpath at the back of Saxon Wood Road, the right of way and debris that had been left there. Cllr. Phillips said it was tidier than before, a lot of branches had been cut, she referred to a wire fence with a gap in it along the river bank.

134.7.1 Cllr. Cresswell said that as the seasons changed, the gardens on the opposite side grew a lot of leylandii and this reduced the size of the footpath.

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134.7.2 Cllr. Phillips said that pampas grass cuttings and other cuttings had been dumped, it was possible this was from local residents.

Action item: Mr. Gardner to liaise with his colleague Dave Keaney, to investigate Saxon Wood Road.

134.8 There were comments about Ground Work and possible future funding, it was agreed that the Recreation Committee would recommend that the Full Council applied for this, for the Village Hall.

134.9 Mr. Gardner said he would be carrying out an inspection and looking at roads for pot holes etc. to get these fixed as soon as possible. He said Salter Street was due to be resurfaced. He said he would be in Cheswick Green on Wednesday, if anyone needed to see him.

134.10 There were comments about an area on Salter Street, where people parked to use the school and this being rebuilt. Mr. Gardner said that the anti-skids on Watery Lane junction had failed and needed to be re-done.

134.11 There were comments about the edges on Illshaw Heath Road not being very good and that one side was kerbed and the other was not. It was stated that there were some very bad pot holes on this road. Mr. Gardner said they were on the schedule to be done. It was stated that School Road was even worse, Mr. Gardner said this was also on the hit list to be done.

134.12 Mr. Gardner was thanked for attending and he left the meeting at 11am.

135. To resolve to accept the Minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 1st February 2017.

Resolved; all in favour; that these were accepted as a true and accurate record.

136.To discuss Grounds Maintenance Specification quotes April 2017-2019.

136.1 It was agreed – all in favour – to recommend to the Full Council to appoint Meadowfields Grounds Maintenance.

137. To discuss litter picking etc. outside the shops.

137.1 It was noted that according to the February bank statements, Arden Kitchens and the Vineyard had not paid any contributions to the scheme.

Action item: Cllr. Brown to liaise with these shops.

137.2 It was stated that since the new offer had been sent out, only the Pharmacy had returned the form, to agree to sign up to the scheme.

137.3 It was decided that unless all 6 shops signed up to the scheme, to recommend to the Full Council, that the scheme ceased at the end of March 2017.

137.4 There were comments about what the shop keeper's responsibilities were and thought that what was in their leases was very vague.

137.5 Cllr. Cresswell said it was assumed that this was a public area.

137.6 It was stated that any existing leases could not be altered or amended, they could only be renewed or reissued, if there was a new person taking it over and that the leases were possibly for 21 years. It was suggested that in the future, perhaps something could be included about a service charge.

137.7 It was stated that the shrub beds did not belong to the Parish Council and there were comments about possibly paying for a one-off once a year weed, prune and to top up the bark.

137.8 There were comments about the new specification from 1st April 2017 and what this included.

137.9 It was stated that in the past the shrub beds had got really bad. It was noted that SMBC had arranged to tidy these up twice and the RA had also done them on one occasion, that time and effort had been put in to improve them and that it was better to try to maintain them now, rather than to let them get back into a messy unkempt state.

137.10 It was suggested that whatever happened, to perhaps recommend to the Full Council that the Parish Council arranged for the shrub beds to be worked on at least once a year.

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138. To report any issues from site risk assessments since the last meeting and to provide Clerk with reports for filing.

138.1 A risk assessment was filed for the Mount from Cllr. Cresswell, there were no issues.

138.2 Cllr. Phillips provided a risk assessment for the Saxon Wood Road land. She said there had been an email from a local resident, in relation to a tree by 29 Saxon Wood Road, she had been to meet with this person to discuss their concerns.

138.2.1 Cllr. Phillips, she said there was some sap and leaves, but it was not overhanging, it was quite tidy, but under the base was a bit messy, she said she had not made any promises to the resident, but had said she would report this back at the Recreation Committee meeting.

138.2.2 Cllr. Phillips said there was another small tree that had been planted, it looked like it could be dead, there was also some ivy and some dead off-shoots. She queried whether they should obtain a quote to remove these, before they grew any bigger. It was suggested it could be a sycamore, to possibly ask the Grounds Maintenance Contractor to look at it. Cllr. Phillips said it could be self-seeding and that it was at the back of a property where the resident was complaining.

138.2.3 Cllr. Cresswell said the sap and leaves underneath the tree were good for wildlife. Cllr. Cresswell said he would look at the tree and give his view before the Parish Council meeting on Wednesday.

138.3 It was noted that Cllr. Brown needed to provide a February risk assessment for the Village Green and outside the shops.

138.3.1 In relation to the Village Green, it was noted that a tree had been blown over during the high winds and the Grounds Maintenance contractor was to provide a quote to remove this and fill in the hole it had left.

138.4 It was noted that Cllr. Swain was to provide a risk assessment for February for the Recreation Ground.

139. To discuss Recreation Committees terms of reference.

139.1 Cllr. Cresswell suggested that the U3A may possibly like to have a footpath group, that could carry secateurs and generally tidy up as they walked the footpaths, he said Cllr. Swain was quite prominent in the U3A.

139.2 It was agreed that 'dog bin' should be included under the 'General' heading for Saxon Wood Road.

139.3 It was agreed that in relation to the visual inspections, it only needed to be stated 'monthly'.

140. To discuss Tesco Bags of Help funding.

140.1 It was noted that the painting still needed to be carried out and this should take place in March/April, it depended on the weather.

140.1.1 It was pointed out that the RA had used to repaint the goal posts and pay for new nets.

140.2 In relation to the goal posts, Cllr. Cresswell said they did not need new goal posts, the rust could be cleaned off and they could be repainted, they just needed have new nets.

Action item: Clerk to review what had been spent from the funding.

141. Review of actions list *(issued to committee members with the agenda)*.

141.1 Most items had been covered. In relation to the planter's underneath road signs, it was noted that the one Mr. Wareham looked after looked very nice, but that some had been neglected. There were comments about the one near the pub, that the resident that now lived near to this should be asked if they wanted to look after it or to get rid of it.

Action item: Cllr. Phillips to liaise with local resident about this planter.

141.2 It was noted that previously there had been a Recreation Committee Plan and suggested this was looked at during the next meeting.

Action item: Clerk to circulate the plan.

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141.3 It was noted that the Guide to the Mount had now been printed. A copy had been given to Mr. Gardner for SMBC.

142. To consider and resolve any action(s) in relation to any items of correspondence received.

142.1 There had only been the email about the tree and this had been dealt with.

143. Report/update on Grounds maintenance, litter picking and bin emptying.

143.1 There was nothing to report.

144. To discuss co-opting members.

144.1 It was agreed that notices should be displayed informing residents that the Recreation Committee was looking for people to be co-opted.

145. Date and time for next meeting and any agenda items.

145.1 Monday 24th April 2017 at 10:30am.

Meeting closed 11:55am