



Cheswick Green Parish Council

Mrs. Marie Zizzi
 Clerk to the Council
 Cheswick Green Village Hall
 Cheswick Way, Cheswick Green
 Solihull B90 4JA

Tel: 01564 700168
 clerk@cheswickgreen-pc.gov.uk
 www.cheswickgreen-pc.gov.uk

CHESWICK GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Wednesday 10th July 2019 7:30pm Cheswick Green Village Hall

Present: Cheswick Green Parish Councillors: Len Cresswell, Margaret Gosling, Sam Sedgley, Michelle Smith, Mick Swain and Peter Townsend.

Clerk: Marie Zizzi

3 members of the Public

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

71.1 Not applicable.

72. Declarations of Interest.

72.1 There were none.

73. Dispensations.

73.1 There were none.

74. Public Participation (15 Minutes).

74.1 Jayne Brown spoke about the deliberate damage to her husband's car on Friday 24th May; she said at the time no Parish Councillor had known how to work the CCTV system or had the app to do this. She said it was really simple and someone could have this on their phone.

74.1.1 Jayne said she had not been given access to the footage; £800 worth of damage had been caused for some Pringles. She had been told the images were blurred, she said it could be possible that the person was wearing distinctive clothing or they could have seen the direction the person walked from, if it was by the Saxon, the pub could have picked something up on its CCTV.

74.1.2 It was stated that no-one from the Parish Council had seen the footage and that it should be the Parish Council that was viewing this, not the person that installed it.

74.1.3 Cllr. Townsend said it should have been handed over to the Parish Council and the issue had been that the camera was clogged up with spiders' webs.

74.1.4 Jayne said it had taken over 4 weeks to be told there was nothing to view. Cllr. Townsend said he had been told the footage was inconclusive and they could put this down to teething problems, he said he would try and look at it.

74.1.5 It was noted that the CCTV was being extended during the first week of August.

74.2 Jayne spoke about broken glass on the car park and Recreation Ground; she said on Friday 14th June this had escalated, she referred to a dog walker that cleared the footpath on the Recreation Ground.

74.2.1 Jayne said as well as the smashed glass, pint glasses were being positioned behind car tyres, she knew someone that had done this and seen someone throw a Jack Daniels bottle.

74.2.2 Jayne suggested the Parish Council and the Residents Association contacted Craft Union, to request that anyone taking a drink outside was given a plastic glass. She said she was aware of the push to reduce plastics; however, it was possible to get reusable plastic glasses. Rebecca said people would start drinking in the pub, then go outside for a cigarette and they would have a glass.

74.2.3 There were comments about the pub offering cheap drinks at the weekend and this attracting lots of people from outside the village. It was stated these people were men not youths, they were outside smoking weed and taking drugs on the car park.

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74.2.4 Cllr. Townsend said the pub did issue plastic glasses. It was noted there was to be a meeting with representatives from the pub soon and this matter could be raised then and at the Residents Association meeting taking place on Friday.

74.2.5 Jayne said the dance school was here on Saturdays, there were lots of youngsters, it was unsightly and dangerous, there were also glasses on the wall. It was noted that information about broken glass was often put on Facebook.

74.3 Jayne said at the previous meeting she had informed the Parish Council about the funding the youth club had obtained for Mental Health training, there were 3 places available, they had offered one to the school, one to the Under 5's group and one to St. Patrick's school.

74.4 Cllr. Smith referred to the RA litter pick on Sunday, she said they had done a good job, but there had not been very many people. Rebecca said it was more than they had ever had.

74.4.1 Cllr. Smith suggested that the youth club could carry out litter pick once every 2-3 months. There were various comments and suggestions about this. It was stated the Boys Brigade had used to carry out litter picks for badges.

74.4.2 Jayne said they would need to do a risk assessment and check for glass and dog faeces first, then they could ask members of the youth club to pick up some of the litter before they left. She said they did not give rewards for anything; no-one was singled out this was expected behaviour. It was stated that the park belonged to everyone and everyone was responsible.

74.5 Rebecca said Borough Cllr. James Butler had cleared a path and residents appreciated this. It was stated that the verges were getting cut less and apparently this was due to wildlife.

75. To resolve to accept the Minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 12th June 2019 (circulated to Parish Cllrs. with the agenda).

Resolved; proposed Cllr. Smith, seconded Cllr. Townsend, the minutes were accepted.

76. 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 and to consider any quotes submitted. (circulated to Parish Cllrs. with the agenda)

Payments to be agreed from Co-op acc Exercise Class July 2019 PC meeting

100154	Class instructor for June 2019	£108.00
100155	CG VHMC use of hall April – June 2019	£ 63.00

Chgs/Electronic payment transactions to be approved July 2019 PC meeting

Payee	Reason	Total
Meadowfields GM	Empty new litter bin on Saxon Wood Rd April	£ 60.00
	Empty litter bin SWR May and fitting new bench	£168.00
	Removal of old bench VG	£144.00
	Removal of fly-tipped tarmac	£ 36.00
	Replacing Chris Noble/Janet Leese signs and putting up new no dogs and CCTV signs	£132.00
Chris Bishop	Cut back foliage Saxon WR	£264.00
PPL	Planning advise	£274.00
Vision ICT	Operation London Bridge Prince Philip & Charles	£ 84.00
Eventbrite/LGRC	To attend the EXPO event	£ 21.00
CG VHMC	Use of VH April-June 2019	£ 32.50
Meadowfields GM	Empty litter bin June	£ 48.00

More in confidential section.

Petty cash £97.52 as at 3rd July 2019

Quotes received

WM Security & Fire CCTV towards Recreation Ground £2245.00

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Resolved; proposed Cllr. Sedgley, seconded Cllr. Swain; that all payments and the quote were approved.

77. To receive first quarter (April-June 2019) expenditure sheets and bank reconciliation (*circulated to Parish Cllrs. with the agenda*).

77.1 There were no queries and Cllr. Swain checked the bank statements with the bank reconciliation and signed this.

78. To discuss the CIL money and consider what this should/could be spent on.

78.1 It was stated there had been lots of suggestions on Facebook but only two had been sent to the Clerk directly, these had been circulated to all Councillors. It was recommended to have a separate meeting to discuss this.

78.2 It was pointed out that SMBC received 85% and the Parish Council only received 15%; therefore, some of the proposals should be put forward to SMBC to spend some of what it had on this area.

78.3 It was noted signs to reduce speeding and outdoor exercise equipment had been put forward. Cllr. Swain said he had applied for some funding for outdoor exercise equipment and he could reapply for this.

78.4 Cllr. Cresswell said there was a lot more to come in from two sites.

78.4.1 Cllr. Gosling said if these sites went ahead, as the Local Plan was under a complete review. She said there was no CIL money to come from Blythe Valley, as it had been zero rated.

79. To receive any reports or recommendations from the Recreation Committee and to resolve any action to be taken.

79.1 Cllr. Swain said there had been a meeting last month and a list of things had been given to Matthew Gardner (SMBC Neighbourhood Co-ordinator), however nothing much had happened since then.

79.2 Cllr. Swain said last year he had walked the four main roads and taken photographs, to show the state these areas were in, they had then been tidied up, two areas were not on the contract and were yet to be adopted, one by the Crossroads garage and one by Creynolds Lane, where there was a left turn and the hedge was very high.

79.3 Cllr. Swain said Matthew had been told people were not happy and that he was going to ask questions under the Freedom of Information Act.

79.4 Cllr. Gosling said that from Saxon Wood Road to the cul-de-sac and up to Tanworth Lane, had used to be cleared by SMBC, this was Bloors land now and it was an absolute mess. She said she was not sure where the Parish Council land ended.

79.4 Cllr. Swain said there was no proper path and insufficient lighting by the Crossroads garage, he said the bus stop was a joke, people could not get off, he referred to roads not being adopted until the site was handed over. He said they needed to take this matter up with Ashley Prior (SMBC Head of Highways), when they met with him.

79.5 Cllr. Gosling said she had asked Bloor Homes if they would put a path in there and been told no.

79.6 Cllr. Swain said potentially it was dangerous, there were comments about having to cross the road twice. Cllr. Swain said Matthew did try to do things.

80. To resolve to accept Meadowfields GM cost to continue with monthly grounds maintenance for two more years until 31st March 2022.

80.1 There were some concerns about work not being carried out when it should be.

80.2 Cllr. Smith queried whether there was a sheet to say what work had been done and when. Cllr. Swain said no, the grounds maintenance contractor worked from a specification, everything was in this. He said there had not been a problem before, but now things were not getting done.

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80.2.1 Cllr. Swain said he would meet with the grounds maintenance contractor and discuss this with him.

80.3 Item deferred to September meeting.

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

81.1 It was stated a meeting had taken place on Monday 1st July and it had been decided that the Neighbourhood Development Plan Working Party needed to meet.

81.2 It was stated the Local Plan had been delayed. It was suggested to task people with jobs to do and to turn negative comments into positives.

82. To consider planning applications received and local development including progress regarding Cheswick Place/Mount Dairy Farm and Blythe Valley Business Park/IM.

82.1 There were no planning applications.

82.2 Cllr. Gosling said Cheswick Place on was the way to being finished.

82.3 It was stated there had been some comments about the path on Saxon Wood Road to the War Memorial and due to this being grit, it was not possible to push a wheelchair or a pram. It was suggested that pavements needed to be accessible to all due to the disability discrimination act.

82.4 It was stated that the Parish Council was not made aware of agreements made between SMBC and Bloor Homes.

82.5 Cllr. Cresswell said roads in Dickens Heath had not been adopted in 15 years.

82.6 Cllr. Smith said she had seen what looked like hessian sack down a drain, she had been informed this was a silt bag which allowed water through it, she had not known about this before.

83. To discuss the proposal from the Saxon regarding holding a Cheswick Festival in August 2019.

83.1 It was stated the Saxon wanted to hold a Cheswick Green family fete, it was aware there was a need to carry out a risk assessment, which could not be done until a date had been agreed.

83.2 It was stated they had some super ideas and the event would be run by Craft Union, the Parish Council and the Residents Association had put forward ideas.

83.3 It was stated that regarding public access, the Parish Council owned the land and it could give authority for this.

83.4 Cllr. Cresswell said members of the public could not be stopped from going across the footpath, as it is a public footpath. It was stated it would be a ticketed event, if SMBC agreed, it should be ok.

83.5 There were more comments about this, it was stated that the brewery's Regional Manager was aware of what needed to be done, that at Temporary Events Notice (TENS) would cover this. Cllr. Cresswell did not agree with this.

84. To discuss Cheswick Green being 50 years old in 2020 and if/how the village should/could celebrate this.

84.1 It was stated members needed to think about this and what to do. Cllr. Cresswell stated the first property was purchased in December 1969 and that Cheswick Green was called a village of the 70s.

84.2 There were comments about having street parties and closing roads.

84.3 It was stated that next year was also the 75th anniversary of VE day.

85. To discuss the car park (which is part owned by the brewery – Enterprise Inns (EI)/SDL – the Managing Agents for the shops – the Village Surgery and the Parish Council), in relation to litter and security.

85.1 Cllr. Gosling said there was not much to say, the CCTV cameras would be sorted out.

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86. To discuss the area outside the shops and litter.

86.1 Cllr. Gosling said lots of people in the village did litter picking. She referred to someone that had cleared in front of the shops and surgery, she said when they had finished it looked fab. It was suggested to try and find out who this was to thank them; Cllr. Gosling said this person often litter picked with his wife.

86.2 There were comments about the A-boards outside the Post Office being broken and untidy. The Clerk was asked to contact SDL about this.

86.3 A member of the public said Craft Union was to possibly smarten the area in front of the pub and may offer it as a coffee shop. There were some comments about the pub needing to be refurbished.

87. To discuss speeding motorists in Cheswick Green.

87.1 It was stated that it maybe possible to purchase some signs from the CIL, however where these should/could be located and what type needed to be discussed.

87.2 It was noted that there would be a need to meet with someone from SMBC about this. Item deferred.

88. To discuss parking in Cheswick Green.

88.1 It was stated there was a need to leave space for people to pass on the pavements and for emergency vehicles to get through. It was stated Snowhill Drive had been a bit better, however it had always been bad there.

88.2 Cllr. Cresswell referred to two attitudes; he said the police thought it was okay to park on pavements if it is not causing obstruction, but there was a need for people with prams to be able to pass. He said parking on grass verges was illegal, they needed to be more proactive about this.

88.2.1 Cllr. Gosling said it was not illegal to park on a grass verges, she had checked, something could only be done if damage was caused.

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

89.1 Cllr. Gosling referred to the litter pick that had taken place on Sunday; she said she had bumped into the person that had laid a wreath at the War Memorial opening and he had told her he would lay one on Remembrance Sunday in the afternoon, she said this was a nice gesture.

89.2 Cllr. Gosling said she had spoken to Mr. Pettinger, who had written the history of Cheswick Green – the first forty years – she said it was really interesting and fascinating, his publisher had said he would like to see it in black and white and the Parish Council had been invited to write a preface – members were in agreement to this.

89.3 Cllr. Gosling said she was still trying to get Openreach to provide a quote for fibre to the cabinet and not to the premises – which was future proof but too expensive. She said if they could get this to the two cabinets, one by the school and one by the Village Hall, people would have a choice of faster Broadband and not just from Virgin and it was possible it would not cost too much. She said she had been trying to sort this out for over a year now.

89.4 Cllr. Gosling said she was concerned about the front field by Saxon Wood Road, there were nettles and the hedge had not been cut. She said she had been approached by residents about the trees at the back of the garages on Snowhill Drive, leaves blocked the drains and were causing problems, the trees needed to be trimmed back.

89.4.1 Cllr. Cresswell said what had been done to trees by number 64 looked dreadful. Cllr. Gosling said the tree at the back had been diseased and the tree at the front had been cut back, what had been done was correct.

89.4.2 There were more comments about the state of the trees over the garages. Cllr. Gosling said about 3 residents had spoken to her. There were comments about the garages looking rotten and roofs needing to be fixed, at Snowhill and other areas in Cheswick Green.

89.4.3 Cllr. Cresswell said the hedge at Saxon Wood Road was on his report.

89.5 There were comments about a tree by a bungalow on Snowhill Drive that was covered in ivy that needed work.

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89.6 Cllr. Swain said there had been some alterations to the ground's maintenance specification, for example originally the pyracantha around the Village Hall was due to be cut twice a year, this had been increased to four times a year.

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

90.1 Cllr. Swain said the VHMC had responded to comments made in the RA minutes; which stated '*Parish Council & Village Hall • Nothing of Note; though two years after we walked away from managing the hall, work on toilets still outstanding*', he said comments had been sent to George and Greg. Rebecca said they had not realised how difficult it had been to obtain quotes.

90.2 Cllr. Swain said there had been a skip and a lot of stuff had been cleared from the Village Hall.

90.3 Cllr. Swain said some new equipment had been purchased and they had a quote to renew all the windows, it was possible these could get done before the toilets. He said they were getting quotes for new blinds and curtains; the curtains had been sprayed last year.

90.4 Cllr. Swain said there were new batteries in the emergency lighting system.

90.5 Cllr. Swain said they were looking at a specification to redecorate and they also intended to repair/replace the double doors into the halls, which were heavy and not user friendly these did not need to be fire resistant. He said they would also be renewing some of the radiators in the large hall.

91. To discuss quotes to refurbish toilets in Village Hall.

91.1 Cllr. Swain said they had managed to obtain two quotes; he did not know either company. He provided information and details about the quotes and said he would recommend the local company and gave his reasons for this.

91.2 Cllr. Cresswell said he would agree and proposed this quote was accepted, Cllr. Townsend seconded, there were no objections.

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

92.1 It was noted the Rev. Vicki Atkinson had emailed the Clerk about the Methodist Church possibly installing a bench or other item in memory of its present in Cheswick Green, which was due to cease soon due to lack of numbers.

92.1.1 It was suggested they could replace the one SMBC had recently removed – subject to approval.

92.2 It was noted that James from 'Loves Football' had informed the Clerk that he paid £10 at Alvechurch on the basis he was in profit. It was stated that a session had be held on Tuesday evening, it was suggested this was free and stated that he needed to complete the necessary form. It was queried whether if he was permitted to use the Recreation Ground for free, he could reduce his charge to those taking place.

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

93.1 Cllr. Sedgley said she would deal with the defibrillator.

94. Agenda items for next meeting.

94.1 CIL, grounds maintenance contract and buses.

95. 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.

95.1 Members of the public were requested to leave the meeting.

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

96.1 There was none.

97. PAYE, payroll and Pension Scheme.

Meeting closed 8:50pm

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