



*Cheswick Green Parish Council*

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**CHESWICK GREEN PARISH COUNCIL  
MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2018 7:30pm Cheswick Green Village Hall**

**Present:**

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

Clerk: Marie Zizzi

0 members of the public

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

94.1 There were none.

**95. Declarations of Interest.**

95.1 None.

**96. Dispensations.**

96.1 Note; Cllr. Davidson and Cllr. Townsend completed dispensation forms in relation to setting the precept until May 2019. Cllr. Townsend complete a dispensation in relation to commenting on planning applications and the production of a Neighbourhood Plan (NP). Cllr. Davidson had already completed a dispensation in relation to commenting on planning application/NP, as he was a co-opted member of the Planning Committee.

**97. Public Participation (15 Minutes).**

97.1 Not applicable - no members of the public present.

**98. To approve the Minutes from the meeting held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2018.**

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

**99. To receive a report on the finances of the Council and to approve any payments made since last meeting and any payments to be made (issued to Parish Cllrs with the agenda).**

**Payments to be agreed from Co-op acc Exercise Class Sept 2018 PC meeting**

100139	Exercise class instructor July 2018	£135.00
100141	Exercise class instructor August 2018	£ 81.00

**Chqs/Electronic payment transactions to be approved September 2018 PC meeting**

<b>Payee</b>	<b>Reason</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>VAT</b>	<b>Net</b>
APS	Planning advice/NP	£252.00	£42.00	£210.00
Midland Forestry	Work carried out near 28 Coppice Walk	£192.00	£32.00	£160.00
M. Zizzi	Petty cash top-up	£ 40.00		
Meadowfields GM	To obtain copy of key for PC to gate on Saxon Wood Road	£ 12.00	£ 2.00	£ 10.00

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More in confidential section

It was noted that there was £58.09 petty cash as at 5<sup>th</sup> September 2018

99.1 The Clerk informed members that former member, Cllr. Brown had been reimbursed £37.87 in April, for purchasing a new key cylinder for the cupboard in the PC office which cost £19.99, this was due to advise, to comply with GDPR and having some keys cut which cost £17.88. She said this had not been recorded in any Minutes, therefore she would like this to also be approved with the other payments. There were no objections.

99.2 The Clerk informed members that there was £2233.30 VAT to claim and that the second half of the precept had now been received, therefore members may wish to consider transferring some of the funds in the UTB account to the CCLA investment account.

99.3 It was noted that former Cllr. Brown needed to be removed as an authorised signatory on the Parish Council's bank accounts and that Cllrs. Davidson and Townsend needed to be added as authorised signatories.

**Resolved:** proposed Cllr. Sedgley, seconded Cllr. Swain; that Cllr. Brown should be removed as a signatory on the Parish Councils bank accounts and that Cllrs. Davidson and Townsend should be added as authorised signatories.

**Resolved:** proposed Cllr. Swain, seconded Cllr. Townsend – that all payments as listed were approved.

**100. To discuss a Councillors attendance and appointment policy.**

100.1 It was stated that this had been raised due to a former Cllr. contacting the Clerk to request for extended leave of absence. It was stated that there was no such thing.

100.2 It was noted that there was a 6-month rule, whereby if a member did not attend meetings for a period of 6 months, they could cease to be a member, however this depended on apologies and acceptance of apologies.

100.3 It was stated that other Parish Councils had attendance policies. The advice sought from WALC was noted.

100.4 It was stated that CGPC could have a policy it was happy with. There were comments about co-opting members and being able to say no to someone, if the other members of the PC did not think the person was suitable. There were comments about if a person was disruptive, whether they were qualified to do the job and asking people what positive contributions they could make to the Parish Council.

100.5 It was suggested to look at national guidance on this.

**101. To discuss any issues that relate to the Recreation Committee; land owned by the Parish Council, grounds maintenance or other relevant issues, such as date for turning on of the Christmas lights.**

101.1 It was noted the Mr. Hall had withdrawn from being co-opted on to the Recreation Committee, therefore currently there was only Cllr. Sedgley and Cllr. Swain. It was pointed out that Mr. Hall was still carrying out risk assessments at the Mount, the Village Green and other parcels of land by Saxon Wood Road.

101.1.1 Cllr. Townsend asked what it entailed. It was stated that it was about 4 meeting per year and that currently Cllr. Swain chaired this committee. Cllr. Townsend said he would sit on this committee.

102. Cllr. Davidson said he would like to raise the issue of the land at the side of the Recreation Ground, as it needed some attention. Cllr. Swain said he was going to talk about this.

102.2.1 Cllr. Gosling referred to the plots at the back of Snowhill Drive, she said there was a lot of litter and one resident often picked this up, however there was no bin, there was only a dog bin. It was agreed that the Parish Council should install a bin at this site. It was noted that the PCs Grounds Maintenance contractor would need to empty this.

**Action item: Clerk to research what bins the PC had purchased previously, find out if the Grounds Maintenance contractor could install this and the costs involved.**

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103. Cllr. Swain said the hedge around the Village Hall was due to be cut twice a year, but it needed to be done 4 times a year.

103.3.1 Cllr. Swain said the ivy needing cutting again. He referred to a branch that had been snapped off a tree, he said this needed to be dealt with.

103.3.2 Cllr. Swain referred to the area near the Jubilee Garden/Memorial flowerbed, he said it was a mess. He said nothing had been done about this yet, as he had been waiting to see what was going to happen about proposal put forward in relation to possible height restriction barriers/movable bollards on the car park.

103.3.3 Cllr. Swain said that despite initially contacting Enterprise Inns and Mr. Carver, there had been no further progress. He suggested that the Parish Council should write to them again, to find out if they intended for this to go ahead or not, as it had been about 4 months now, then they could sort out the work needed on the Recreation Ground and around the Village Hall.

104. It was felt that a date should be agreed for a Recreation Committee meeting. Dates Bloor Homes had put forward for a meeting to talk about the War Memorial were noted. It was agreed to offer Bloor Homes Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October at 10am, to then follow this with a Recreation Committee meeting at 10:30am.

**Action item: The Clerk was instructed to contact Mr. Matthew Gardner, SMBC Neighbourhood Co-ordinator, to see if he was available to attend.**

**105. To discuss the War Memorial, including date for opening ceremony event and people to invite.**

105.1 It was noted that Bloor Homes intended to issue a Press Release and to carry out a leaflet drop at Cheswick Place. Members agreed that the leaflet drop should be to everyone in Cheswick Green, the whole parish including Illshaw Heath.

105.2 The list of who to invite was discussed and several names were added.

105.3 It was queried what was to happen to the additional stones that had been found. It was stated members could ask Bloor at the meeting on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October.

105.4 It was felt that the event could take place on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2018, one week after Remembrance Sunday, members were not sure what time.

**106. To receive the Minutes from the Planning Committee meeting held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2018 and any reports or recommendations from the Planning Committee and any update in relation to the Neighbourhood Plan and other planning matters/issues (Minutes available on CGPC website).**

106.1 The Minutes were accepted.

106.2 In relation to the Neighbourhood Plan (NP), Cllr. Bruce said he had done some work on it and he had read through it. He said he was resigning from the Parish Council as of tonight, as they did not stand a chance of influencing anyone.

106.3 Cllr. Bruce referred to a proposed planning application, he said he could see no point, no one took any notice, they did not get anywhere, he despaired.

106.3.1 Cllr. Gosling said she had hoped he would stay until May, to put notices up in Illshaw Heath and keep them informed about what was happening there. She added that now they would have another vacancy to advertise.

106.4 Cllr. Bruce said that some individuals had received a better response from SMBC than the Parish Council had, he gave a couple of names. He added that the road works had started and that he was very cynical.

106.5 Cllr. Bruce said the Speed Watch group had been catching a lot of people, about 40% were exceeding the speed limit. He said no-one was taking any notice, nothing was enforced, there was no intention to enforce anything, people may get a letter from the police.

106.6 Cllr. Bruce said there were a lot of problems with car test driving and there were quite a few reckless drivers.

106.7 Cllr. Gosling said they would be sorry to lose Cllr. Bruce, he said he was sorry he was going.

106.8 Cllr Gosling said they appreciated what he had done with the NP and especially the questionnaire, putting it into envelopes etc. it had been a lot of work and he had achieved a good result.

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106.8.1 There were comments about some people not receiving a questionnaire and this being highlighted when the reminder had been issued.

106.9 Cllr. Bruce referred to Blythe Valley, he said the third tranche had been let, it was a plot near ARUP.

106.10 Cllr. Davidson said he was very sorry that Cllr Bruce was leaving, especially because of the NP, they needed to continue with it because without it at the inquiry they would have nothing to support them.

106.11 Cllr. Bruce said he felt out of his depth with the NP, he had read a few NPs and he didn't really understand them, he felt they had not had constructive advice, just criticism.

106.12 There were comments about Dog Kennel Lane and the possibility of needing legal representation at an inquiry.

106.13 Cllr. Davidson said he was happy to take on the NP. It was noted that a few residents had come forward to say they would help and that there could be others.

106.14 It was agreed that a meeting of the NP Working Party needed to take place to start work on this.

106.15 Cllr. Bruce referred to the first site to receive a planning application at Blythe Valley, he said Mr. Paul Vernon (*Chairman of Illshaw Heath RA*) and Mr. Mike Cox (*member of Illshaw Heath RA*) had put forward some very good arguments and the Parish Council had asked for mandatory requirements, but everything was just ignored.

106.16 It was suggested to possibly take this further and to go to the Ombudsman. It was pointed out that the Parish Council had even suggested to SMBC that it could be accused of malpractice.

106.17 It was noted that there had been many changes of people on the Parish Council, which had not helped with the NP progress.

106.18 Cllr. Gosling said they were all very grateful for what Cllr. Bruce had done and that they would miss him.

**107. To consider planning applications and local development including progress regarding Mount Dairy Farm/Cheswick Place and Blythe Valley Park/IM. To formally resolve that there were no comments to be submitted for planning applications circulated by email during the August recess referenced as; PL/2018/02053/PPFL; PL/2018/02085/PPFL; PL/2018/02076/MINFHO and PL/2018/02186/PPFL**

**PL/2018/02053/PPFL** - One Blythe Gate (Formally the Oracle Building) Oracle Drive Shirley Solihull; Refurbishment of existing office building. Incorporation of new cycle facilities, new M+E and new entrance portico.

**PL/2018/02085/PPFL** - 970 Stratford Road Shirley Solihull B90 4ED; Two storey side extension, car parking and associated works.

**PL/2018/02076/MINFHO** - 32 Creynolds Lane Cheswick Green Solihull B90 4ER; Increase in height of existing gable end by 500mm to allow for construction of internal staircase, bedroom, en suite and study (Resubmission of approved application PL/2018/01133/MINFHO).

*107.1 There were no comments to be submitted for any of these applications.*

**PL/2018/02186/PPFL** - Land Adjacent to Mount Farm Tanworth Lane Shirley Solihull; Erection of war memorial at land adjacent To Mount Farm, Tanworth Lane, Shirley, Solihull including associated footpath, landscaping and street furniture.

*107.1.1 SMBC had stated that planning permission was not needed for this.*

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**PL/2018/02131/PPFL** - 6 Knoll Croft Cheswick Green Solihull B90 4JL; Erection of a single storey rear conservatory.

107.2 There were no comments to be submitted.

**PL/2018/01716/TPO** - TSB Staff College 123 Creynolds Lane Cheswick Green Solihull; To cut back 1 No. cedar tree from property.

107.3 It was noted that SMBC had checked, there was no TPO on this tree and the applicant had been advised to withdraw the application.

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**PL/2018/02320/MINFHO** - 88 Creynolds Lane Cheswick Green Solihull B90 4FB;  
Detached outbuilding to rear of property to form new granny annexe.  
107.4 There were no comments to be submitted.

**PL/2018/02473/PPFL** - 254 Creynolds Lane Cheswick Green Solihull B90 4ET;  
Demolition of existing dwelling and construction of new dwelling and associate landscaping.

107.5 It was noted that the intention was to completely demolish the existing bungalow and to rebuild it, but on the same area of land.

107.5.1 There were no comments to be submitted.

107.6 In relation to Mount Dairy Farm/Cheswick Place, it was noted that some fencing had been removed and that the site was not secure.

**108. To discuss the situation with the car park in relation to part ownership and update regarding height restriction barriers etc.**

108.1 Dealt with.

**109. To review flood meeting held on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2018 with representatives from SMBC/EA and the next steps.**

109.1 It was stated that at the meeting on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August, there had been too much focus on Bloor Homes and not enough on proposed future developments.

109.2 It was stated that members had every sympathy with those that had been flooded or affected by the flooding at the end of May and agreed that it was possible some modification was required for the ponds and that it was very noisy when the water drained through.

109.2.1 It was however pointed out that some residents on Saxon Wood Road had found it had been better than previously, but it was also possibly because the problem had been pushed somewhere else.

109.3 It was pointed out that the route the water had taken had saved the Village Hall from being flooded. That it had been a flash flood and not continual rain/flooding.

109.4 It was suggested that it was possible a sewer cover had been lifted and pointed out that the drains on Cheswick Place had not been open.

109.5 In relation to the next steps, it was pointed out that there had been nothing further from SMBC, that SMBC was to put forward a list of priorities, looking to the future.

109.6 There were comments about being opposed to any development on Dog Kennel Lane, as this was likely to increase future flooding as it was a floodplain.

109.7 There were comments about what SMBC had done to consider the issue of flood relief and queried what the outcomes from SMBCs investigations had been. The answer was not that it was just the result of a series of events.

109.8 It was suggested that residents could be asked for any questions they wanted answering.

109.9 It was stated the Mr. Ed Bradford (*SMBC*) had said there was a need to be able to demonstrate that the water coming from the new development would not be any worse, but he had not said under what conditions. There were comments about the run off from concrete paths and where it was going to go. It was stated the Mr. Ed Bradford had spoken about it being okay, as long as it was not greater than the run off on to a field, but queried whether this was on a dry day or on to a wet field and what size field.

109.10 There were comments about the Environment Agency and the 1 in 100 chance of this happening, that it equated to 1%, which was quite frightening.

109.11 It was stated that to pretend it had nothing to do with the new development was ridiculous and that there was no strategic thinking, the Local Plan should be addressing these types of issues and considering infrastructure.

109.12 Members agreed to put a message out to ask residents to put forward any questions using social media, the notice boards and website and to ask them to respond by 30<sup>th</sup> September.

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109.13 It was noted that Mrs. Anne Brereton (*SMBC*) had asked the Parish Council to put forward a date for a surgery type event. It was suggested Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> October at 7:30pm.

**Action item: The Clerk was instructed to contact Mrs. Anne Brereton with this suggested date and to also enquire if SMBC was in a position to come back to the Parish Council with some conclusion as this is what they had said they would do.**

**110 To receive any reports from Councillors and/or the Clerk.**

110.1 Cllr. Gosling said with Cllr. Sedgley, she had met with Jayne Brown regarding the Youth Shelter. Jayne had invited Mr. & Mrs. Jay to attend. It had been agreed that the carrot carving could be located somewhere within the Youth Shelter.

110.1.1 Mr. Jay had suggested it was high up on a pillar and it was stated that it could be varnished.

110.1.2 It was noted that the memory board had been removed now, but it had been agreed that it could go back on the anniversary and birthdays temporarily, not as a permanent fixture

110.1.3 Cllr. Gosling said they had also talked about where to locate a bench and it was suggested that it was beyond the shelter near the path.

110.1.4 Cllr. Gosling said they had huge sympathy for the family, but the Parish Council needed to consider everyone in the parish, she added that the family were very happy with what had been agreed.

110.2 Cllr. Gosling said she had been pursuing the matter of better internet connections/fibre for the village with Open Reach, she had done the survey which had entailed entering post codes and address numbers, she said some had appeared to not exist, she said it was possible that there was a reasonable number and she was now waiting to hear back, it was meant to be 15 days and if she didn't, she would chase this up.

110.3 Cllr. Sedgley referred to Neighbourhood Watch, she said with the dark nights coming in there were reports of car thefts, there had been a spat on Facebook.

110.3.1 Cllr. Sedgley said lots of people wanted to join the Neighbourhood Watch Facebook page and she was now writing a website for others.

110.4 Cllr. Sedgley said in relation to Street Watch, they now had enough people to do something, there should be training at the end of the month, then they could go ahead with this. She said some of the volunteers were from Cheswick Place, once they had a visible presence this should have some impact.

110.5 Cllr. Swain referred to an email about the external audit, it was noted that nothing had been received back yet, despite this being submitted in June and that there was a statutory requirement to advertise the end of the audit by 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

110.5.1 Members queried who appointed the auditors and for how long.

110.6 Cllr. Sedgley said she had been given a sheet of metal, which was obviously part of a memorial from either the first or second World War. It was now in the Parish Council office, there were names on it and it had possibly been obtained by a collector. She said it needed to be reunited to the correct area.

**Action item: Clerk to provide Cllr. Sedgley with her contact at the War Memorial Trust.**

**111. Update/report from Village Hall Management Committee (VHMA).**

111.1 Cllr. Swain informed members about a couple of incidents with hirers of the Village Hall and use of the Recreation Ground. He said the VHMC needed to discuss these and he said there had been a complaint about noise in relation to one hirer.

111.2 Cllr. Swain commented about the possibility of the VHMC having a rota to visit the hall, when there were big parties taking place.

111.3 Cllr. Swain said they had not moved on with the refurbishment of the toilets yet. He said there was a VHMC meeting next week. He said it was possible that the toilets would all be done next year now, in one go, may be at Easter, he said they needed to get a specification.

111.4 Cllr. Davidson said there were new lights in the large hall now.

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111.5 It was stated that the curtains had been sprayed with a fire-retardant substance, the chairs had been cleaned and a new rail had been installed for a curtain over a fire exit door.

111.6 It was stated that a lot had been done in one year and it was impressive.

**112. To consider and resolve any action(s) in relation to items of correspondence received** (*issued to Parish Cllrs with the agenda*).

112.1 It was noted that Mr. Greg Allport from CGRA had emailed the Clerk, regarding the Tesco funding, enquiring if CGRA could be of help in spreading the message. It was felt that the Parish Council had advertised this as much as it possibly could and to therefore thank him for his offer and suggest that they encouraged people to put tokens in the CGPC bin's in Tesco.

112.2 Cllr. Gosling said she had spoken with Mr. John Pettinger regarding the Memorial stones and he was happy for the updated information he had provided the Clerk with, on a memory stick, to go on the Parish Councils website.

112.2.1 It was also noted that his draft publication of Cheswick Green the first 40 years was on the same memory stick.

**Action item: Clerk to give the memory stick to Cllr. Gosling.**

**113. To discuss and resolve any actions in relation to the ongoing CGPC action list** (*issued to Parish Cllrs with the agenda*).

113.1 The Christmas tree lights and the BT item had been discussed.

**114. Agenda items for next meeting.**

114.1 Flooding and the surgery type event with SMBC.

**115. 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.**

115.1 There were no members of the public present.

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

**117. PAYE, payroll and Pension Scheme.**

**Meeting closed 21:20**