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**CHESWICK GREEN PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July 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

1 member of the public

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

316.1 Not applicable all Councillors present.

**317. Declarations of Interest.**

317.1 There were none.

**318. Dispensations.**

318.1 There were none.

**319. Public participation (15 minutes).**

319.1 Mr. Martin Williams had emailed a proposal to the Clerk which had been circulated to all members of the Parish Council prior to this meeting taking place. Mr. Williams went through the proposal which was in relation to the Parish Council to consider providing some form of a skateboard facility on the Recreation Ground, away from busy roads and streets.

319.1.1 Mr. Williams said lots of children used/owned scooters they were very popular, it was a developing sport and he also referred to roller skates and pedicycles; he said use of these promoted physical and mental health and it would be something that the Youth Club could use.

319.1.2 It was queried where this could be sited and how big it would be. It was felt the two images included in the proposal looked huge and pointed out that the Recreation Ground was not very big.

319.1.3 Cllr. Sedgley referred to the possibility of the Recreation Ground having an expensive refurbishment as the Parish Council was currently waiting to hear from Warwickshire Wildlife Trust with some proposals. She said if there was to be any form of skateboard park it would need to blend in with this project.

319.1.4 It was stated that the Recreation Ground was used for football and there was a type of bike ramp which had been created by the bridge, it was suggested this could be expanded, but also noted that this was the area Warwickshire Wildlife Trust wanted to develop by installing swails and it was also an area with nature and wildlife.

319.1.5 Cllr. Swain queried where the funding would come from. There were concerns about a skateboard park attracting lots of people from outside the village, about the noise it could generate and that it could get flooded.

319.1.6 Cllr. Cresswell said a skateboard park had been installed previously, however it was not used for very long and those that had used it moved on to the bigger one in Tudor Grange park.

319.1.7 Cllr. Gosling said she had seen a number of children on skateboards on Cheswick Place, she also queried how long interest would last in something on a small scale.

319.1.8 Mr. Williams said as one generation moved on another would come in, there were scooters available for 2-3-year olds with 3 wheels on them. He said the phasing in that had been seen in the 1970s was not the same as now.

319.1.9 Cllr. Townsend referred to considering an alternative location such as at the bottom of Snowhill Drive; it was felt this would be too close to the houses and there would be a need to consult with residents.

319.1.10 It was pointed out that residents by the Recreation Ground were already fed up with the noise and people jumping on garages etc.

319.1.11 Cllr. Smith said there was not much room down by the river, she referred to the little mound already in place and possibly having something on a smaller scale.

319.1.12 It was stated that this needed to be thought about in the longer term, with other things that were being considered and that the biggest issue was space.

319.1.13 It was noted that trees and bushes needed to be tidied up and this could provide more space. It was reiterated that this would need to knit in with other plans, it could not be too close to the houses due to noise levels, which had already increased.

319.1.14 It was stated that complaints had already been made in relation to the concrete table tennis table.

319.1.15 Members of the Parish Council agreed to consider this request and Mr. Williams was asked to look at funding options and ideas on a smaller scale. It was suggested a separate meeting could be arranged to look at this again.

At 15:15 Mr. Williams thanked the Parish Council and he left the meeting.

**320. To resolve to accept the Minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2020 (issued to Parish Cllrs. with the agenda).**

**Resolved;** proposed Cllr. Sedgley, seconded Cllr. Townsend – the minutes were accepted.

**321. 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 to Parish Cllrs. with the agenda). To resolve first quarter bank reconciliation and expenditure.**

**Chqs/Electronic payment transactions to be approved July 2020 PC meeting**

<b>Payee</b>	<b>Reason</b>	<b>Total</b>
WALC	Training – Community Engagement	£ 30.00
WALC	Training - the Planning system	£ 30.00
WALC	Governance & Accountability document	£ 3.00
WM Security & Fire	clean and realign CCTV cameras	£220.00
WALC	Training - Finance & Governance	£ 30.00
Mrs Travena	Compensation for tree damage to shed	£345.00
Farthing Properties	Work on notice boards	£657.60
Midland Forestry	Emergency work on tree Saxon Wood Road	£540.00
Sam Sedgley	Reimbursement for additional Zoom meeting time	£ 14.39
Ian Russell	Reimbursement for cost to replenish planter	£ 17.50
Midland Forestry	Work on tree by the Dingle – quote	£600.00
Petty cash £80.64		

**Resolved;** proposed Cllr. Sedgley, seconded Cllr. Smith – the payments were approved.

321.1 Cllr. Sedgley said she had been looking for a new laptop for the clerk, as well as a printer/scanner, the cost would be under £1000, Cllr. Cresswell asked whether this included software, Cllr. Sedgley said the clerk already had licenses and there would be back-up provided, the existing laptop would be cleaned and reinstalled to be kept as a backup.

**Resolved;** proposed Cllr. Smith, seconded Cllr. Cresswell – Cllr. Sedgley to proceed with purchasing a laptop/printer/copier/scanner.

321.2 It was noted the first quarter bank reconciliation had been circulated and the figures balanced.

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

**Signed .....**

**Date.....**

321.3 It was noted that money needed to be moved from the Unity Trust Bank account before the second instalment of the Precept was received in September, to keep the amounts below what was covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme for each account. All members agreed to this taking place.

**Action item: Clerk to sort out transferring funds.**

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

**PL/2020/01236/VAR** - Blythe Valley Park Blythe Gate Shirley Solihull; Amendments to planning permission dated 09.08.2019 (PL/2019/00316/PPRM) for: Reserved matters for Parcels J, K and M1: 169 dwellings (Comprised of houses and apartments), internal estate roads, car parking, landscaping, SUDS and associated ancillary infrastructure NAMELY: Replace 18 of the approved house-types with the new Crest Nicholson house-type range.

**PL/2020/01103/MINFHO** - 15 Waterdale Cheswick Green Solihull B90 4JP; Two storey side extension and enclosure of existing carport/roof area to form a porch and garage extension.

322.1 There were no comments to be submitted.

322.2 Cllr. Smith queried whether it would be a requirement of SMBC to make sure skips were used to clear away rubbish from developments; she referred to by Willow Drive and an extension, she said there were mounds of rubbish. Cllr. Swain referred to complying with regulations and there being nothing to stop people putting rubbish by their own house, it was up to them how they disposed of it.

322.3 In relation to Cheswick Place; there were comments about the relocation of the compound and the area it was now located looking a disgrace. It was stated the area was a complete mess and that it was not possible to get down the road, as the whole area was a mud bath and it was more or less impossible to get up to the War Memorial, the recent rain had not helped. It was stated that yesterday morning the original footpath on Tanworth Lane which is a right of way was closed, by where the show homes were; this had been reported to SMBC as a right of way should not be shut even temporarily without permission and also warning people in advance. Apparently, some residents of Cheswick Place were notified about this, but they were not the only people who used that route.

322.3.1 Members agreed this was unacceptable as the path to the Memorial belongs to the Parish Council, it had been cleared and reseeded previously but it now was just a mass of mud. Members considered seeking legal advice from the Parish Councils solicitor in relation to this, as it was a complete eyesore, the vehicles going in and out were causing considerable noise and it is disrespectful to local residents and the War Memorial itself. It was felt a more strongly worded message than the previous one should be sent to Bloor Homes in relation to this.

322.3.2 Cllr. Cresswell queried why the compound was not located on the patch of ground opposite where it was, which was land Bloor Homes owned.

322.4 In relation to Blythe Valley; Cllr. Swain said the development appeared to be going along quite well.

322.4.1 It was pointed out that developments on this site were not in Shirley and SMBC had been made aware of this.

322.4.2 Cllr. Swain said residents of Blythe Valley had to contribute a payment to look after the surrounding areas; he said for a semi-detached it was £38 per month. Cllr. Gosling said the Government was trying to put a stop to this. Cllr. Cresswell said all the properties on Dickens Heath main street had to contribute an amount, it was in their leases.

### **323. To discuss proposals for Recreation Ground and work at Saxon Wood Road.**

323.1 In relation to the Recreation Ground, it was stated there was a need to wait until the plans from Warwickshire Wildlife Trust were received.

323.1.1 It was suggested to go ahead and get rid of the bush adjacent to the Village Hall and to trim some trees. Cllr Cresswell said he did not agree that the trees needed topping. It was stated that the trees were quite tall and they were blocking lighting.

323.1.2 Cllr. Gosling said everything all around the Village needed a lot of tidying up.

323.1.3 Cllr. Sedgley said last week over a period of time a group of young people had been using the Recreation Ground. One boy in particular was constantly flicking a lighter; a fire had been started using cardboard and boxes; then liquids had been used, this had not caused very much damage and they eventually went away, but there was a lot of litter to clear up.

323.1.4 Cllr. Sedgley said last Thursday some form of cannister, possibly a can of hair lacquer had been exploded, residents of Heron Close thought a bomb had gone off, she had called 101, after being on hold for 40 minutes she got through; she was not the only person that called the police.

323.1.5 Cllr. Sedgley said as a result of a number of complaints a quick, informal meeting had been held with some members of the Parish Council, members of CG RA, residents from Heron Close and the police. She said images from the CCTV were spectacularly clear, these had been given to the police. All those involved had been served with an Acceptable Behaviour Agreement (ABA), which were in place for 12 months and they carried a notice that Criminal Behaviour Orders (CBOs) may be obtained should their anti-social behaviour continue. She said this was a good result.

323.1.6 Cllr. Swain explained how they had managed to find out who the individuals were, he said the police had visited each and everyone involved, it had been going on for 2½-3 months.

323.1.7 Cllr. Sedgley said during discussions with the residents and members of CG RA, some people felt there should be lighting on the Recreation Ground, she pointed out that all the recent events had taken place during daylight. She said in order for them to provide light, it had been suggested they would need to run a line from the nearest lamppost, which did not belong to the Parish Council, SMBC owned it, she said if the Recreation Ground were to flood – water and electricity did not mix.

323.1.8 It was stated someone from CG RA had contacted Cllr. Gosling, requesting for lighting and for the Parish Council to arrange for a security team to be on call. Cllr. Sedgley said the police did drive throughs, hiring security would cost £250 per hour, all they would do was sit in a car, they did not get out and if there was any trouble, they would drive away.

323.1.9 Cllr. Sedgley pointed out that along with Cllr. Gosling and Cllr. Swain she had access to the CCTV footage and they all regularly viewed it.

323.1.10 Cllr. Swain said there were lights on the front of the Village Hall, however drug dealing, urinating etc. still took place in full view of the cameras, these people did not care. If lighting were installed on the Recreation Ground, residents of Heron Close would complain, it would need a separate feed with thick armoured cable which was damage resistant, it would be too expensive.

323.1.11 Cllr. Sedgley said the people involved looked directly into the camera and smirked, they did not care, there were signs and it was more than obvious that cameras were there.

323.1.12 Cllr. Townsend said what had happened was a great success, he suggested this was publicised.

#### **Action item: Cllr. Sedgley to compose something about what had happened, to circulate before posting on social media.**

323.1.13 Cllr. Swain referred to the request from CG RA that had been sent to Cllr. Gosling; he said this and the Parish Councils response to it should be published.

323.1.14 It was stated a complaint had been received from Mr. Windmill; Cllr. Gosling and Cllr. Sedgley had been to see him, he was very concerned about what was going on by the bush near his property and the abuse they were receiving.

323.1.15 Cllr. Gosling said he had been assured that the bush would be removed. Cllr. Cresswell said when they had wanted to get rid of this bush before Mr. Windmill had not

wanted them to. Cllr. Sedgley said in relation to the bush to be removed, lots of things had been put behind it, she referred to contacting Borough Councillor James Butler and he had said he would try to do something.

323.1.16 The discussion turned to the pub; it was stated all the rules and regulations had been put in place for re-opening; apparently 95% attending were behaving well and the 5% that were not had been kicked out. It was stated the fencing opposite the pub near to Mr. Windmills property had been sorted and pointed out that they had lived there before the pub had been built.

323.1.17 Cllr. Swain said the pub was working quite well, one person had been given a lifetime ban.

323.1.18 Cllr. Townsend said he had been in and it was very good, there was a barrier across the door where anyone attending had to sign in, then you had to take a seat, there was no standing and only 6 at any table. He said you had to go to the bar to order, there was a big screen and staff wore masks, then you had to go to the other end of the bar to collect drinks.

323.1.19 It was stated that 30-40 was the maximum number allowed, or it could possibly be less. Cllr. Townsend said he had been very impressed and added that the pub closed at 9:30pm.

323.1.20 Cllr. Swain said he thought the maximum number was 52, however this include the outside area.

323.1.21 Cllr. Sedgley said some people had been drinking while sitting on the concrete table tennis table on the Recreation Ground. Cllr. Smith said she had received a telephone call about this, so she had attended to have a chat with them, she said they were probably in their 20s and she had seen them put all their stuff in a bag and walk towards the bin to dispose of it.

323.1.22 Cllr. Swain pointed out that they had said they would meet up with residents again, they needed to do this, to reassure them. It was stated that the matter appeared to have been resolved now and suggested a statement was issued on social media to see if residents still wanted to meet.

323.2 Cllr. Gosling referred to emergency work that had taken place on a tree at the back of Saxon Wood Road, half of it had fallen down. Cllr. Swain said he had been very impressed with the way Midland Forestry had responded. It was stated the stump needed grinding and there was work due to take place on other trees.

323.2.1 Cllr. Swain said Mr. and Mrs. Trevena had asked for their thanks to be passed on in relation to what the Parish Council had arranged.

323.2.2 It was stated work needed to be carried out on trees behind the houses on 50-54 Saxon Wood Road, as they were very tall; In particular one tree behind 50 Saxon Wood Road with a double trunk, as its branches were hanging all over the garden; it was stated a lot of work was required on hedges, a Cherry tree and an Ash tree, at the Snowhill Drive end as well.

323.2.3 There were comments about the tree report and what this covered. Cllr. Smith said it did not appear to comment on the height of trees.

323.2.4 It was noted that a recent risk assessment at the Mount had pointed out work that was needed there. Cllr. Gosling said one of the sign boards had been vandalised and pulled off. Mr. Sedgley had found it and removed it for safe keeping until it could be put back.

323.3 It was noted that Cllr. Sedgley and Cllr. Smith had placed an order for 12 planters for the Village. It was stated this had been discussed previously, they were being paid for from money from the sale of Mr. Pettinger's book, which he had donated to the Parish Council.

**Resolved;** proposed Cllr. Smith, seconded Cllr. Townsend - money raised from the book sales was used to pay for the planters.

323.3.1 Cllr. Sedgley said 2 had been placed today and the person that was looking after one of these had requested to use their own items to plant this. Cllr. Smith said not everyone would want to do this.

**Resolved;** proposed Cllr. Smith, seconded Cllr. Sedgley - the Parish Council purchase the contents for these planters if necessary.

323.3.2 Cllr. Cresswell said this was something that needed to be done twice a year during November and again in the Summer, he said they would need compost and this was about £10 per box.

323.3.3 Cllr. Smith said those looking after the planters may do this themselves. Cllr. Cresswell said this was what the original idea was, he referred to people moving on.

323.3.4 Cllr. Sedgley spoke about taking photographs and asking people to pass the responsibility of their planter on if they moved and to let the Parish Council know. She suggested having a record of who was looking after which planter, where.

323.4 The discussion moved to re-opening the children's play area and the goal posts. It was stated the play area needed mowing before it could be opened and not to put the goal posts back until the proposals from Warwickshire Wildlife Trust were known in case there was a need for diggers.

323.4.1 Cllr. Cresswell queried if members knew where the pipes underneath the ground on the Recreation Ground were, he said he could help with this. Cllr. Sedgley ask if he would draw a plan. The Clerk asked when they were likely to hear from Warwickshire Wildlife Trust. Cllr. Sedgley said having spoken with the people that had attended the site, they appeared to want to get it done by the end of September.

323.4.2 It was stated the play equipment would need a deep clean before the play area was re-opened. Cllr. Cresswell did not agree with this, he said the Borough Council was not doing this. Other members felt it had to be cleaned.

**Resolved;** proposed Cllr. Sedgley, seconded Cllr. Smith - that the play equipment is cleaned before the area is re-opened.

323.4.3 It was agreed that appropriate signage and banners were needed and noted that a quote had recently been received, this was read out. It was for a 'take your litter home' banner to be put on the gate to the Recreation Ground. It was queried how the signs would be fixed and suggested by using cable ties. Cllr. Sedgley said on the day they re-opened she was happy to stand by and make sure they were using the equipment one at a time and complying with the rules and regulations.

323.4.4 Cllr. Swain said regarding the Village Hall, they had needed to measure the area and divide this by 4 to give them a maximum number that could be in the hall at one time. He said this equated to 25 for the large hall, which would rule out some groups, for example the Core U3A meeting which consisted of 60-70 people.

### **324. To discuss having a Parish Council plan.**

324.1 It was agreed to defer this until September. Cllr. Smith suggested everyone came up with one idea, even if it meant spending some money.

### **325. To discuss relationship with CG RA.**

325.1 Item deferred.

### **326. To agree to accept progressing SLA with SMBC and payment quarterly in advance for speed sign/s.**

**Resolved;** proposed Cllr. Sedgley, seconded Cllr. Smith - SMBC purchase the camera and battery on behalf of the Parish Council and the scheme is put in place until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

326.1 Cllr. Cresswell said this would not work and queried why the Borough Council was not paying for this, he said the Borough Council had plenty of money.

326.2 Cllr. Sedgley said the Parish Council had carried out a survey regarding what to spend the CIL money on, the idea for a speed sign had come from this. They had contacted SMBC to see if they could do this.

326.3 Cllr. Smith said she thought they needed two, they had enough money and they were spending this for the safety of their residents.

326.4 The majority agreed they were happy to go ahead with one camera for now for two years.

326.5 Cllr. Swain queried why Cllr. Cresswell thought it would not work. Cllr. Cresswell said drivers that exceeded the speed limit did not care, this would not stop them. Cllr. Swain referred to the amount of data they could obtain and how they could use this.

Cllr. Cresswell said collecting data was easy, the Borough Council could install two lines to do this.

326.6 It was agreed the sign should be put on Cheswick Way initially.

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

327.1 Cllr. Gosling said she had been in contact with Openreach again.

327.2 Cllr. Swain said he had not got any further with Environmental Health with the issue raised at the previous meeting, regarding a field adjacent to Winterton Farm, which appeared to be being used as an illegal refuse site. It was stated a public footpath ran through this area.

327.3 Cllr. Smith said she had seen flames 50ft high, she said it had been horrendous, it was not SMBCs responsibility. She said she had complained to SMBC about animal waste being burnt somewhere else.

327.4 Cllr. Townsend suggested a Zoom meeting was arranged to discuss the land in front of the shops and the car park.

327.5 Cllr. Sedgley said in relation to the car park, there were police covert and overt operations taking place.

**328. Update/report from Village Hall Management Committee.**

328.1 Cllr. Swain said the floors would be done at the end of the month and any redecoration would take place with minor repair work during August.

**329. Any matters related to the Covid-19 virus.**

329.1 It was stated that the Parish Council should obtain a blue sign; 'please enjoy this playground safely'; a banner 'Respect your park – if the bins are full please take your rubbish home with you'. It was suggested to ask SMBC if it was able to provide any signage, as SMBC must be using something for its parks etc. To use some joined up thinking on this. It was thought signage could be raised at the SAC meeting taking place tomorrow evening, the Clerk and Cllr. Sedgley were attending this.

**330. Agenda items for next meeting.**

330.1 It was noted that the Parish Council did not usually meet in August; it was agreed having a meeting in August could be a good idea, to possibly wait until the proposal from Warwickshire Wildlife Trust was received.

330.2 Cllr. Swain request that there was an item 'Parish Guardians' on the next agenda.

**331. Ongoing actions list (issued to Parish Cllrs. with the agenda).**

331.1 Noted.

**332. PAYE, payroll and pension scheme.**

332.1 In confidential section.

**Meeting ended 4:20pm.**