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CHESWICK GREEN PARISH COUNCIL
Wednesday 10th June 2020 3pm via Zoom

Present: Cheswick Green Parish Councillors: Cllr. Len Cresswell, Cllr. Margaret Gosling (Chair), Cllr. Sam Sedgley (Vice Chair), Cllr. Michelle Smith, Cllr. Mick Swain and Cllr. Peter Townsend.
 Clerk: Marie Zizzi

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

301.1 Not applicable all Councillors present.

302. Declarations of Interest.

302.1 There were none.

303. Dispensations.

303.1 There were none.

304. To resolve to accept the Minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 6th May 2020 (issued with the agenda).

Resolved; proposed Cllr. Sedgley; seconded Cllr. Smith – the Minutes were accepted.

305. To receive a report on the finances of the Council and to approve any payments made since the last meeting and any payments to be made (issued with the agenda).

Payment to be approved from Co-op acc Exercise Class June 2020 PC meeting

Chq No.	Reason	Total
100167	CG VHMC use of hall Jan-March 2020	£77.00

Chqs/Electronic payment transactions to be approved June 2020 PC meeting

Payee	Reason	Total
Marie Zizzi	Reimbursement for skip	£207.25
Bill Robinson	Internal audit	£157.50
Vision ICT	Email hosted	£ 79.20
Marie Zizzi	Reimbursement for ink	£ 33.49

More in confidential section.

Petty cash £80.46.

Resolved; proposed Cllr. Sedgley; seconded Cllr. Smith – all payments approved.

306. To receive and if appropriate accept the Internal Auditors report.

306.1 This had been circulated to Councillors via email on 29th May 2020; there were no comments or queries.

Resolved; proposed Cllr. Swain, seconded Cllr. Sedgley; the internal auditors report was accepted.

307. To resolve Section 1 - Annual Governance statement 2019/20 of the Annual Return (AGAR) for year ended 31st March 2020.

307.1 This had been circulated to Councillors by email on 5th May 2020.

Resolved; proposed Cllr. Smith, seconded Cllr. Sedgley; Section 1 of the AGAR was approved for signing.

308. To resolve Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2019/20 of the Annual Return (AGAR) for year ended 31st March 2020.

308.1 This had been circulated to Councillors by email on 5th May 2020.

Resolved; proposed Cllr. Sedgley, seconded Cllr. Smith; Section 2 of the AGAR was approved for signing.

309. To consider any planning applications received (*circulated by email*) and local development including progress regarding Cheswick Place/Mount Dairy Farm and Blythe Valley Business Park/IM.

PL/2020/00859/TPO - 66 Saxon Wood Road Cheswick Green Solihull B90 4JN; A reduction by 1-3 metres and crown clean of 1 no. Oak tree (T1) and thin by 30%, crown clean and reduce branches on side facing T1 by 1-2 metres of 1 no. mature Oak tree (T2).

309.1 There were no comments.

PL/2020/00803/MINFHO - 165 Creynolds Lane Cheswick Green Solihull B90 4ES; Two storey and single storey rear/side extensions and rear dormer to loft conversion with balcony.

309.2 Comments to be submitted; *Cheswick Green Parish Council is concerned about the adjoining neighbour's loss of light, which would be excessive if planning permission were given for the proposed application. It is also felt that this seems a large extension on what is currently quite a small property.*

PL/2020/00975/MINFHO - 6 Nugent Grove Cheswick Green Solihull B90 4HA; New detached double garage.

309.3 It was noted the clerk had received an email in relation to comments Cllr.

Cresswell had apparently made to a third party about this application. Cllr. Gosling said that Councillors should not be speaking to third parties unless another Councillor was present. She referred to thinking about the Code of Conduct and Standing Orders and to follow these.

309.3.1 Cllr. Cresswell disagreed, he said he could talk to anyone he wanted to, it was an informal meeting.

309.3.2 There were further comments in relation to this matter; about being careful what was said, having private conversations and a lack of trust.

309.3.3 Cllr. Smith said a member of CGRA lived opposite this property, she had seen the Deeds and the applicants did own the land.

309.3.4 Comments to be submitted; *Cheswick Green Parish Council would like to object to this application, as this house has already recently had a very large extension, which has nearly doubled the size of the house. The land the applicants want to use for the garages is away from the house itself. Members of the Parish Council have been assured that this land belongs to the applicants, as it lies on the far side of the road from the house, but is part of the land at the end of the cul-de-sac. Additionally, this building would be up against the fence of the gardens in Appian Way and would therefore be unattractive to those living there and could impede light, it would also be an intrusion ruining the visual appearance of the cul-de-sac.*

PL/2020/00617/MINFHO - 9 Kineton Lane Hockley Heath Solihull B94 6RX; Replacement of bow window with bay window on front elevation, including supporting wall due to poor support on original window.

309.4 There were no comments.

309.5 It was stated the residents of 25 Saxon Wood Road were constructing a very large play area in their back garden, which was higher than the 2.5 metres permitted, the clerk was instructed to make SMBC aware of this.

309.6 In relation to Cheswick Place; it was noted that all the containers had been removed and earth was being removed from the central area.

309.6.1 It was stated that there were rumblings on Facebook about these new houses rotting because of damp. Cllr. Swain referred to the NHBC 10-year guarantee. There were comments about knowing what this area was like before the development was permitted and it being no surprise about there being damp. It was stated that people had said they were going to leave because of this.

309.6.2 It was stated that there were already slates/tiles missing from roofs.

309.7 In relation to Blythe Valley; Cllr. Swain said grounds work had started, he commented about being able to see behind the building line and there being no need for a second road.

309.8 Cllr. Cresswell requested that the Parish Council should complain to SMBC regarding the constant use of 'Shirley' for applications in Cheswick Green. It was stated this had already been done.

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

310.1 Cllr. Sedgley said with the clerk she had attended a SAC zoom meeting; there had been a discussion about changes at SMBC and Councils losing their Neighbourhood Co-ordinators, this had only been sent to CGPC, DHPC and Hampton-in-Arden PC.

310.1.1 Cllr. Sedgley said one Parish Council had been sent more detailed information including maps. She said it would appear that what SMBC was proposing went against the Charter, the SAC Chair and Vice Chair were due to meet with Nick Page (CEO SMBC). She added that they had definitely lost Matthew Gardner and that there should be a point of contact for Parish Councils, other than the Connect Centre.

310.2 There were comments about the use of the Recreation Ground during the Covid-19 outbreak; it was stated at one point there had been 19 people there.

310.2.1 Cllr. Sedgley, her husband and Cllr. Swain with his wife had collected 9 bags of rubbish on one occasion. It was stated there had been human waste as areas were being used a lavatory, it was pointed out that these areas stank.

310.2.2 It was stated the tape used to cordon off areas kept being pulled down and that drug dealing was taking place.

310.2.3 There were comments about the 3 existing CCTV cameras in relation to moving one and possibly adding another one, to enable to see across to the WW1 Memorial flowerbed and on to the Recreation Ground.

310.2.4 It was pointed out that Dickens Heath football team had been turning up and using the Recreation Ground to play games again, it was felt this was unacceptable. It was stated that if they were caught doing this, they should be reprimanded.

310.2.5 Cllr. Sedgley had suggested removing all the bushes by the Village Hall and having trees topped and tailed, as well as installing a good strong fence, which the youngsters could paint.

310.2.6 Cllr. Gosling said she would like to thank all those that came to help with the recent litter pick. It was stated that there was a need to keep on top of this.

310.3 Cllr. Swain spoke about two incidents involving baseball bats; he said there had been a young lad in a white Porsche; then other dlibs and drabs had turned up some in cars and some on foot, last Saturday/Sunday a party had taken place and those attending appeared to be brandishing baseball bats and pickaxe handles.

310.3.1 Cllr. Sedgley referred to the police being contacted for this to be investigated.

310.3.2 Cllr. Swain referred to the incidents being linked to the Village Hall. He spoke about a field adjacent to Winterton Farm, which appeared to be being used as an illegal refuse site. He said they were burning stuff there every day, there were 5 huge piles of earth, he said it was an environmental matter, but due to the current situation no sites were being visited, however he said an officer was going out tomorrow.

310.3.3 Cllr. Swain said there was a caravan and 3 vehicles at the site, it was possible they were gypsies. He spoke about someone jumping on the roof of the Youth Shelter at

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 10th June 2020

Signed

Date.....

10 to 5 in the morning about 5 days ago. It was stated that the netting had been removed and thrown in the river, damage was being caused. Cllr. Sedgley said she had seen someone shouting at them on the CCTV footage.

310.3.4 Members agreed they had probably got off lightly, however it was felt that it could all boil over one night. There were comments about people hanging around the Recreation Ground drinking alcohol, smoking cannabis and getting agitated.

310.3.5 Cllr. Sedgley said there had been 4 cars with 4 people in each car on one occasion, she said there had been a mix of white, black, and Asian people; all drinking, taking drugs and dancing by Coppice Walk at about midnight. She said they had hidden and then when a car came by at about 12 o'clock, they ran out and attacked the car hitting it, this was why they needed the CCTV to cover this area.

310.3.6 There were comments about posts on the 'Only Way is Cheswick', that people were afraid to go out.

310.3.7 Cllr. Sedgley reiterated to remove the bushes, to make the area more open and to plant flowers instead which would attract dragonflies and butterflies and be more appealing to residents.

310.3.8 Cllr. Cresswell referred to the pyracantha around the Village Hall, it was stated that this was not what was being referred to.

310.3.9 Cllr. Cresswell asked if it was the shrubs towards the bridge over the Brook, a large planted patch that she wanted them to get rid of.

310.3.10 Cllr. Sedgley said yes. There were comments about these shrubs stopping balls going into gardens; about only reducing them by half and about the goal posts being moved, it was also suggested that the goal posts may not be put back.

310.3.11 Cllr. Sedgley said under these bushes it was clear there was use of drugs taking place, there were human faeces, used toilet paper and cans/litter, this was all taken out from the same shrubs by the Village Hall. She said the shrubs by the bridge needed to be completely removed. Cllr. Gosling added that the dog bin that was behind this area was the one fireworks had been exploded inside. It was stated these shrubs also blocked people being able to see who was coming.

310.3.12 Cllr. Cresswell said the Borough Council had planted these shrubs. Cllr. Sedgley added this was the first-place people went to when/if the police came.

310.3.13 Cllr. Swain said they had collected about 18 bags of rubbish; he commented about following the line from the Village Hall to the back of the houses and trimming what was there by removing the tops and bottoms, he added that they did stop balls.

310.3.14 It was stated this was not the Heron Close side but the Coppice Walk side, where the Housing Association properties were, the line of town houses with garages.

310.3.15 It was stated this area had always been used as a place for drug taking, it had been going on for years.

310.3.16 It was stated that at the bottom of the gardens there was a huge hedge that needed to come out. Cllr. Cresswell asked if it was the corner, parallel to the Brook, he referred to the hedge stopping balls going into gardens/the Brook.

310.3.17 Cllr. Sedgley referred to a little corridor that was being used as a lavatory and a hiding place.

310.3.18 Cllr. Smith clarified about having another camera at the end of the Village Hall and trimming/thinning bushes/trees, she said they needed to be able to see the football field.

310.3.19 It was stated that a camera looked over the back door from the Village Hall, but the drug users were in the alley, this area was being used as a toilet, there was used lavatory paper and on a hot day it stank. It was agreed this issue had escalated during the Covid-19 outbreak.

310.3.20 In summary it was stated the bushes to the right hand side of the Village Hall should be removed, with others being topped/tailed; it was suggested pyracantha was put up against the fences by the properties, so people could not get in between.

310.3.21 Cllr. Sedgley referred to her suggestion about installing a fence; Cllr. Townsend enquired if she meant a security fence; Cllr. Sedgley spoke about involving residents with the proposals, to see if they agreed or not, she suggested they could get youths involved by having a painting competition for 5-11 and 11-16-year olds.

310.3.22 Cllr. Cresswell said this would only involve the current generation, then there would be a different group with different habits.

310.3.23 Cllr. Swain said the shrubs needed to come back 14 feet from the river, the area needed thinning out, it was scruffy and it needed upgrading.

310.3.24 Cllr. Cresswell said whatever they did, people would find an alternative, he referred to people urinating up against cars on the car park.

310.3.25 Cllr. Sedgley, Cllr. Gosling and Cllr. Swain all agree they needed to do something in relation to getting these bushes thinned out. Cllr. Swain and Cllr. Smith said they would be opposed to installing a fence.

310.3.26 Cllr. Townsend said it was an issue of behaviour, it was frustrating the police could not do anything, especially if there was video evidence.

310.3.27 Cllr. Sedgley said she had spoken with a local police officer; the problem was that no-one was reporting anything as a crime. She referred to holding on to the footage for if ever something was reported, she said there was an hour and a half of footage.

310.3.28 Cllr. Townsend queried if they could submit something as a concerned Parish Council. Cllr. Sedgley said there had been a request to meet with the local police, but this had not happened due to Covid-19; she referred to the police being called when 20 or so people were not social distancing, she said the police did swing by, they were aware of the concerns, they had attended when there had been a fire above one of the shops. She said apparently they went through the car park on a daily basis, but people hid.

310.4 Cllr. Swain said the WC that had been left on the car park had been removed and the person that had put it there would be prosecuted.

310.5 Cllr. Swain said the white van that had appeared to have been abandoned, had been removed now, he said a guy had left it there for 5-6 weeks due to being furloughed. However, there appeared to be an abandoned BMW there now.

310.6 Cllr. Gosling said she had been in contact with Openreach again and someone was meant to be getting back to her. She referred to complaints about Virgin and there being more and more need for fast Broadband, with decent providers, she said she would push for this. It was pointed out that it had been suggested the Parish Council asked for MP Saqib Bhatti's support with this.

310.6.1 Cllr. Smith said she did not think it would ever change because apparently it would cost millions for the right cable.

310.6.2 Cllr. Gosling said they had received a quote, it was not that much, she said the Government was pushing for faster Broadband and it was all around Cheswick Green.

310.7 Cllr. Swain referred to an email the PC had received in relation to a tree, he had been to look at this and there was a trunk below the ground that went into the neighbouring garden, he said their shed was lifted off the ground, this tree had started to lean, they definitely needed to do something, they needed a professional recommendation. He pointed out that you could not see the issues unless you were in the neighbour's garden.

Action item: Clerk to arrange site visit from Midlands Forestry with Cllr. Swain.

310.8 Cllr. Sedgley referred to agreeing to a colour scheme of red, white and blue for some new planters that had been discussed at the March Parish Council meeting for the 75th anniversary of VE Day and 50 years of Cheswick Green, which had not gone ahead in May due to Covid-19.

310.8.1 Cllr. Sedgley said they had discussed and agreed there was a need to replace the existing ones which were worn out and needed upgrading/replacing.

310.8.2 Cllr. Cresswell said he would like to see these before they were purchased and know how much they would cost and who would look after them.

310.8.3 It was noted that it had been stated there was a possibility of getting a good deal. Cllr. Cresswell queried how many and where they would go.

310.8.4 Cllr. Sedgley said they could possibly get 8 to 10 and she was happy to plant them and maintain them. She said she would like one for her road, Becky from the RA wanted one to maintain, they could ask residents if they wanted one to look after.

310.8.5 Cllr. Cresswell confirmed that Cllr. Sedgley was happy to plant these and water them.

310.9 There were comments about the area in front of the shops and what people had posted on Facebook; it was noted that all three bins had been full and overflowing. It was

pointed out that apparently the people from the shops were using these bins for their rubbish and that this should be reported to SMBC, as these bins were for the public and not the shops.

310.9.1 It was stated that the Post Office people had put three bags of rubbish in the alleyway, they had their own bins, but the service they paid for was at commercial rates.

310.9.2 SMBC had been contacted to see if a bin could be relocated and/or replaced with a larger one.

310.9.3 Cllr. Cresswell said that once Covid-19 was over things would go back to how they were. He referred to two of the shops loading the bins and there being four parties on the Village Green on Friday night, he said once lockdown eased things would improve.

311. To agree date (if this happens this year) for turning on of the Christmas tree lights.

311.1 It was agreed to do this on Thursday 3rd December 2020 at 6:30pm.

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

312.1 Cllr. Swain said the floors were being top skimmed and renovated on Monday 22nd June.

312.2 Cllr. Swain said they had discussed re-opening the Village Hall, this would possibly be on 4th July; he referred to some information received from WALC, he said this was only in relation to Village Halls that were used as/for kindergartens/nurseries. He would wait to receive further guidance later in the month.

313. Any matters related to the Covid-19 virus.

313.1 Nothing was raised.

314. Agenda items for next meeting.

314.1 There were none.

315. PAYE, payroll and pension scheme.

315.1 In confidential section.

Meeting ended 4pm.