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

Wednesday 9th January 2019 7:30pm Cheswick Green Village Hall

Present:

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

Clerk: Marie Zizzi

2 members of the public

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

198.1 Not applicable.

199. Declarations of Interest.

199.1 None.

200. Dispensations.

200.1 None.

201. Public Participation (15 Minutes).

201.1 The members of the public present were Mr. Jon Bryan, Development Planner Bloor Homes, who attended to discuss the War Memorial event and Mr. Piers Cockroft, who attended to discuss the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP).

202. To discuss the War Memorial opening ceremony event.

202.1 Mr. Bryan presented a sketch of the War Memorial. He said the invitations had been sent out now, he pointed out that both the Mayor of Solihull and the Mayor for the West Midlands had been invited.

202.2 It was agreed that only the Mayor of Solihull needed to speak.

202.3 Mr. Bryan said the publications for the notice boards had been approved now and he would send copies to the Clerk.

202.4 Mr. Bryan said they were going to cater for 150 people, there would be sandwiches, tea/coffee and they would like to access the Village Hall from 11:30 to set up. Cllr. Swain said he would open the Village Hall.

202.5 Mr. Bryan said the speakers were Mr. John Pettinger, Mr. Nick Rawlings from Bloor Homes and Cllr. Gosling. It was noted that the Reverend Vicki Atkinson and Reverend Julie Humphries could give a dedication. It was stated that the Mayor could say a few words.

202.6 It was noted the Mr. Michael Bettridge, a local resident had contacted the Parish Council stating that one or two of the Victoria Cross's mentioned were from regiments that no longer exist, but their predecessors were regiments to the Mercian Regiment. His stepson was currently with the Regimental Adjutant of the Mercian Regiment and that whilst his stepsons 'military address' was Lichfield, his home address was still Cheswick Green. Mr. Bettridge said his stepson would be delighted to take part, in his official capacity, in any ceremony that was taking place. He provided Mr. Bryan with contact details for his stepson.

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202.7 Cllr. Sedgley said a couple of people from the Warwickshire Regiment would be attending and she had someone to play the last post.

202.8 Mr. Bryan said photography was confirmed, the local press were informed and the BBC could possibly send a cameraman and reporter.

202.9 Mr. Bryan said the ceremony would culminate with the cutting of a ribbon, two people could hold this and it was suggested the Mr. Pettinger could cut it.

202.10 Mr. Bryan spoke about the transferring of the land to the Parish Council, a plan was looked at and the area was edged in red. He said Bloor would maintain the open spaces for about 12 months, until Solihull MBC took over these areas. He said he had made the person responsible for open spaces at Solihull MBC aware that the Parish Council was taking over responsibility for the War Memorial and the area around it.

202.10.1 Mr. Bryan referred to overage provisions, in relation to the land where the War Memorial was and if it was ever built on. He took the contact details for the Parish Councils solicitor, to enable Bloor Homes solicitor to liaise.

202.11 Cllr. Swain asked what the schedule for completion of the construction was. Mr. Bryan said they had pressed ahead quite positively, this had been assisted by the Market for housing. He said it could possibly be August time, but he needed to confirm this, however he thought it would be this year.

202.12 Cllr. Sedgley said there were concerns about crime on Cheswick Place and she said there was an issue with door locks.

At 8pm Mr. Bryan left the meeting. He was thanked for attending.

203. To discuss the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP).

203.1 It was stated that the reply on the version sent to the Planning Consultant had been quite positive.

203.2 Cllr. Gosling said they should possibly go back to doing things in relation to the NDP with the Working Party and the Planning Committee, as it needed to be led by the Parish Council.

203.3 Cllr. Sedgley said she was happy to put the NDP into the format provided by the Planning Consultant.

203.4 Mr. Cockroft said he had been involved with this before any of the current Parish Councillors had joined, he said it kept getting started and then put on the backburner, however it had progressed. He said from a long-term view, it was a shame they didn't have a NDP already. Cheswick Green was still mostly a rural village, he referred to the pressures of development and changes, he said Cheswick Green could get swallowed up, then it would no longer be a village.

203.5 Mr. Cockroft said the NDP was the most important thing the Parish Council should be doing, as its number one priority, he said he appreciated that there were other issues such as the War Memorial and elections, but this was important for the future of the area, as things kept changing.

203.6 Mr. Cockroft said as far he was concerned, he was happy to continue to be involved in the process, he did not know about Mr. Burrows, Mr. Lechmere had a similar view point to him, there was a need to see the Parish Council pick this up and run with it as a top priority, to do it properly and speedily, it was the most important issue for the people of the parish.

203.7 Cllr. Gosling said she agreed, she said they already had pressures and there could be more, she referred to Mr. Pettinger's history of Cheswick Green and how the area had come about. It was stated that previously the area had been in Stratford.

203.8 Cllr. Gosling said she had been involved with the NDP for 4 years, there had been lots of hiccups and problems, but she agreed it needed to be put forward.

203.9 Cllr. Sedgley read from Borough Councillor Ken Hawkins website, which he had posted on Facebook:-

'Allocation 12 (and through connectivity Allocation 11 which is within Shirley South ward) has the potential to be delivered but...

The issue of coalescence (merging of communities) is an issue and the green space between Shirley and Cheswick Green will be eroded. Any development must be a ribbon type, leaving a substantial amount of green space between the development site and

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Cheswick Green. There must be no highway access to and from Cheswick Green Village from the new development and the green space between the development and the village must become 'public realm' – creating a country park effect the whole length of Dog Kennel Lane with the only access being via existing public footpaths. I will certainly look for this area to be set aside as a green space under the control of the parish council.

It is also essential that flood attenuation measures should ensure an extremely high degree of 'betterment' to capture ground level water runoff and create substantial balancing ponds to capture any flood water from the Shirley area and thus reduce any impact on Cheswick Green further along the brooks serving the River Blythe. It is also essential traffic movements from this site are 'motivated' towards the A34 Stratford Road, away from the heavily used Tanworth Lane and Blackford Road.

*Because of its proximity to the main A34 Stratford Road, thus motorway links, I feel this site will remain in the plan and will be difficult to oppose. This does not mean it is a 'given' and my **red lines** are as set out above'.*

203.10 There were comments about pressure from developers and the requirement for larger areas to be developed for housing. It was stated that this land would be best kept as farm land.

203.11 It was stated that it was most unlikely, that the area would be made into a country park that was then handed over to the Parish Council.

203.12 Cllr. Gosling said she agreed they needed to finish the NDP as soon as possible. She pointed out that there had been a lot of changes in relation to members on the Parish Council, she said that initially she had joined the Planning Committee as she had been keen for a NDP to move forward, before she had joined the Parish Council.

203.13 It was stated there were now the bones of a NDP and it needed to be put into the correct format.

203.14 It was agreed that once Cllr. Sedgley had done this, it should be circulated to all those involved with the NDP and then a Planning Committee meeting should be arranged.

203.15 An email from Hockley Heath Parish Council regarding a traffic survey was noted. It was agreed that once the Planning Committee meeting date had been arranged to invite the Chair of HHPCs NP Steering Committee to attend.

203.16 Mr. Cockroft said he had emailed the EA with a number of questions. He was invited to attend a meeting on Wednesday 30th January with a representative from CSW Resilience to see products/templates intended to support resilience at a local level.

204. To approve the Minutes from the meeting held on Wednesday 12th December 2018.

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

205. 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 Jan 2019 PC meeting

100145	Exercise class instructor for December 2018	£ 54.00
100146	CGVHMC use of the hall	£ 70.00

Chqs/Electronic payments/transactions to be approved Jan 2019 PC meeting

Payee	Reason	Total	VAT	Net
Sam Sedgley	Reimbursement for stamps & envelopes for newsletter	£38.98	£1.66	£37.32
CG VHMC	Use of Village Hall Oct-Dec	£45.50		
Diane Malley	PAYE – Oct-Dec 2018	£36.00		

More in confidential section

It was noted that there would be £99.28 petty cash (once £60 top-up from December had been sorted out).

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

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

206.1 There were no questions/queries.

207. To resolve 2019/20 Precept and to delegate authority to the Clerk to submit the form to SMBC. Members to note requirements for them to do this as issued by the Clerk.

207.1 It was noted that the clerk had issued information to members regarding their requirements in relation to the payment of Council Tax etc. regarding the setting of the precept.

Resolved; proposed Cllr. Sedgley, seconded Cllr Swain; that the precept would be set as agreed at the previous meeting and to delegate the authority to the clerk to submit this.

208. To discuss co-opting new members and elections.

208.1 It was noted that posters had been displayed for the WALC prospective pre-election event on Monday 28th January 2019.

208.2 Cllr. Sedgley suggested there was a monthly Parish Council update, on what they were doing, set out in bullet points.

208.3 It was agreed that members would keep talking to residents, to encourage them to think about applying to join the Parish Council.

208.4 There were comments about the proposed Open Evening in February and stated that members could also talk to residents at the War Memorial event, to try and be more visible.

209. To discuss any issues that relate to the Recreation Committee; land owned by the Parish Council, grounds maintenance.

209.1 Cllr. Swain said the work in relation to the toddler swings had been completed, he said the sand had now been removed from the car park, he referred to a gap between a slab in the children's play area and suggested another slab was installed, the clerk was asked to liaise with the grounds maintenance contractor about this.

209.2 An email from the grounds maintenance contractor was noted, in relation to the Mount, the clerk was asked to make further enquiries about this.

209.3 Cllr. Swain spoke about the roads around the parish, he said some work had started on cutting back overgrowth etc. but then it had stopped and nothing had been done in the village. He referred to Watery Lane and Tanworth Lane, he said nothing had been done at the junction, if you turned right parts of the path were impassable and only one side had been worked on.

209.3.1 Cllr. Swain referred to Illshaw Heath Road and edges being broken, he said it needed resurfacing and the kerbs needed work.

209.3.2 Cllr. Swain said he was happy to put something together, to be agreed, before it was sent to Solihull MBC, there were no objections.

209.4 Cllr. Swain said the corner of Heron Close had bushes/shrubs which were unsightly and harboured litter, he said he thought Solihull MBC should get rid of these and grass the area over, as currently they were being cut twice a year.

210. To discuss providing some funding to the Youth Club, as per a request made to Cllr. Swain at Christmas.

210.1 It was noted that the Youth Club was doing really well and there were now about 60 members. The Youth Club held events to raise funds for equipment. It was stated that a few members had assist with the turning on of the Christmas lights event. Cllr. Swain had been approached and asked if the Parish Council would consider providing some funding.

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Resolved; proposed Cllr. Swain, seconded Cllr. Sedgley; that the Parish Council would provide funding of £250 to the Youth Club.

211. To consider planning applications and local development including progress at Mount Dairy Farm/Cheswick Place and Blythe Valley Park/IMP.

211.1 It was noted that a request had been received for the Parish Council to support an application to build 3 bungalows on land by 32 Creynolds Lane. Solihull MBC had refused this application and a number of the reasons were stated.

211.1.1 Members felt that while they would be in favour of small developments, the comments made objecting to this application made by Solihull MBC and others, such as the Fire Service were valid points that had merit and therefore, they agreed that they could not support this application at present.

212. To discuss the party in the park.

212.1 Cllr. Swain had circulated a draft form for groups/requests to use the Recreation Ground.

212.2 It was agreed that the Clerk should send this to CG RA, with a covering message requesting that the form is returned before the end of March.

212.3 It was pointed out that the Parish Council was not against the party in the park, but by having this form and the other documents requested, this would protect the RA and the PC.

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

213.1 It was noted that an email had been received from SDL, the Managing Agents for the owner of the shops and the area outside the shops. It stated that someone from SDL had spoken with its contractor regarding the litter outside the shops and that he was due to go out towards the end of December, that he did this once a month. It also requested to provide any photos/dates when the rubbish was bad, to enable them to investigate. Finally, in relation to barriers and lighting, it had been suggested that Mr. Martin Nicholls came and met with members of the Parish Council and to provide dates/times to do this.

213.2 It was noted that a request had been made to Solihull MBC, to see if it could arrange for a litter pick outside the shops and to then charge the Parish Council, however the reply had been that this area is classed as private and that SMBC could offer support if there was a voluntary litter pick by residents, by providing litter pickers, etc. It was pointed out that the Parish Council was in exactly the same situation, it could not arrange a litter pick/tidy up on land it did not own.

213.3 Cllr. Sedgley referred to the Love Solihull scheme, she said they did litter picks and organised events.

213.4 It was noted the Cllr. Gosling had received an email from the Chairman of CG RA Mr. George Burdett, suggesting that the Parish Council could offer to buy the area in front of the shops. It was agreed that it would not be a good use of public money, for the Parish Council to buy this area, to then spend even more money on its upkeep. Cllr. Gosling agreed to reply to Mr. Burdett.

213.5 It was agreed that a meeting should be arranged with Enterprise Inns and SDL to discuss litter and safeguarding the land, it was suggested to also invite a representative from CGRA.

213.6 In the meantime the clerk was instructed to ask the grounds maintenance contractor to carry out a litter pick on the parts of the car park the Parish Council owned, once a month during January, February and March.

214. To discuss the car park area and litter.

214.1 Dealt with.

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

215.1 Cllr. Gosling referred to an email sent via the Parish Council website, in relation to Broadband and there being many properties off Dog Kennel Lane and Tanworth Lane

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with poor broadband connections, this person had stated that they hoped these areas would also be considered, as they were in the parish. Cllr. Gosling had replied that this matter was still ongoing.

215.2 Cllr. Gosling said she still needed to arrange to get the information about the War Memorial on the website, she would try to do this before the event

215.3 The clerk said that CGPC would be 10 years old on 1st April 2019.

215.4 In relation to the new plaques for Chris Noble and Janet Leese; Cllr. Townsend said he had been to the place twice, but it had been closed on both occasions, he hoped to have something for the next meeting.

216. Update/report from Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC).

216.1 Cllr. Swain said a new microwave and boiler had been installed and they were looking at ovens.

216.2 Cllr. Swain said in relation to the refurbishment of the toilets and obtaining quotes, they were going to try to obtain 6 quotes.

216.2.1 Cllr. Swain said that a member of the VHMC was a pretty good builder and if he was asked to quote, they may get a good price. He said this had not been mentioned to the person concerned yet and he asked if the Parish Council thought this person should be permitted to quote.

216.2.2 Members felt it was not their decision to make, however it was also stated that if the person lived locally, they may be more conscientious and that there was no reason he should not be given the chance.

216.2.3 Cllr. Swain said he may not even be in a position to quote, depending on how much work he had on.

216.2.4 Cllr. Swain said they could request sealed quotes to be sent to the Parish Council.

217. To discuss Mr. Pettinger's draft Cheswick Green the first 40 years.

217.1 Cllr. Swain had not read this yet. Cllr. Gosling said they were still waiting for Mr. Pettinger to come back with information from the/a publisher, but it was likely the Parish Council would agree to support this.

218. To discuss the Ward Action Plan.

218.1 It was suggested to request that the shrubs/bushes on the corner of Heron Close were removed and this area being grassed over should be put forward.

219. Nominations for Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace on Wednesday 29th May 2019.

219.1 It was agreed that Cllr. Sedgley could put her name forward.

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

220.1 An invitation from Solihull MBC to a Parish & Town Councils Conference at The Core on Thursday 24th January 2019 at 6pm was noted, the clerk said she would probably attend.

220.2 A reply from Solihull MBC, in relation to queries about the work on the junction at Creynolds Lane was noted. There were comments and concerns about the new road layout and why there were no signs informing people. Comments made on Facebook by Borough Cllr. Ken Hawkins were noted. Cllr. Swain said it had resulted in increased waiting time when leaving Cheswick Green, due to the 3 sets of traffic lights. It was agreed that what had been done caused delays and stated that there had already been incidents. It was agreed that Cllr. Swain would draft a response in relation to this, to go to Ken Hawkins and the Head of Highways at SMBC.

220.3 The glow in the dark stickers package – 'we are watching you' – clean up after your dog campaign by Keep Britain Tidy were discussed. However, it was felt that if people did not clean up after their dog, these stickers would not get them to do it.

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220.4 Information regarding the Ordnance Survey withdrawal of product ITN and the replacement Highways product, was noted, it was agreed to keep this service as it was free. Cllr. Sedgley said she would reply to this.

220.5 An email from Vision ICT regarding Operation London Bridge and the Queen was noted. It was agreed that the clerk should indicate that CGPC was interested in carrying out this protocol.

220.6 An email from Citizens Advice Solihull requesting a donation was noted. It was stated that there were lots of worthy causes that needed funding. It was pointed out that due to cuts from LA funding, Citizens Advice were short of funds and were approaching Parish/Town Councils. It was felt that once the Parish Council supported an organisation, it would come back again and again. It was stated that it was different for the Youth Club, as this was local and affected CG residents.

220.7 It was noted that the next Solihull Area Committee meeting was on Tuesday 15th January. No-one was available to attend.

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

221.1 It was noted that former Cllr. Brown had carried out regular checks on the defibrillator. Members were not sure what this meant. It was suggested that the only thing that needed checking was the battery and this probably lasted for about 5 years.

222. Agenda items for next meeting.

222.1 Cllr. Gosling suggested having something about encouraging new people to become Parish Councillors.

223. 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.

223.1 There were no members of the public present.

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

224.1 There were none.

225. PAYE, payroll and Pension Scheme.

Meeting closed 21:25