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

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2018 7:30pm Cheswick Green Village Hall**

**Present:**

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

Clerk: Marie Zizzi

5 members of the public

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

118.1 Not applicable.

**119. Declarations of Interest.**

119.1 None.

**120. Dispensations.**

120.1 None.

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

121.1 Most of the members of the public had come to talk about the proposed bus services. It was noted that nobody was very happy with what was being suggested.

121.1.1 Cllr. Gosling said she had been to consultation session and obtained hard copies of the questionnaire survey. She said the more people that submitted these the better. She added that Caroline Spelman had been at the session, so she was aware of what was going on.

121.1.2 Cllr. Gosling gave details of a route that the Parish Council would be putting forward; *(from Cheswick Green shops up Cheswick Way, turn right down Creynolds Lane, into Watery Lane, then via Tanworth Lane to the Stratford Road, down the Stratford Road, turn right by Morrisons and then follow to roundabout at Danford Lane, down there to Blossomfield Road, left into Solihull, circuit the town and back the same way. This would cover most needs and the route would not be too long - long routes often lead to delays. Current S2 not used as so unreliable. This would also serve Cheswick Place from the top entrance, it would also serve the Tanworth Lane surgery, which residents are finding an increasing need to access).*

121.1.3 There were comments about this being the route for buses previously.

121.1.4 It was stated that there were problems as there should not be competition from subsidised operators on commercial routes.

121.1.5 It was stated that the S2 was very unreliable; that older people in Cheswick Green that did not drive, relied on buses, younger people needed to get to colleges and disabled people used buses.

121.1.6 It was stated that the closing date for responding to the survey was Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

121.1.7 It was stated that Dickens Heath and Tidbury Green Parish Councils felt the same, as did their residents. It had been suggested that a public meeting should possibly be held.

121.1.8 Cllr. Gosling said Cheswick Green Parish Council would be expressing concerns, as it appeared nobody liked any of the routes.

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121.1.9 There were comments about there being no point for the bus to go to Blythe Valley and that very long routes caused more unreliable services.

121.1.10 It was stated that there were lots of complaints about the bus services and that there was a lack of buses to the surgery, it was getting worse.

121.1.11 There were comments about some commercial routes, that not all services were subsidised, that people needed to shout loud, as many people as possible needed to respond to the survey and that it could be done on-line.

121.1.12 Cllr. Gosling said from the Parish Council questionnaire, the results highlighted two particular areas of concern, these were pot holes and the S2 being unreliable and poorly maintained.

121.1.13 A member of the public commented that people needed to get to Shirley, as that was where the nearest shops were and they needed to get to Tanworth Lane.

121.1.14 It was suggested that the current service was not being used as people had given up and stopped using it, the journey was too long and the service was very unreliable.

121.1.15 Cllr. Davidson pointed out that the bus needed to go to the railway station as well, for people going to work.

121.1.16 It was felt that the increase in traffic in the area was due to the unreliable bus service, if the service was reliable less people would use their cars.

121.1.17 A member of the public stated that the service used to go to Widney Manor station.

121.1.18 It was reiterated that the more people that put their opinions forward, could be the only way to change what was being proposed.

121.2 Jayne Brown said she had attended to update Councillors, she said the plaque was now ready to be replaced in the Youth Shelter, a copy had been made and Mr. & Mrs. Jay had decided to use the copy and keep the original.

121.2.1 Jayne said she was now waiting for the varnish and hopefully this would be done by the weekend, weather permitting.

121.2.2. Jayne said they had marked out an area for the bench, it had arrived, Mrs. Jay was meeting with workmen regarding the laying of the foundation, hardcore/slabs, there would be an area for people's feet. She spoke about the bench being fitted with anti-theft bolts, to enable it to be removed should any flooding take place.

121.2.3 Jayne spoke about the Christmas tree lights switch on event and children from the Youth Club assisting with serving the refreshments.

121.2.4 Jayne said the Youth Club had 60 members now, all but two were from the community, however the two did attend Cheswick Green school.

121.2.5 Jayne said the Youth Club was extremely successful. She spoke about football training, basketball and the table tennis table being very popular. She said one girl attended Birmingham City Football Academy. She said with the darker nights arriving, they may start earlier to continue with outside activities.

121.2.6 Jayne said some of the children had asked for floodlights in the park. There were various comments about this; it was suggested that the residents close to the park would not like this, however it was also felt that this should be considered, as there was a lack of light in the park and modern floodlights could light up specific areas.

121.2.7 It was agreed that the Parish Council would consider this for the basketball court area and look for possible funding. Jayne agreed to ask her son to do some research as he was an electrician.

121.2.8 Jayne said there was a Christmas craft fayre in the Village Hall on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December with a raffle and all the crafts would be made by the children from the Youth Club.

121.2.9 Jayne said this was to raise funds for more equipment. She said they had recently purchased a Karaoke machine and it was fabulous.

121.2.10 Jayne spoke about a presentation by the Tappy Twins (*a charity that supports mental health issues by providing counselling, therapy and coaching to enable them to overcome issues*). She said the Tappy Twins had a website with a chatline and that some children preferred to chat online, it was not 24 hours. She said she believed that due to the presentation given, someone had independently contacted the organisation.

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121.2.11 Jayne said there had been a situation in the village, where a person needed help immediately, so they had found private professional help, this was at a reduced rate but it was still very expensive. She said it was for a minimum of 6 weeks and there had been amazing results. She said there were two more people that needed help, they could not wait for CAMS (*Collaborative Assessment and Management of Suicidality*), as this took too long, she said they never wanted a child to get into danger again.

121.2.12 Cllr. Davidson enquired whether they applied for any funding. Jayne said they had from the police and the Council and she would be pursuing this again.

121.2.13 It was suggested that CG RA maybe able to provide some funding, Jayne said the RA paid for their DSB Checks.

121.2.14 There were comments about the difficulties for children these days with pressure from social media etc. it was stated that school had a lot to do.

121.2.15 Jayne said on behalf of Mr. & Mrs. Jay, she would like to ask the Parish Council to consider the Christmas tree being located in the Jubilee Garden, somewhere it could be planted, where it was not in the way.

121.2.16 Cllr. Swain said they were going to discuss this area later, they needed to look at it, it needed sorting out, it was a mess at present and they would have to do this first.

121.2.17 There were comments about having wild flowers at this location, that currently it was full of stinging nettles and that the ground needed to be prepared.

121.2.18 Jayne asked if there was anything the children could help with, it was stated not at present.

121.2.19 It was suggested that there was a place opposite the Jay's house on the green, where the tree could be located as a temporary measure. It was pointed out that it would need replanting at the right time of year. It was stated that it would be unrealistic for it to be reinstated on the Recreation Ground this Christmas.

121.2.20 Jayne said they could possibly put it in the Youth Shelter with some lights.

121.2.21 Jayne said on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> November it would be the first anniversary of Charlie's death, the family were not planning to do anything. She said his friends would probably visit the Youth Shelter, support and refreshments would be provided.

121.2.22 Jayne said she had a white twig tree, for people to hang messages on, she would display notices asking them not to write on the Youth Shelter itself, not to use Sellotape and no wax candles, as she would provide small battery-operated tea tree lights.

At 8pm Jayne left the meeting; she and the other residents were thanked for attending. The residents were informed that they were welcome to stay if they wanted to.

## **122. To approve the Minutes from the meeting held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2018.**

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

## **123. 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 Oct 2018 PC meeting**

100142	Exercise class instructor for September 2018	£ 81.00
100143	CG VHMC use of hall July-Sep 2018	£ 77.00

### **Chgs/Electronic payment transactions to be approved Oct 2018 PC meeting**

<b>Payee</b>	<b>Reason</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>VAT</b>	<b>Net</b>
PKF Littlejohn LLP	Review of AGAR y/e 31/3/18	£360.00	£60.00	£300.00
Glasdon Ltd.	1 x litter bin	£435.42	£72.57	£362.85
JRB Enterprise Ltd.	2 x dog bins	£444.00	£74.00	£370.00

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Payee	Reason	Total	VAT	Net
Zurich	Annual insurance renewal	£514.79		
CG VHMC	Use of Hall July-Sept	£ 32.50		
DM Payroll Services	Administration of payroll 2018/19 July-Sept	£ 36.00		
Marie Zizzi	2 x Multi pack ink for Printer usually £38 each on sale at £28.50 each	£ 57.00		
Royal British Legion	Poppy appeal 2 x wreaths £17+£12=£29 (£31 donation)	£ 60.00		

More in confidential section

It was noted that there was £97.44 petty cash as at 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2018

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

123.1 Cllr. Davidson suggested that the Parish Council considered putting some funds into a longer-term investment fund, as there was a lot of money not earning anything.

123.1.1 Cllr. Swain said they would be spending some on the refurbishment of the toilets. He said the guidance was to have roughly half the precept amount in reserves.

123.2 Members agreed that further to the last meeting, Ian Bruce needed to be removed as an authorised signatory.

**124. To receive second quarter (April-September 2018) expenditure sheets, bank reconciliation and quarterly comparison (actual expenditure compared to budget set) (issued to Parish Cllrs with the agenda).**

124.1 There were no comments about this.

**125. To resolve renewal of BT contracts for 2 years for Broadband/landline and 12 months for PC mobile, as per information circulated in an email by the Clerk (26/9/18).**

125.1 Members were all in agreement with the new arrangements.

**126. To resolve renewal of PC insurance with Zurich as per the Long-Term Agreement (LTA) at a cost of £ £514.79 for 2018/19.**

126.1 Members agreed for this to go ahead.

**127. To discuss date to commence looking at 2019/20 budget for precept setting.**

127.1 Cllr. Swain suggested the precept was kept at the same as it had been for 2018/19, he said there would be more houses and the only budget heading where there was any increase, was in relation to grounds maintenance.

127.1.1 Cllr. Swain said when they next looked at the grounds maintenance specification, they needed to make some amendments.

127.2 Cllr. Gosling said there could be costs for an election next year.

127.3 It was stated that in relation to the precept, SMBC provided Parish Councils with an estimate number of Band D properties in November/December. For any additional houses built, they still took the precept but it did not come to the Parish Council.

127.4 It was felt that there was no need for a separate meeting to look at the budget, this could be done at the next Parish Council meeting.

**128. To discuss co-opting new members.**

128.1 Cllr. Gosling said information about this was on the website now. Cllr. Sedgley said she would put it on Facebook.

128.2 Cllr. Gosling said it would be nice to get someone from Illshaw Heath, she asked members to encourage people and said they could do with some younger people and possibly someone from Cheswick Place, the whole parish needed to be represented.

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

129.1 Cllr. Swain said there did not appear to be any problems with the turning on of the Christmas lights, Father Christmas was coming, the switching on was sorted with SMBC and he would sort out the refreshments. Cllr. Davidson said he would help with the refreshments.

129.1.1 It was noted that it was possible Mr. & Mrs. Tonks may not be available this year. It was noted that the ukulele group still needed to be contacted and that Jayne Brown had offered to do this, as she was seeing someone from the group this week.

129.1.2 Members were in agreement that children from the Youth Club could help out with tea/coffee, soft drinks and mince pies.

129.2 Cllr. Swain said it was possible SMBC would offer them 1000 bulbs again this year, he suggested these could possibly go to Cheswick Place to be planted.

129.3 Cllr. Swain referred to an area by the shops, behind the bus stop near a walkway, he said there were some bushes that served no purpose, he suggested they were removed and the area was grassed over, as they would be expensive to maintain.

129.4 Cllr. Swain referred to the area by the WW1 Memorial Garden, he said it needed tidying up. It was suggested to possibly put a small half fence in this area.

129.4.1 Cllr. Swain referred to the bushes by the Jubilee Garden. It was stated that one tree was dead. It was also pointed out that the residents of Heron Close may not want the trees/bushes removed as they provided a barrier and prevented people being able to see into their houses.

129.4.2 Cllr. Swain suggested that they were consulted before anything was done. He said it was possible what was currently there assisted with drainage and that they needed the right sort of trees. It was pointed out that the trees that were originally there did provide drainage.

129.4.3 There were comments about cutting this area and rotovating it to plant trees. It was stated that the trees that were there had been planted as a Jubilee Garden. Cllr. Davidson referred to the sign, he said it didn't even state what year.

129.4.4 It was pointed out that there were tags on these trees and it was queried whether trees were dead or alive.

129.4.4 There were suggestions about obtaining a quote from the PC Grounds Maintenance contractor, getting professional advice about the trees, asking Notcutts Garden Centre for a price or a local landscaper.

129.4.5 Cllr. Townsend said he could ask his son to have a look, if that was acceptable. Members agreed, it was stated that there was no benefit from this for Cllr. Townsend, however he could declare an interest.

129.4.6 It was agreed that a plan was needed and that the residents of Heron Close needed to be consulted.

129.5 Cllr. Swain said in relation to proposed barriers on the car park, despite writing to Enterprise Inns several weeks ago there had been no reply.

**Action item: Clerk to resend the letter (posted 12/10/2018).**

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

130.1 It was agreed to put Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2019 forward to Bloor Homes. Cllr. Swain said he would provisionally book the hall for both dates until one had been confirmed.

130.2 It was agreed that the provisional meeting set for next Wednesday did not need to take place now. A list of people to be invited had been sent to Bloor Homes.

**131. To receive any reports or recommendations from the Planning Committee and any update in relation to the Neighbourhood Plan and other planning matters/issues.**

131.1 Cllr. Davidson said since the last Parish Council meeting, there had been two Working Party meetings involving three volunteers. He said he had written to both

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Cheswick Green and Illshaw Heath RAs, inviting them to send a representative to the meetings but there had been no reply and no-one had attended.

131.2 Cllr. Davidson said a lot of work had been done and they were now on version 5, it was moving forward.

131.3 There were comments about contacting Avon Planning Services, regarding the ongoing work and what they could ask their consultant to do. Cllr. Gosling said he had recommended including details about memorable views.

131.4 It was noted that there was another meeting on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December. Cllr. Gosling said other members of the Parish Council would be willing to help.

131.5 There were comments about needing to be careful what was wished for and what was needed.

131.6 It was stated that there would be further information on this in due course.

131.7 It was noted the Cllr. Davidson had incurred costs for the NP for printing etc. It was agreed that the Clerk would reimburse him.

**132. To resolve that the Parish Council will purchase 2 new dog bins to replace the ones that the Grounds Maintenance contractor has reported as no longer usable.**

**Resolved;** proposed Cllr. Sedgley, seconded Cllr. Swain; that 2 new dog bins were purchased.

**133. To consider planning applications and local development including progress regarding Mount Dairy Farm/Cheswick Place and Blythe Valley Park/IM – including street numbering and naming.**

**PL/2018/02564/MINFHO** - 32 Saxon Wood Road; Part garage conversion and single storey rear extension.

133.1 There were no comments to be submitted.

133.2 In relation to the names of the streets sent by SMBC; it was noted two Borough Councillors had felt they were okay. There were no comments to be submitted from the Parish Council.

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

134.1 Dealt with.

**135. To discuss the surgery type event being held with SMBC/EA/Canal & River Trust at 730pm on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2018.**

135.1 It was agreed to advertise this again and remind residents to put forward any questions as only 3 people had put forward questions to date.

**Action item: Clerk to contact SMBC for progress report/update further to the meeting in August 2018.**

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

136.1 Cllr. Sedgley said with the darker nights coming now, she was going to organise an event that had already been carried out in Hockley Heath, to look at crime prevention, which would include things like alarms.

136.2 Cllr. Sedgley said CGRA had agreed to pay for the Neighbourhood Watch signs and they had not been paid for in July, but she had attended at CGRA meeting and this had now been sorted out.

136.3 Cllr. Sedgley said the telephone number of the person with the additional stones, for the War Memorial, had now been passed to Bloor Homes to arrange collection.

136.4 Cllr. Sedgley said in relation to the War Memorial plaque that was currently in the PC office, she had contacted the War Office about this and they were very excited about it.

136.5 Cllr. Sedgley said because she was a Parish Councillor and also on Facebook, she had received several complaints in about the pub. People were upset that the pub was open until 1am, because people sat outside and they were rowdy, this caused locals to have sleepless nights.

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136.5.1 Cllr. Gosling said they had discussed about the pubs licensing earlier in the year, because people had been taking drinks to the Recreation Grounds and many of them had collected empty glasses.

136.5.2 There were comments about the party in the park selling alcohol, the pub having applied for a license to do this from SMBC and it being stated that someone from the Parish Council had said this was okay, but no-one from the Parish Council knew anything about it.

136.5.3 Cllr. Townsend said he used the pub Sundays – Thursday and it served until 11 and people were out by 1130pm. He said on Fridays and Saturdays it could go until midnight but people were out by 1230, he had not seen any rowdiness during the week, it was possible this was only at the weekend.

136.5.4 It was stated that it was possible that people hung around outside after the pub had closed.

136.5.5 Cllr. Sedgley referred to a mugging in Clevedon today and damage to cars, with various pieces being removed. She said in some cases it was easy to identify unoccupied houses, you could see right into them in the total darkness, it was obvious no-one was home.

136.6 It was stated that a local resident was filling a Council bin with leaves from their garden and putting leaves on Parish Council owned land. This person had been seen putting bags of leaves behind the bin/notice board on Saxon Wood Road.

**Action item: The Clerk was instructed to write to this person and inform them that if this continued the Parish Council would charge them.**

136.7 Cllr. Swain said he had not seen any Nitrous oxide/laughing gas cylinders on the car park recently. It was stated that there had been a story about this on BBCs Inside Out programme, people could die from this. It was stated that it was possibly not people from Cheswick Green, but people using the car park that disposed of these.

136.8 Cllr. Davidson said with Mr. Cockroft he had attended the Locality event. SMBC had decided to split Solihull into three and Cheswick Green came into the West area, as did Olton and Lyndon, he said it was 53% of the total population of the Borough. He said there had been lots of information, he was not sure how they could use this and there were to be meetings every 6 months to exchange views etc. He said it was possible there could be information on traffic surveys.

### **137. Update/report from Village Hall Management Committee.**

137.1 There was no report, except that a specification for the toilets was being worked on.

### **138. To discuss bus route proposals.**

138.1 It was felt that this had been covered.

**Action item: Clerk to send suggested route and other comments to TfWM. Including that quite a few residents don't drive, the need to get to the Sixth Form/Solihull college, the need to get to Solihull, that it was no good changing buses in Shirley for elderly or disabled people and to look at integrated fares between companies.**

### **139. To consider and resolve any action(s) in relation to items of correspondence received (supplementary pages attached).**

139.1 Information from WALC regarding upcoming events and training, including pre-election prospective Councillors briefings at the Council House, Solihull on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2019 at 6:30pm was noted. It was agreed that information about this should be displayed after Christmas. Cllr. Gosling said if anyone wanted to attend any training, such as the Councillors induction, to let the Clerk know.

139.2 An email from St. Patrick's school asking the Parish Council to help them with a contribution to fund the cost of a defibrillator and lockable wall unit with alarm at a cost of £1005.56 was discussed. It was suggested that the Clerk should inform the school that West Midlands Ambulance Service donated a defibrillator to the Parish Council and to see if they could get one donated to them. To also contact the police, as they may be able to obtain funding from the proceeds of crime act and to see if the school had asked

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St. Patrick's church for funding. It was felt that if the Parish Council funded this, it could set a precedent for other groups to come forward with similar requests.

139.3 Information from Kath Hemmings (SMBC) regarding The Saxon and licensing was noted.

139.4 It was noted that there had been another collision at the junction on Creynolds Lane. Cllr. Gosling had suggested the Parish Council contact SMBC about this again, as people were not taking any notice of the stop signs and the vegetation had not been cut back.

**Action item: Cllr. Gosling agreed to draft something.**

139.5 It was noted that WALC had sent information regarding the 11<sup>th</sup> edition of the Charles Arnold Baker book, at a cost of £103.99 + PP. It was stated that this was an essential document for Parish Councils and agreed that this needed to be obtained, to ensure that the Parish Council had the most up-to-date information. It was noted that the 12<sup>th</sup> edition was planned for release around December 2021.

139.6 An email from Borough Cllr. Ken Hawkins, regarding a 20-mph zone by the school was noted; members agreed that the Clerk should reply to this, stating that they did not feel it would achieve anything and to ask if he would consult with the Parish Council before putting ideas such as this forward.

139.7 Emails from a resident of Illshaw Heath regarding a 20-mph limit in Illshaw Heath were noted and Cllr. Sedgley agreed to contact her and meet her.

139.8 Information regarding the Charter between SMBC and Parish/Town Councils was noted. The Clerk had replied to this.

139.9 An email from SMBC regarding assisting with advertising 100 years of the end of WW1 events was noted. It was stated that the Clerk should contact CG RA to see if there were any plans to organise anything for Remembrance Sunday, for local residents and if so, the Parish Council would like to support this and to be involved.

139.10 Information from WALC about community grant funding was noted. Cllr. Swain agreed to deal with this and apply for it.

139.11 A letter from SMBC regarding a Winter hand gritting proposal was read out. It was noted that the proposal was to provide Parish/Town Councils with a spreader and training to use it. There were concerns about where this could be stored and stated that a small gritter like this would not do much in Cheswick Green. It was suggested to send this to CG RA to see if it was something they would be interested in.

139.12 It was noted that Cllr. Gosling had circulated a draft Newsletter.

**140. To discuss and resolve any actions in relation to the ongoing CGPC action list (supplementary pages attached). Including attendance at SAC meetings.**

140.1 Cllr. Davidson queried what this list was and said it was more of a wish list.

140.2 It was agreed to remove a number of items.

140.3 It was noted that the next Solihull Area Committee (SAC) meeting was on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2018 at 7.30 pm in Balsall Parish. No-one was available to attend.

140.4 Cllr. Gosling said she would chase a reply from BT/Openreach.

**141. Agenda items for next meeting.**

141. Cllr. Davidson said they needed to discuss pavement parking and overhanging/overgrown hedges and trees on public footpaths.

**142. 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.**

142.1 There were no members of the public present.

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

143.1 Cllr. Swain wanted to discuss the Clerks contract of employment. Therefore, the Clerk was asked to leave the meeting.

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

**Meeting closed 21:25**

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