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**CHESWICK GREEN PARISH COUNCIL
EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
Wednesday 6th June 2018 10am Cheswick Green Village Hall**

Present:

Cheswick Green Parish Councillors: Ian Bruce, Margaret Gosling, Sam Sedgley and Mick Swain.

Clerk: Marie Zizzi

1 member of the public

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

38.1 An apology was received from Cllr. Brown and this was accepted.

39. Declarations of Interest.

39.1 None.

40. Dispensations.

40.1 None.

41. Public Participation (15 Minutes).

41.1 The member of the public present had attended to discuss the recent flooding. He said he had already met with a couple of Parish Councillors to talk about things.

41.1.1 The member of the public said some houses on Coppice had been affected from the Bloor Homes development, his house had not been due to this. He explained the location of his property and where it backed on to.

41.1.2 The member of the public said generally his property was okay, however the rain had stopped on 27th May 2018 at about 7pm, then at 7:45pm, three of his neighbours had notified him that they were in big trouble.

41.1.3 The member of the public said something had happened at Earlswood Lakes and in 23 minutes, there was 3 feet of water, it was rising and rising. He said he had spent a lot of money on his house, on renovation, he had blocked his air bricks and garages were flooded, there was a foot of water in his garage, it was all from Watery Lane and the River Blythe.

41.1.4 The resident said he had been working and sweating until midnight – 1am, sucking out as much water as he could. This had resulted in him missing a flight to Menorca with his girlfriend to attend a wedding.

41.1.5 The resident said he had been very stressed out, he had contacted the Parish Council and met with two members, he had also met with Borough Cllr. Ken Hawkins and told him everything, they had walked by the river and Ken had told him to leave it with him, but he had not heard back yet.

41.1.6 The resident said he had sent all the information to Solihull MBC, an Officer Ed Bradford had been out to meet him. He said that apparently Solihull MBCs CEO Nick Page, had also been out to meet residents.

41.1.7 The resident said on Monday 4th June, he had been working by Malt House Lane and Wood Lane, he added that he knew the lakes well, he had seen a guy in the dip between the lake and the valley, clearing it out. The guy was from the Canal & River

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Signed

Date.....

Trust (C&RT), it was one guy alone trying to clear all the rubbish, timber, logs and other junk that was there, it would probably take him 3 days. It was stated that this did not appear to be very safe, for one person working alone.

41.1.8 It was stated that properties in Warwickshire had been affected and 2 reps from Warwickshire County Councils (WCC) Flood Risk Management team, had been out. The resident said he had walked the lakes and followed with river with them; he referred to the amount of junk and rubbish they had seen, including a fridge freeze, a washing machine, turf, logs, trees and 20-30 dead fish.

41.1.9 The resident said they had found an illegal bridge, that had been built near Valley Road to the workshops, it was not on the map, the WCC reps had. He said they had walked all the way down to the Solihull border.

41.1.10 The resident said from what he had heard, it appeared that there had been no contact between SMBC and WCC. It was stated that the EA should also be involved. The resident said Cllr. Hawkins had told him that everyone SMBC, WCC and the C&RT would work together.

41.1.11 It was stated that the clearing needed to be a top priority, however it was pointed out that if this was carried out, water would run faster towards Cheswick Green.

41.1.12 There were comments about the need for WCC and SMBC flood teams to work together and about local councils having a legal duty of care, to co-operate and look after their residents.

41.1.13 At 10:30 Mr. Cockroft and Mr. Davidson arrived, for the Planning Committee meeting that was due to commence at 10:30am.

41.1.14 There were comments about the left-hand lake being emptied and it having a leak, about the other lake already having been emptied and it containing non-native species.

41.1.15 Cllr. Swain read an email he had received regarding Earlswood Lakes.

41.1.16 It was noted that members of the Parish Council, had met with Cllr. Ken Hawkins on Monday 4th June and that there was a need to access why there had been flooding and where it had come from.

41.1.17 It was stated that regardless of the number of attenuation ponds built, due to the amount of hard core and non-porous ground, there was nowhere for water to go.

41.1.18 It was stated that all information should be passed to Ed Bradford and Nick Page, there was a lack of answers and action.

41.1.19 It was noted that SMBC would probably need to apply for Government funding and there were comments about what existing funding was available, to deal with this.

41.1.20 It was stated that a picture of what had happened needed to be built and it was appreciated that there were a lot of things that had come together, there were lots of circumstances and it was quite a complicated set up.

41.1.21 It was stated that apparently the river level gauge monitor had broken and that the people from Earlswood Lakes did not appear to be very proactive, until something happened.

41.1.22 There were lots more comments about the recent flooding and what had happened in previous years, such as 2007.

41.1.23 It was felt that there was a need to push for interim answers from SMBC and the EA.

41.1.24 It was stated that initially, the EA had been opposed to the Bloor Homes development on land at Mount Dairy Farm, but pointed out that when it came to the planning application being decided, the EA appeared to be neutral.

41.1.25 The member of the public present was thanked for attending and he left the meeting at 10:50am.

42. To receive the internal auditors report and approve payment for this.

42.1 This had been circulated to members of the Parish Council by email on 30th May 2018.

Resolved; proposed Cllr. Sedgley, seconded Cllr. Swain – that the internal auditors report was accepted and payment for this approved.

43. To resolve Section 1 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2017/18.

43.1 This had been circulated to members of the Parish Council on 30th May 2018; members agreed that items 1- 8 should all be ticked and item 9 was NA.

Resolved; proposed Cllr. Swain, seconded Cllr. Sedgley – that Section 1 of the AGAR was approved and should be signed.

44. To resolve Section 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2017/18.

44.1 This had been circulated to members of the Parish Council on 18th April 2018.

Resolved; proposed Cllr. Swain, seconded Cllr. Sedgley that Section 2 of the AGAR was approved and should be signed.

45. To approve the Minutes from the Annual Meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 9th May 2018.

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

46. To ratify the decision made by email, agreed by a majority of Councillors and undertaken due to the timescales involved, to permit CGRA to hold the party in the park on Saturday 14th July 2018, subject to receiving an acceptable risk assessment prior to the event taking place and assurance that CGRA will pay should any damage occur.

46.1 It was noted that the clerk had requested a risk assessment and assurance that CGRA would pay for any damage that occurred in an email to the Chairman of CGRA on 18th May 2018, however no reply had been received.

46.1.1 It was stated that this event could not go ahead without a risk assessment being submitted and also a copy of the CG RA public liability insurance cover.

Action item: Clerk was asked to make a further request.

47. To discuss the recent flooding that took place in the village.

47.1 This had already been covered.

48. 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.

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

49.1 There were no matters to be discussed.

Meeting closed 10:55am