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**CHESWICK GREEN STATUTORY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
 Wednesday 28th March 2018 7:30pm in Cheswick Green Village Hall**

Present:

1 local resident
 Cheswick Green Parish Councillors; Brian Brown, Ian Bruce, Margaret Gosling
 (*Chairman*), Sam Sedgley and Mick Swain.
 CGPC Clerk: Mrs. Marie Zizzi

1. Welcome and introduction.

1.1 Cllr. Gosling welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending. She explained that;

'The Statutory Annual Parish Meeting is not a Parish Council meeting. It is a meeting of the electors of the Parish that must take place between 1st March and 1st June. Electors have the opportunity to learn of the activities that have been undertaken by the Parish Council during the past twelve months. The meeting is chaired by the Parish Council.

Electors can debate current issues and put forward resolutions for consideration by the Parish Council. Such resolutions will not bind the Parish Council.

The Parish Council is not obliged to pursue these resolutions, except in the case of the provision of Allotments. Following the resolution in 2010 the Parish Council despite trying, by contacting several land owners, has unfortunately, so far, been unable to find land that could provide allotments. This is still under consideration and the possibility of land at Blythe Valley Park will be pursued'.

2. To accept apologies for absence.

2.1 None.

3. Minutes of the Statutory Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 22nd March 2018.

Resolved; proposed Cllr. Swain, seconded Cllr. Bruce; that these Minutes should be signed as a true and accurate record.

4. Report from 2017/18 Parish Council Chairmen, Cllr. Margaret Gosling.

4.1 Cllr. Gosling gave her report - copy attached.

5. Report from Recreation Committee Chairman, Cllr. Mick Swain.

5.1 Cllr. Swain gave a report - copy attached.

6. Report from Planning Committee Chairman, Cllr. Ian Bruce.

6.1 Cllr. Bruce gave a report - copy attached.

7. Issues of particular local importance.

7.1 Cllr. Gosling spoke about the footpath on the Tanworth Lane, on the side where the Bloor Homes houses had been built, she said it was necessary for residents to cross the road twice, this needed to be pursued.

7.1.1 It was suggested that some of the CIL money could be used to do something to improve the situation.

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7.1.2 Cllr. Brown suggested asking SMBC to put some pressure on Bloor to do something about this.

7.1.3 Cllr. Gosling said this could affect Cheswick Place residents.

7.2 Cllr. Sedgley said the Cheswick Place residents felt isolated from Cheswick Green.

7.2.1 Cllr. Gosling pointed out that the new residents had been welcomed in a recent newsletter.

7.2.2 Cllr. Sedgley said the Cheswick Place residents had their own Facebook page. It was stated that they were organising various events, such as a night out at the pub and a B-B-Q.

7.2.3 It was stated that there was a need to try to mix and mingle. It was suggested to possibly invite the person that had set up to Facebook page and that was arranging the events to a meeting.

7.2.4 It was stated that the Parish Council needed a notice board within the Cheswick Place development.

8. Any other matters raised by an elector of the parish.

Meeting closed at 7:45pm.

Signed

Position

Date

Chairman's Report March 2018

The Parish Council has had another busy year and also some changes in members. Last May Len Cresswell resigned after serving on Cheswick Green Parish Council since its formation and also on the former Hockley Heath Parish Council for many years. Members would like to thank him for the service he has given. Penny Phillips also resigned in May after a year's service and we thank her for her time on the Council. In August we welcomed Sam Sedgley as a new member but unfortunately Steve Hall resigned in September. Steve has, however, remained on the Recreation Committee. We would like to thank Steve for the service he gave as a Councillor. At the present time there are vacancies for two further Councillors and applications for co-option are welcome. We would particularly like to encourage people who may be new to our community to join us and also those of working age.

The Recreation Ground: Last year the Council obtained a £10,000 grant from the Tesco Bags of Help scheme to refurbish and upgrade the equipment on the Recreation Ground. Much of the work was carried out and reported last year, but painting was not finished until after the last report. Work on the Recreation Ground was finally completed last December when the football goalposts and nets were replaced. The Youth Shelter is being refurbished and the work on this is very kindly being financed using some of the money collected in memory of Charlie Jay according to his family's wishes. Members would like to thank Jayne Brown for all her hard work in order to get this job done. Further information on work on land owned by the Parish Council and other activities the Parish Council has undertaken will be given by the Chairman of the Recreation Committee.

The Village Hall: Following the repairs to the Village Hall roof it was decided that changes should be made to the management structure of the Hall. As a result volunteers were sought and a new Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC) was created last June. This is independent of the Parish Council and consists of 7 residents of the village, who have been appointed as trustees by the Parish Council. At the same time, it was agreed that the Hall needed further work in order to bring it up to the required standard for the 21st century. To this end the Parish Council will fund several major projects over the next few years starting with the replacement of the exterior doors. These have now been ordered and hopefully will be fitted soon. Refurbishment of the toilets and kitchen as well as some work on the heating system are likely to follow. The Parish Council would like to thank the members of the new VHMC for all the hard work they have put in so far to make the Hall a more attractive venue.

Shop Frontages: Unfortunately, the scheme set up by the Parish Council which had seen the shop frontages kept tidy by regular litter picks and neatening of the flower beds came to an end at the end of last March, as the majority of shopkeepers were unwilling to renew the agreement. Members are grateful to Brian Brown who spent time setting this scheme up and also trying to keep it going. It is hoped that the new scheme that has been put in place by the management company will see an improvement to this area.

Planning: A detailed report on issues here will be given by the Chairman of the Planning Committee, but I will outline a few things. The Parish Council has spent significant time monitoring the work taking place on the Bloor Homes site and has raised many issues of concern with both SMBC and the builders. Much time was spent trying to prevent the use of Coppice Walk as an access route for construction traffic without success. However, members would still be grateful if residents could inform them of any issues or concerns. Members are also trying to get a more satisfactory solution to the dangers posed on the junction at the bottom of Creynolds Lane especially in the light of the recent serious accident. Measures agreed when

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planning permission was given for phase 2 of the Cheswick Place development have not been adhered to and it is felt that the work carried out here has not made the junction any safer.

Members have also been working hard to progress the Neighbourhood Plan and residents should have recently received a detailed survey in order to obtain your views and develop our plan. We would like to see as many responses as possible as this is your last chance to give us your ideas before we progress further with writing the plan. Please note that any further replies need to be completed and returned by the end of this month.

Members will always try to respond proactively when residents raise issues of concern. We are here to represent our residents and to act for the good of the whole of the Parish.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for all their hard work over the past year. Mick Swain for his work with the Recreation Committee and for his efforts in the creation of the new Village Hall Management Committee; Ian Bruce for his work with the Planning Committee and especially the construction of the survey for the Neighbourhood Plan, together with a considerable amount of input here from Piers Cockroft and Peter Davidson and finally Sam Sedgley for her efforts with the artwork for the survey and also her IT knowledge which has seen the setting up of a Parish Council Facebook page and more use of our Twitter account. Many thanks also go to our very efficient and knowledgeable Clerk, Marie Zizzi, who keeps us all in order and without whom the Council would not be able to function.

Recreation Committee Report 2017/18 – Cllr. Mick Swain

Almost 12 months has passed of the new 3-year Grounds Maintenance Contract being undertaken by Meadowfields Grounds Maintenance Ltd. The 8 areas of Parish Council land have been well cared for and have not had any significant issues. In addition, Meadowfields have also installed new goals, nets and have repaired a slide on the playing fields.

As you may be aware Mr Matthew Gardner is the SMBC Neighbourhood Co-ordinator for Blythe and attends our Recreation meetings. He offers advice on a range of matters from emptying bins to current SMBC policies. We received 1,000 spring bulbs from him which are in bloom in 2 locations. Thanks to Brian Brown and Mick Swain who planted the bulbs. Matt also arranged for a tree to be donated to The Boys Brigade as one part of their 100 challenges which they planted on the green. Although onerous we will not mention one part of the challenge was for the boys to meet Margaret our Chair. Thanks for your help Matt.

Unfortunately, for the second year running the date of the Schools Christmas Fete was changed and yet again no one felt it was necessary to inform the Parish Council. Fortunately, we were able to change the date that the Christmas lights were switched on to coincide with the arrival of Father Christmas. A large gathering enjoyed the sight of Santa, the carols, mince pies and steaming hot drinks in the Village Hall. Thanks to Darren from the electrical section of SMBC, The Lions and in particular, Steve Hall who organised the event.

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Report from Chairman of Planning Committee**

In addition to the routine examination of Planning Applications, the year has been dominated by three issues:

1. Ongoing monitoring of the Blythe Valley development.
Although little physical work has been undertaken, the Parish Council is aware of numerous objections to the traffic management arrangements described in the Section 106 agreement between the developer – IMP – and SMBC. Residents of Illshaw Heath, led by the Illshaw Heath Residents' Association made considerable efforts to obtain details of the traffic mitigation designed for Illshaw Heath and, on receipt of the proposals made a measured objection to various elements of the proposals. As a result, the proposals have been modified and are about to be executed shortly. It is anticipated that the Kineton Lane access from Blythe Valley will be put in place as part of the traffic mitigation arrangement

2. Ongoing monitoring of the Cheswick Place development
A: The Parish Council has received numerous complaints about the way in which work is undertaken on the site. We have recorded all such events and have passed them on to the site management, with copies to SMBC, with little apparent impact.
B: When the Developer notified the Parish Council that they had been advised on Health and Safety grounds that the access via Coppice Walk should be used as a construction access, the Parish Council immediately drew the attention of SMBC to this apparent breach of Planning Conditions appertaining to the development. We were informed that the Conditions were not mandatory, and merely advisory. The Parish Council asked both the Developer and SMBC for sight of both the relevant Health and Safety advice, and the Safety case. To all intents our requests were ignored, and we received very little support from SMBC in an attempt to obtain the developers justification for the change.
C: As part of the development, Western Power removed several spans of an overhead line, replacing it with underground cable. The overhead sections were terminated in an "H" pole structure, supported by guy cables. One of these structures was immediately behind a property within Cheswick Green, and the resident made strong objections to the loss of amenity which resulted. The Parish Council made representations to SMBC – an issue which was taken up by the Chief Executive of SMBC – and with the Developer. After considerable pressure by the resident concerned, and others, Western Power agreed to re-terminate the line by installing additional cable and relocating the "H" poles to a more appropriate location. This required consent from the owner of the land on which the new termination was to be positioned. Considerable effort was needed both to ascertain the name of the owner, and to contact him. However, the landowner has not yet replied so work has not yet commenced.
D: Bloor Homes have agreed to fund the removal, repair, and re-instatement of the Boer War Memorial on a location close to Coppice Walk

3. Progress with the Neighbourhood Plan

The Council has now appointed a Planning Consultant to assist in development of the Neighbourhood Plan and has received Grant Aid towards the cost. With assistance from the Consultants, a Survey questionnaire was developed and either posted to, or hand delivered to, every domestic property within the Parish. The survey was distributed in early March. The responses are to be analysed by the Consultants' team and will be notified to the Parish Council during the early part of April. It is intended that the information will be available in time for discussions at the next Planning Committee meeting. When the Plan is finalised, it will be submitted to SMBC to ensure that the proposals are compatible with SMBC's Local Plan and will then be submitted to residents by referendum. As of this morning 258 Part 1 and 390 Part two have been received

In addition to the above issues, the recent changes to the Creynolds Lane crossroads junction made by Bloor Homes was criticised as not conforming to the initial proposals, namely, that no table top speed mitigation had been installed. The issue was taken up with SMBC Highways, with no discernible impact. Hence, the recent Road Traffic Collision (RTC) at the junction of Illshaw Heath Road, Creynolds Lane, Watery Lane, and Vicarage Road, has been discussed by the Parish Council, and further representations made to SMBC Highways, resulting in a site meeting between members of the Planning Committee and a representative of SMBC Highways. The outcome is awaited, as any mitigation works will be subject to approval of expenditure.