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### **RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2019 10:30am Cheswick Green Village Hall**

#### **Present:**

Cheswick Green Parish Councillors: Len Cresswell, Sam Sedgley, Mick Swain and Peter Townsend.

#### **In attendance**

Matthew Gardner, Neighbourhood Co-ordinator SMBC

Clerk: Marie Zizzi

0 members of the public

#### **1. To elect a Chairman.**

1.1 Cllr. Sedgley proposed Cllr. Swain, Cllr. Townsend seconded. Cllr. Swain accepted.

#### **Resolved.**

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

2.1 Not applicable all members present.

#### **3. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations.**

3.1 None.

#### **4. Public Participation.**

4.1 There were no members of the public present.

#### **5. To discuss any issues that relate to Solihull MBC. Mr. Matthew Gardner invited to participate.**

5.1 Mr. Gardner was informed that at the recent Parish Council meeting, it had been stated that there were 4 A-board signs outside the Post Office, when there should only be 2; he said he would check this.

5.2 Cllr. Sedgley said the bench by the bus stop, that was dedicated to Gwen Fincham – 50's club, which was not on Parish Council owned land, looked very unsafe and dangerous, she showed a photograph.

5.2.1 It was stated that as it was a memorial, should someone try to contact her relatives and if so how?

5.2.2 It was suggested it could be replaced with a metal bench and to possibly reinstate the plaque. It was stated that the bench was not used and it would not be missed.

5.2.3 Mr. Gardner agreed that from the photograph it looked like it needed to be removed.

5.3 It was stated that it appeared someone had tried to unscrew the Charlie Jay bench.

5.4 There were comments about the Recreation Ground and the Youth Shelter, it was stated these areas were being used as a toilet, for drugs and drinking alcohol.

5.4.1 It was noted there was now CCTV on the car park by the Village Hall.

5.4.2 It was suggested to arrange a meeting with members of the Parish Council, representatives from SMBC and the police to discuss local issues/concerns.

5.5 It was stated that area outside the front of the shops was an ongoing matter; that the pub, the hairdressers, the kitchen shop and the Bangla did clear up. It was pointed

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out that when the Bangla staff swept up cigarette ends; they threw them into the flowerbeds.

5.5.1 It was noted that a member of the RA had suggested the bushes/fencing were cleared out and replaced with a statue and seating.

5.6 Cllr. Townsend referred to a path adjacent to 34 Saxon Wood Road and the Bloor development, he said work was ongoing and he queried when Solihull MBC would adopt the highways. Mr. Gardner said it was a long process.

5.7 Cllr. Swain spoke about a bus stop near Cheswick Place on Tanworth Lane, 30-40 metres from the development, he said the bus did not always stop there, the area was overgrown and passengers could not alight. He queried who was responsible. Mr. Gardner said he would inspect the area.

5.7.1 It was reiterated that the bus stop was full of vegetation, that sometimes the bus stopped there, it was suggested that it stopped if it was requested to.

5.8 Cllr. Swain said past the new development and Crossroads garage, there was danger of a serious accident happening at the end of Watery Lane, when people were walking towards the new development, some parts had path and some did not, people were crossing the road to walk down. Mr. Gardner said he would raise this with the H&S/Highways team to see if they had carried out an audit.

5.9 Mr. Gardner said regarding the condition of the road at the corner of Tanworth Lane/Watery Lane, this was on the list of works to be done, but he did not know when. He said anti-skid surface would be used.

5.10 Cllr. Swain said there was also an issue with lighting, it was stated that this would also be affected by when the highway was adopted. Mr. Gardner said the road should have been done before the development started, but it wasn't due to the heavy trucks etc.

5.11 There were comments about the junction at Creynolds Lane and the traffic lights, it was stated whoever had arranged this had been ill-advised. It was stated there were constantly comments about this on Facebook and they were generally from younger people.

5.11.1 It was stated it took 15 minutes to get out of the junction, from 8am onwards, not always at peak times, this put more pressure on Tanworth Lane. It was pointed out that someone had described Cheswick Green as an island in a sea of traffic.

5.11.2 Mr. Gardner said he had a meeting with an engineer and he would see where they were with this.

5.12 Cllr. Cresswell said the bus stop opposite Creynolds Lane (south across the traffic lights) had not been replaced. He said he had contacted Ashley Prior (Head of Highway Services), about this and been told it would be replaced in 5-8 weeks, but that had been 3 months ago. He said the current bus stop was a pole in a bucket, which ended up in the hedge, he said there used to be a bus shelter.

5.13 Cllr. Swain said Creynolds Lane was now on the contract for cutting, this had been done 2 weeks ago, but no strimming had been carried out along the whole of the stretch. Mr. Gardner said he would chase this up with Street Care.

5.14 There were comments about 2 people sitting in a car on Cheswick Way, apparently carrying out a traffic survey, possibly for the school, last Monday. It was stated they had been there for hours and hours, but they were in the wrong place to do this.

5.14.1 Cllr. Cresswell asked Mr. Gardner to speak to Ashley Prior about this, if the surveyors were counting traffic for the school, to inform him they were in the wrong place to do this.

5.15 There were comments about lots of vehicles being parked by the school for a few days, it was suggested the owners went to the B&B, or possibly travelled in another van.

5.16 There were comments about the road scheme in Dickens Heath.

At 11am Mr. Gardner left the meeting he was thanked for attending.

**6. To resolve to accept the Minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2019.**

**Resolved;** Cllr. Sedgley and Cllr. Townsend agreed these were a true and accurate record.

**7. To report any issues from site risk assessments since the last meeting and to provide Clerk with reports for filing. To review who does which risk assessment and to produce new risk assessment for the War Memorial.**

7.1 Cllr. Swain said he would do the Recreation Ground/car park and the War Memorial.

7.2 Cllr. Cresswell said he would do Saxon Wood Road.

7.3 Cllr. Townsend said he would to the Village Green.

**Action: Clerk to ask Mr. Hall if he would continue to do the Mount.**

**8. Update on Grounds maintenance, litter picking and bin emptying.**

**Action: The Clerk was asked to remind the grounds maintenance contractor that they were waiting for a quote for litter picking the car park and to continue with the monthly grounds maintenance for 2 more years. To also ask him if he could repair the cracked ranch fencing in front of the Village Hall by the steps.**

8.1 Cllr. Cresswell said the grounds maintenance contractor was meant to repair the ranch fencing in front of the shops.

8.2 There were comments about the CCTV installed to monitor the car park, it was felt there should be some installed to monitor the Recreation Ground. It was stated that the CCTV monitor in the Parish Council office needed to be reinstated, because the Clerk worked alone, she should be able to see who was inside/outside the hall.

**Action: Cllr. Townsend said he would consult with the person who installed the CCTV about this.**

8.3 There were comments about low level/some form of lighting for the Recreation Ground.

8.4 Cllr. Swain said the Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC), not only had £22k in the bank, it had now received £7k from someone that had died in Earlswood, the VHMC was one of a number of benefactors.

8.5 It was noted the Parish Council had received some CIL money and that there were lots of things that could be done. It was stated the Jubilee Garden/WW1 flowerbed Memorial garden needed work.

8.5.1 It was stated that there needed to be a meeting to discuss the CIL and what to do with it. Cllr. Swain suggested some static exercise machines.

8.5.2 Cllr. Cresswell said they needed to consider notice boards.

8.6 Cllr. Sedgley referred to Warwickshire Wildlife Trust seeking funding on behalf of the Parish Council to dig out two ponds on the Recreation Ground. She said the soil taken out could be used elsewhere on the land. She said the project was to try to encourage more wildlife, such as butterflies, dragon flies and bees, the school would be involved, this was a huge project.

8.7 There were comments about some bushes on the Recreation Ground – 12 that had been planted to celebrate joining the EU.

8.8 Cllr. Sedgley said SMBC was giving away trees.

**9. To review Recreation Committee terms of reference.**

9.1 Cllr. Cresswell requested that 'sections of the car park owned by the Parish Council' was added in the 'general' section and 'Land owned at Boscobel Road'.

9.2 It was suggested that a recommendation should be made to the Full Council that the Recreation Committee is delegated the authority to spend up to £2000.

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**10. Review of actions list.**

10.1 It was suggested there was an addendum to the existing Grounds Maintenance Specification, to incorporate new/additional work required; such as emptying the litter bin on Saxon Wood Road and mowing the grass at the War Memorial.

10.1.1 Cllr. Cresswell queried why a litter bin had been installed on Saxon Wood Road. It was stated the Parish Council had decided to do this some time ago.

10.2 Cllr. Sedgley said the RA had done the big planters and they looked really good now.

10.2.1 Cllr. Cresswell commented about the RA not consulting the person that had been looking after these.

10.2.2 Cllr. Sedgley said they had been full of ivy and in a mess.

10.3 There were comments about the flower planter's underneath road name signs that had been created for people to adopt to maintain.

10.3.1 Cllr. Sedgley suggested they were refurbished if this was possible.

10.3.2 Cllr. Cresswell said originally there were 12 now there were 8, he suggested the Parish Council could pay for them to be refurbished and painted etc.

10.3.3 Cllr. Cresswell said if someone wanted to adopt one, they should sign a document to say they would look after it.

10.3.4 It was stated they were a nice addition to the village, but currently they were in a poor state.

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

11.1 There were none.

**12. Date and time for next meeting and any agenda items.**

12.1 Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2019 at 10:30am.

**Meeting closed 11:30**