



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

RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday 4th September 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

Tammy Rowley, Operations Team Leader, Environmental Services SMBC

Clerk: Marie Zizzi

0 members of the public

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

1.1 Not applicable all members present.

2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations.

2.1 None.

3. Public Participation.

3.1 There were no members of the public present.

4. To discuss any issues that relate to Solihull MBC. Matthew Gardner and Tammy Rowley invited to participate.

4.1 Tammy had dealt with a complaint submitted by CGPC regarding grass verges and the lack of cutting back. Her reply had been circulated to all members of the Parish Council by email prior to the meeting.

4.1.1 Tammy said she managed the contract for grass mowing and talked about the parts of Creynolds Lane the Borough Council was responsible for.

4.1.2 Cllr. Swain said from the Stratford Road through to Creynolds Lane there were lot of fields and he did not expect them all to be cut back, but they should be for about a metre.

4.1.3 Tammy said frail mowing should take place 3-4 times a year. She went on to explain that SMBC had been approached by a hedgehog enthusiast, who had seen the Alan Titchmarsh TV programme regarding strimming and the damage this caused to hedgehogs. She said as a result of this, since 2010-11 they had to change the way mowing was carried out and the width for cutting back had been altered. She spoke about hedgehogs coming out of hibernation and guys working on machinery being unable to see them. She explained that this person had brought lots of injured hedgehog with them and this decision had come from the top and it was for the whole of the borough.

4.1.4 There were comments about some areas being the responsibility of the landowners/tenants and it was stated that some areas were never done.

4.1.5 Cllr. Cresswell said there were 2 fields on Creynolds Lane, the land on the left side was owned by a farmer, the right side belonged to SMBC.

4.1.6 It was noted that some areas were not on SMBCs maintenance records.

4.1.7 Cllr. Swain said they just wanted the area to look decent.

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4.1.8 There were comments about 'rural edging' on footways. Tammy said an email was sent to all Rural Co-ordinators before work commenced in October and work was carried out throughout the Autumn, this happened every three years.

4.1.9 Tammy spoke about weeds in the roads being sprayed 3 times a year, by people on quadbike type devices using lances, she said they could not spray by parked cars. She said now the schools had started back and people were back at work, there should be less parked cars. She said she had noted Tanworth Lane needed to be done, she said Tanworth Lane was on a 10 day mowing contract, however on one occasion a resident had come out and started shouting at the operative to stop, because birds were nesting and they could not get into any confrontation.

4.1.10 There were comments about Vicarage Road and the footpath for the school, Salter Street, Shutt Street and Watery Lane, that all these areas should be strimmed. Tammy said they had looked at the photographs of these areas with the contractor and all issues had been addressed. The contractor was very sorry and had sent teams back. Cllr. Swain said the same thing had happened last year as well.

4.1.11 It was stated that the Right of Way by the Bloor Homes development – Cheswick Place – by the bus stop had been done, but it was not great.

4.1.12 Tammy said they had been aware there was an issue and had arranged to meet the contractor before the Parish Council had submit the complaint, resulting in a Stage one complaint had been raised.

4.1.13 It was stated that the contractors failed to pick up debris. Tammy said when this happened a call needed to be made to SMBC to report this. She said they did have an officer that went out to inspect after mowing and there should be a backup team as well.

4.1.14 It was queried whether the contractors should be strimming around obstacles and stated that someone had cut grass around a black bin liner of rubbish that had been dumped. Tammy said they should not be doing this; the bag should have been put on the footpath to be removed.

4.1.15 There were comments about whether SMBC was still cutting back where there may be a Right of Way or on land that connected to Parish Council land. Members were asked to send any information about Rights of Way concerns to Matthew. Matthew said he would get a programme of when Rights of Way should be cut back. He said they had a Rights of Way team – Dave Kearny's team.

4.1.16 There were comments about the area of land on Saxon Wood Road, where the hammer head was and 2 Rights of Way by number 48 Saxon Wood Road and the Bloor Homes development up to the Stratford Road. It was stated no work had been carried out this year or last year. Matthew said he would chase this up.

4.1.17 There were comments about the area outside the shops and litter etc. Tammy spoke about Love Solihull and its pledge/charter to get businesses to take ownership by having various awards, she said they had no power and could not make businesses do anything. Big companies like McDonalds and Greggs had corporate responsibilities.

4.1.18 Cllr. Sedgley said the majority of the shops did tidy up, but the whole area was scruffy. She referred to Cheswick Green celebrating 50 years next year and that it would be good to get the area sorted before then.

4.1.19 Cllr. Cresswell referred to the passage between the chemist and the surgery, he said there was lots of broken glass there.

4.1.20 It was stated that these issues did not breach any environmental matters, meaning very little could be done.

4.1.21 It was stated the issue was that this area was owned by 2 people. It was pointed out that the scheme the Parish Council had managed to put in place for 12 month had appeared to work, however the surgery had pulled out after 6 months, they had no interest whatsoever and then the other shops had not wanted to continue the monthly payments.

4.2 Tammy informed members about a new initiative to deal with dog faeces using stencils and paint, she said she would order some for the Parish Council. She also explained how the Council was dealing with fly tipping now.

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Tammy and Matthew were thanked for attending and left at 11am.

5. To resolve to accept the Minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 22nd May 2019.

Resolved; proposed Cllr. Sedgley - everyone in agreement; that the Minutes were accepted.

6. To report any issues from site risk assessments since the last meeting and to provide Clerk with reports for filing.

6.1 Cllr. Swain said the pyracantha around the Village Hall needed to be cut.

6.2 It was agreed that the hedge next to the steps to the Village Hall also needed to be cut back.

6.3 It was queried when the broken fence (outside the Village Hall by the car park) would be mended.

Action item: Clerk to raise these issues with grounds maintenance contractor.

7. To discuss revised risk assessment forms *(issued with the agenda)*.

7.1 There were only very minor changes and Cllr. Swain suggested they started to use these now.

8. Update on Grounds maintenance, litter picking and bin emptying – to discuss 2-year extension with Meadowfields GM to 31st March 2022.

8.1 There was a discussion and various comments were made.

8.2 It was agreed that Cllr. Cresswell and Cllr. Swain should meet with the grounds maintenance contractor to discuss the 2-year extension and fine tuning what was currently in the specification for work.

8.3 It was agreed to recommend to the full Council, that the existing arrangement was extended for 2 years, subject to some fine tuning being agreed with the contractor.

9. To discuss proposed Grounds maintenance monitoring forms *(issued with the agenda)*.

9.1 It was noted Cllr. Swain and the clerk had produced some draft monitoring forms.

9.2 There were some comments about these and it was queried who was to complete they members of the Recreation Committee or the grounds maintenance contractor.

9.3 Cllr. Cresswell pointed out that the grass was not cut when the weather was dry, this meant it could sometimes be weeks before grass cutting took place. It was queried whether grass cutting should take place once a month, it was stated that it only needed to be done when it was necessary.

10. To discuss the Notice Boards.

10.1 It was noted members had talked about replacing notice boards. Cllr. Swain said it was the public sides that were dreadful.

10.2 It was noted that for the notice board on Cheswick Place both sides were locked.

10.3 Cllr. Swain said he was meeting with a carpenter regarding various issues in the Village Hall and he would ask him if the notice boards could be repaired and how much it would cost.

10.4 Cllr. Cresswell said the notice board for Illshaw Heath needed painting.

10.5 It was suggested to see who the Borough Council used for items like this.

11. To discuss the turning on of the Christmas lights event.

11.1 It was stated that this usually took place on a Friday and there was a need to ensure the date did not clash with the schools Christmas Fayre, as this had resulted in the event being cancelled on at least one occasion.

11.2 It was queried whether it needed to take place on a Friday and suggested it could be on a Thursday or Saturday instead.

Action item: Clerk to check with SMBC if the event could take place on Thursday 5th December or Saturday 7th December 2019.

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11.3 Once SMBC had replied to this Village Hall to be booked and Cllr. Swain to contact Shirley Round Table.

12. To review revised Recreation Committee terms of reference.

12.1 The minor alterations had been made and it was agreed these were okay.

13. Review of actions list *(issued with the agenda)*.

13.1 Cllr. Sedgley said she had posted something on Facebook to ascertain if anyone wanted to adopt a flower planter underneath a road sign, but there had been no response.

13.1.1 It was suggested the Parish Council could pay for these for next year for the 50 years of Cheswick Green and 75th year of VE Day celebrations.

13.1.2 Cllr. Sedgley suggested they were removed, if they were not being used.

13.1.3 It was pointed out that the ones that were maintained looked good.

13.1.4 Cllr. Cresswell said there had been no cost for the planters, he with Chris Burrows, Ken Wareham and Steve Hall had built them from pallets. He said he knew the people who had agreed to maintain them.

13.1.5 Cllr. Sedgley said she knew of one person that wanted one. It was suggested to move the ones not being maintained to people that wanted one.

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

14.1 Cllr. Sedgley said she had received a message from a resident regarding Himalayan balsam growing on the Recreation Ground, she read the message.

Action item: Clerk to ask grounds maintenance contractor to look at this and take appropriate action.

15. Date and time for next meeting and any agenda items.

15.1 Wednesday 6th November 2019 at 10:30am.

Meeting closed 12:10