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RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday 5th March 2018 10:30am Cheswick Green Village Hall

Present:

Cheswick Green Parish Councillors: Brian Brown, Sam Sedgley and Mick Swain.
 Mr. Steve Hall.

In attendance

Clerk: Marie Zizzi

1 member of the public

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

64.1 None all members present.

65. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations.

65.1 None.

66. Public Participation.

66.1 The local resident present said about 10 years ago she had requested that the shrubs on the Village Green, near Spinney Drive and Appian Way were removed. She said they had been cut down, they were cut back once a year in the Autumn, but they were out of control.

66.1.1 The lady said due to parked cars in this area, the shrubs made it difficult for drivers to see and there had been two near misses recently. She said when they were cut they were only trimmed, they needed to be cut down. She said the shrubs grew and only the new growth was cut off, she suggested that they were removed and said this would prevent there being an accident, that in the long run this could also save money.

66.1.2 Cllr. Brown said he thought the Grounds Maintenance Specification stated that they should be cut twice a year to 1 meter in height. He added that the shrubs prevented people from parking on the Village Green.

66.1.3 The lady pointed out that there was low railing on the other side and to put this in place of the shrubs. She said originally the shrubs had not been there, she had been in the village for 50 years.

66.1.4 There were comments about issues with parking being circulated on Facebook and about people parking on their front gardens.

66.1.5 Mr. Hall said if this was a hazard, it needed to be looked at and he commented that people drove too fast.

66.1.6 Cllr. Swain said they also needed to consider the possibility of unauthorized encampments. Mr. Hall did not think the Village Green would be attractive, due to it being on a slope and very boggy.

66.1.7 Cllr. Swain said in order to advocate removing the shrubs, how long had this been a problem and he said that someone else living near, them may want them to be kept.

66.1.8 The lady said many years ago, she had attended a Parish Council meeting, possibly 10 years ago and it had been stated that they would be cut down, they had caused a problem for years and it was getting worse, due to only the new growth being cut. She said that the parked cars outside the houses meant that drivers had to go on to the other side of the road and drivers could not see, the shrubs were causing a hazard. She reiterated to remove them and grass the area over.

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66.1.9 Cllr. Swain said the committee would discuss this and let her know the outcome. She then left the meeting, thanking members for listening to her.

66.1.10 Mr. Hall said the shrubs needed to be cut back to protect the sight line.

66.1.11 Cllr. Brown said they needed to be kept to 1 meter only. Cllr. Swain said it needed to be emphasized, that they needed to be kept at that level. He added that parking was an issue and that most households had more than one car.

Action item: The Clerk was instructed to contact the Grounds Maintenance Contractor regarding this matter.

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

67.1 Mr. Gardner was not present.

68. To resolve to accept the Minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 15th January 2018.

Resolved; proposed Cllr. Brown, seconded Cllr. Sedgley; that these were accepted as a true and accurate record.

69. 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.

69.1 Cllr. Swain said the slats on the slide had finally been replaced.

69.2 Cllr. Swain asked for an update in relation to the Youth Shelter.

69.2.1 Cllr. Sedgley said Mrs. Jay, her sister and Jayne Brown had attended the February Parish Council meeting. They wanted the Youth Shelter returned to its normal appearance, there had been mention about some slate, the family also wanted a bench and two tubs of roses.

69.2.2 Cllr. Sedgley said in relation to the tubs, it was a question of where they would be located and who would maintain them, the family had been asked to think about locations and to come back to the Parish Council.

69.2.3 It was noted that the family had not been able to obtain three quotes for work on the Youth Shelter, but they had found one carpenter who appeared to be good, they had been given the go ahead for this, but had been asked to supply a quote for the work, since then nothing had been received.

69.2.4 Cllr. Sedley said they also wanted to plant the small Christmas tree, that had been inside the shelter.

69.3 Cllr. Swain spoke about litter on the car park, he said he had picked up a number of cannisters and he spoke about drink glasses that were on the car park from the pub.

69.4 Cllr. Swain said there was a vehicle with a bump in it, that was parked on the car park for weeks at a time, however it was moved around.

69.5 Cllr. Swain said the car park was quite bad now, in terms of rubbish, he referred to the boundary wall and the fence, which had shrubs growing through. He said something needed to be done. It was pointed out that a lot of rubbish was blown on to the car park.

69.6 It was noted that Cllr. Brown had been informed, that the shops were to pay £10 each per month, to the property manager, for a clear up outside the shops.

69.7 It was suggested that the Parish Councils Grounds Maintenance Contract could be asked to clear the rubbish and litter pick the Parish Council area. It was also stated the he could be asked to cut the shrubs. However, it was pointed out that these were coming from the property at the side of the fence, by the dwarf wall and it was the property owners' responsibility. If the Parish Council arranged for these to be cut, what was cut should be thrown over on to the garden of where they were coming from.

69.8 Cllr. Swain referred to height restriction barriers, he said there was no point in getting quotes, if the pub/brewery would not contribute towards this. He said in terms of protecting land from unauthorised encampments and the car park, it was no use putting one barrier at one end, they needed to be placed at the junctions of the car park. He offered to write to the pub/brewery about this, to see if it could go ahead or not.

69.9 Cllr. Brown spoke about SMBC taking legal action against unauthorised encampments as a last resort, he spoke about a number of groups that came and caused problems.

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69.10 Cllr. Swain said there was a need to protect Parish Council land but reiterated that there was no point if the brewery was not interested, as it was pointless having a barrier at one end when vehicles could still access the car park from the other end.

69.11 Cllr. Brown suggested to obtain quotes first, before approaching the brewery and then it could be pointed out, that it would cost more to removed and/or clear up unauthorised encampments, than to install barriers.

69.12 Cllr. Swain said he would draft a letter.

69.13 It was also pointed out that this should involve the Carver family.

69.14 Cllr. Brown said in relation to the Village Green and the tree that had its crown reduced there was a branch that was partially broken, and it needed to be cut off.

69.13 Cllr. Swain said the pyracantha outside the Village Hall was encroaching on the path and it needed cutting back again.

Action item: The Clerk was instructed to contact the Grounds Maintenance Contractor regarding these issues.

70. To discuss the Youth Shelter.

70.1 Already discussed.

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

71.1 It was noted that the flower planter underneath the road sign opposite the pub was not being looked after and stated that it could do with being removed. It was stated that the other flower planters' underneath road signs had bulbs in them.

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

72.1 There were none.

73. To discuss co-opting members.

73.1 No-one had come forward.

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

74.1 Monday 16th April 2018 at 10:30am.

Meeting closed 11:40