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RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday 24th April 2017 10:30am Cheswick Green Village Hall

Present:

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

In attendance

Clerk: Marie Zizzi

0 members of the Public

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

146.1 Not applicable everyone present.

147. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations.

147.1 None.

148. Public Participation.

148.1 Not applicable - no members of the public present.

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

149.1 It was noted that there had been nothing about the bins and how often or when they should be emptied.

149.2 It was stated that there was still no bin on the Village Green. Cllr. Cresswell said he has spoken to Chris Barr, the Officer responsible for this at SMBC and SMBCs contractor had said that the bin on the Village Green had been stolen 4 times now.

149.3 It was stated that the planter by the bus stop had not been attended to.

149.4 Cllr. Cresswell said the hedge at Foxland Close and Spinney Drive had been done. It was stated this area had not been cleared since December 2016.

150. To resolve to accept the Minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 6th March 2017.

Resolved; proposed Cllr. Cresswell/Swain, seconded Cllr. Brown - all in favour; that these were accepted as a true and accurate record.

151. To discuss flowerbeds outside the shops.

151.1 It was stated that since the scheme arranged by the Parish Council had ceased from the end of March, there was no sign of any of the shops clearing the rubbish.

151.2 It was noted that the roses in the flowerbeds had been trimmed, by the Parish Councils Grounds Maintenance Contractor.

151.3 It was pointed out that the fence by the Saxon had fallen over and it was being held up by the flowers. It was felt that this was a hazard and very dangerous for any children on the premises. There were comments about the times children were permitted to be in the Saxon.

151.3.1 It was noted that the Clerk had sent emails to Enterprise Inns and not received any reply and no action had been taken. It was suggested to contact the H&S Manager

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at Solihull MBC regarding this matter. Cllr. Swain said he would speak to someone at the pub.

151.4 Cllr. Cresswell referred to the missing piece of timber, from the ranch fencing by the Post Office, he said he would like to see the job finished, therefore should they arrange to have this replaced.

151.4.1 It was stated that regarding the shrub/rose beds, the Parish Council had agreed to maintain these on an occasional basis, as a one-off job as and when necessary.

151.4.2 Cllr. Cresswell referred to an area where the bark chipping was exposing the liner.

151.4.3 Cllr. Phillips pointed out that the Parish Council had needed to back away from this now and it was the shop keeper's responsibility.

151.4.4 There were comments about this being a focal point of the village. Cllr. Brown referred to finding out what SDL Bigwood (formally CPBigwood) was proposing to do, it was noted that the contact at SDL Bigwood had requested contact details for the Parish Councils Grounds Maintenance contractor. It was felt that at the most it would be a litter pick and that they would not replace the missing timber or the chippings.

151.5 There was a suggestion about having a litter pick, clean up and to maintain the beds every 6-9 months. It was felt that the Parish Council had only agreed to look at having the rose bushes maintained as and when necessary.

151.6 There were comments about what had happened in the past, that CGRA had tidied up this area and spent money on it, as had Officers and others in connection with SMBC who had also provided funding. It was felt that the area would get bad again. It was agreed to keep the area under review and noted that it was part of the risk assessment for the Village Green, so it would be monitored.

152. To report any issues from site risk assessments since the last meeting and to provide Clerk with reports for filing. Update on Grounds maintenance, litter picking and bin emptying.

152.1 Cllr. Phillips referred to a tree on Saxon Wood Road, she said a branch was coming across Plot A. She said there were 2 bags of sand on Saxon Wood Road, it was possible these were being used to weight down some concrete, it was noted that this was on the public footpath.

152.2 Cllr. Brown referred to the footpath at Greenside and the slope downwards, he said they had tried to get SMBC to put a hand rail in previously, as the footpath belonged to SMBC. I

Action item: It was agreed that the Recreation Committee should approach SMBC the possibility of installing a handrail outside No.8 Greenside.

152.3 it was stated that a Biffa truck had been seen using the access road next to the Village Surgery earlier. It was suggested that a height/width restrictive barrier could be installed.

Action item: to refer this to CGPC for further discussion.

153. To discuss the roses in the WW1 memorial garden.

153.1 It was stated that 2 roses were missing or dead and there was one that was possibly sprouting, to wait and see or it could be dug out.

153.1.1 Cllr. Cresswell suggested approaching Mr. Ranson for 3 roses and 3 bags of Farm Yard Manure – compost. He said these items could be delivered to him and he would do this.

Action item: Cllr. Phillips to contact Mr. Ranson.

154. To discuss recommendation from Grounds Maintenance Contractor that some of the trees could do with having their crowns lifted.

154.1 It was stated that this was in relation to some trees on the Village Green. It was pointed out that there was a tree on Saxon Wood Road that also required this, by the dog bin.

Action item: Cllr. Phillips to ask the Parish Councils Grounds Maintenance Contractor for a quote for this work.

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154.2 It was noted that in relation to the tree that had been removed from the Village Green, the tree stump had been grounded out, but there was a lot of chippings left in place and these needed to be removed and replaced with soil and turf. There was a suggestion to use this forest bark as chippings around the memorial trees, however it was pointed out that this was not forest bark, just tree chippings.

Action item: Cllr. Phillips to go back to Midlands Forestry and request that the ground is made good, as it was considered that this work was unfinished.

155. To discuss Tesco Bags of Help funding.

155.1 It was noted that the Parish Council needed to claim the remainder of the funding.

155.2 It was noted that photographs of before and after needed to be submitted.

155.3 It was stated that the Parish Councils Grounds Maintenance contractor had pointed out that some of the matting in the children's play area was curling up and needed repairing.

Action item: Cllr. Phillips to request a quote for this.

155.4 There were comments about applying for more Tesco funding for matting under the children's play area and/or for the Village Hall. It was noted that quotes and figures were required when applying.

155.5 There were comments about the goal posts not being done yet. It was suggested that they were cleaned and repainted and to just purchase new nets. It was stated that the cost for doing this, could be about the same as purchasing new ones. It was pointed out that there could be rust on the part of the posts there were in the ground.

Resolved; – all in favour – that it would be recommended to the Full Council to do whichever worked out more cost effective, to either renovate the existing posts or to purchase 2 new ones.

156. To review the Recreation Committee Plan 2013/14.

156.1 It was noted that work had been carried out at the Mount now. Cllr. Cresswell said the school used this area and an open theatre event had taken place there. He said the logs needed moving, to prevent bikes going down the sloping sides, he commented about the banks eroding.

Action item: Cllr. Phillips to also obtain a quote from the PC Grounds Maintenance contractor for this.

156.1.1 Cllr. Cresswell said in relation to the Mount, they did not know what was under the ground. He referred to asbestos apparently being dumped there many years ago,

156.1.2 Cllr. Cresswell said that using the logs was tree maintenance and it encouraged wild life, he said this was a natural use of materials. He informed the committee that they had re-turfed the area once and used pegs, he said this had not lasted very long, he added that they had also put wild flowers there.

156.1.3 In relation to the Mount Supporter group, it was agreed to add this to the on-going list of actions and to look at this in the future and possibly resurrect it.

156.2 In relation to the flower troughs under road signs, Cllr. Phillips said she had visited the resident by the Cheswick Way sign to explained that the person that lived there previously, had agreed to look after this flower trough. She said the new occupier had planted some daffodils provided, but they were dead now. She said she would leave this with him and if nothing further was done, they should remove it.

156.2.1 It was noted that initially there had been 12 planter troughs in the village and now there were 10, it was stated that some looked nice.

156.3 Cllr. Cresswell said the Recreation Committee had previously discussed asking a window cleaner to give road name signs a wipe over, when they were out and about doing the windows. It had also been suggested that residents were asked to do this when they were out cleaning their cars. It was agreed to put this on the action list and to possibly include it in a future newsletter. To encourage residents to keep the area nice and to take a pride in Cheswick Green.

156.4 It was noted that there had been suggestions about footpath clearance by regular walkers and noted that footpaths would be checked when members carried out their risk

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assessments. There were comments about Boscobel Road to the Stratford Road, the back of Saxon Wood Road to the Mount Dairy Farm site and from Boscobel Road to Dog Kennel Lane, it was stated that these footpaths were not covered by the risk assessment forms. It was suggested to keep this on this list and the suggestion about regular walkers could also be included as an idea for a future newsletter.

156.5 It was stated that in relation to the cleaning of the Blythe, the Parish Council had a license/consent to do this for the 70-100 yard stretch across its land, from Natural England, due to it being a SSSI.

156.5.1 Cllr. Cresswell said there had been a bit of a clean-up a couple of years ago, it had been arranged by Solihull MBC using the Community Payback Service, there had been a couple of sessions when with Mr. Wareham, he had helped remove concrete lumps etc. from the River, he said the Community Payback organiser had done most of the work.

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

157.1 Cllr. Cresswell said the planters by the school had looked a bit better due to daffodils and tulips.

Action item: It was felt that discussions about the Christmas trees lights should commence in July 2017, rather than September/October.

157.2 The other items were noted, some had already been dealt with.

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

158.1 The committee noted a letter received from Mr. Peter Tonks, asking for the Parish Councils support.

158.1.1 It was suggested that this letter was scanned and then sent to Mr. Matthew Gardner.

158.1.2 It was noted that the Recreation Committee had already made Mr. Gardner aware of a couple of the issues which Mr. Tonks referred to.

158.1.3 It was noted that the Recreation Committee would support Mr. Tonks in relation to the other issues he had raised in his letter.

Action item: Cllr. Phillips to send this letter to Mr. Gardner.

159. To discuss co-opting members.

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

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

160.1 Monday 12th June 2017 at 10:30am.

Meeting closed 12:05am