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CHESWICK GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Wednesday 9th September 2020 7:30pm Village Hall

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

5 members of the public

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

351.1 None – all Parish Councillors present.

352. Declarations of Interest.

352.1 Cllr. Sedgley declared an interest in a planning application for 18 Badger Close as this is her next-door neighbour.

353. Dispensations.

353.1 There were none.

354. Public participation (15 minutes).

354.1 Mr. Hopkins referred to a serious car accident he had been involved in at the junction on Creynolds Lane in October 2019; he said it was almost 12 months ago, Solihull MBC had made some changes such as cats' eyes and signage, but this junction needed to be improved.

354.1.1 It was noted the Parish Council had been contacted by Mr. David Keaney (Traffic Manager Solihull MBC), to arrange a meeting to discuss this junction. Mr. Hopkins asked if he could also attend, there were no objections.

354.1.2 There were comments about it not being possible to have a tabletop at this location due to the speed limits, about possibly having a stagger junction and about reducing the speed limit.

354.1.3 Mr. Hopkins spoke about Solihull MBC being tied into a contract with Balfour Beatty, who had quoted £160,000 for a tabletop at this location. It was stated this was extortionately high, but due to the contract Solihull MBC could not ask anyone else.

354.1.4 Mr. Hopkins referred to the accident, he said it had put him in hospital for 4 days and something similar had almost happened again on Illshaw Heath Road towards Watery Lane, with a car coming from St. Patrick's on Vicarage Road. Mr. Hopkins said his car had come off the road and he went into the hedge, there had been 2 ambulances and fire engines, he said a women had got him out of his car, she thought it was on fire and he was unconscious. He said he was aware that the Parish Council and Mr. Allport had been pushing for Solihull MBC to do something, he reiterated that it was almost 12 months since his accident and he referred to complications behind the scenes.

354.1.5 Mr. Hopkins said he was concerned with the darker nights coming soon and more leaves on the road.

354.1.6 Cllr. Swain said he was seeking advice from a retired road engineer in relation to suggestions as to what could be done.

354.1.7 Cllr. Cresswell asked Mr. Hopkins if he had experienced any problems with this junction before 4 years ago. Mr. Hopkins replied that he had only lived here for 2 years. Cllr. Cresswell said that 4 years ago the layout of Creynolds Lane had been different.

354.1.8 Cllr. Gosling spoke about the extra housing at Cheswick Place, she said there had been a condition in the planning consent for a tabletop to be installed, but this had never happened.

354.1.9 Cllr. Cresswell said even the police had been involved in an accident at this location and ended up in the hedge.

354.1.10 Mr. Hopkins said with the housing development at Blythe Valley the situation was only going to get worse. He then left the meeting at 7:40pm

354.2 Mr. Lawrence Loy introduced himself and his wife; he said he was there regarding a planning application to fell a tree. He said it was a lovely and handsome tree, it had provided shade and privacy over the years, however it was now starting to damage their property as it was in close proximity to their house.

354.2.1 Mr. Loy said the photograph showing the crack on the wall did not show it very well, he referred to the roots and his drive and their concerns about the impact it was having on their property. He said on the righthand side damaged and diseased branches could be seen.

354.2.2 Mr. Loy said he had considered just having it pruned right back, but this would not stop the tree from growing, which was why he had applied to fell it. He reiterated that it was a beautiful tree and they had loved it for years, but it was too close to the property, it was too large, this could be seen and he said he was happy to show members the cracks.

354.2.3 Mr. Loy said he was more than happy to replace the tree elsewhere on the Recreation Ground or the Village Green.

354.2.4 Cllr. Cresswell said he lived round the corner from Mr. Loy on Foxland Close, he referred to tree damage and insurance companies coming out to see this, he asked Mr. Loy if he had contacted his insurance company?

354.2.5 Mr. Loy said he had not done this, especially during lockdown it was very difficult to get people to come out or they were too busy, he had not involved his insurance company yet and he was reluctant to, he said the insurance company was aware of the tree.

354.2.6 Cllr. Cresswell said it was a dreadful shame, it was one of the best trees, he asked if Mr. Loy had considered work to preserve the tree.

354.2.7 Mr. Loy said he had spoken to a tree surgeon, it needed to be cut back, it could survive but this would not solve the main issues, just delay things.

354.2.8 Cllr. Gosling said her neighbour was a qualified arborist, he had looked at this tree to give his opinion, he did not consider it should be felled, he agreed it needed work. She said it was very unlikely Solihull MBC would agree to fell this tree, she added that there were no reports with the application and said for the crack in the wall, there would need to be a report from a Structural Engineer.

354.2.9 It was stated that it was a beautiful tree, it would be seen from the roadside and it had a TPO.

354.2.10 Cllr. Swain said Solihull MBC took little to no notice of what Cheswick Green Parish Council said about planning applications.

354.2.11 Cllr. Gosling said there needed to be very good reasons to fell a tree, she pointed out that the tree would have been there before the house.

354.2.12 Mr. Loy said he had spoken to a Tree Officer a while ago, they would only give general advice, not any specific details, he commented about being aware of the need to get professional reports, but said in this case it was obvious.

354.2.13 Cllr. Gosling reiterated that her neighbour agreed it needed pruning, but she felt that Solihull MBC would not give its permission for the tree to be felled.

354.2.14 Mr. Loy reiterated that cutting it back would not stop it growing. He said they had lived there for about 30 years, originally there had been no impact on the house, but over the years the tree had got bigger and bigger.

354.2.15 Cllr. Gosling said oak trees were slow growing and that they Parish Council did not tend to support applications to fell trees.

354.2.16 Cllr. Smith said she had not seen the tree, but she would go and look at it, she asked what the public path was like. Mr. Loy said it was okay. He said it had uprooted his flowerbed and drive, pruning it would not solve the issue of this tree growing too close to his property.

354.1.17 Members consider whether to discuss this application now or under the planning application agenda item. It was noted that not everyone had seen the tree yet and that they had until 24th September 2020 to submit any comments on this application*. Mr. & Mrs. Loy left the meeting at 7:50pm.

355. To resolve to accept the Minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 5th August 2020 (*issued to Parish Cllrs. with the agenda*).

355.1 Cllr. Cresswell requested for a change to be made in relation to him having no video/camera or sound on during the previous Zoom meeting, he wanted this removed.

355.2 Cllr. Gosling said Cllr. Cresswell took not part in the meeting. Cllr. Cresswell agreed.

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

356. 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*).

Chgs/Electronic payment transactions to be approved September 2020

Payee	Reason	Total
WALC	Chairmanship training	£ 60.00
Nuneaton signs	Banners/signage for Recreation Ground 2 green banners and 4 blue notices.	£ 258.60
Farthing Properties Limited	Decorate Parish Council Office, paint handrail, steps and hash markings as quote £800 <i>Additional works agreed hinges, handle to store cupboard £168.00 = total £968+20%VAT £1161.60</i>	£1161.60
SMBC	Speed Sign, extra batteries etc.	£3475.20
SMBC	First quarter for above	£ 603.88
Marie Zizzi	Top up petty cash	£ 45.00
PKF Littlejohn	External Audit	£ 480.00
Meadowfields GM	Additional bin emptying	£ 276.00
More in confidential section.		
Petty cash £47.48		

356.1 A quote had been received for signs stating 'cars parked at owners risk' for the car park/Village Hall; it was noted the cost was £32 for one that could be installed on brick/Village Hall and £40 for they type that could be installed on a lamp post plus £10 carriage.

356.1.1 It was agreed to order one of each type to be delivered to Cllr. Sedgley, once the pub had confirmed it was happy for one to be attached to the lamp post on the car park owned by the brewery.

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

357. To discuss Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) Regulations 2003 – Parish Basic Allowances 2020-22.

357.1 Updated amounts had been sent to the Parish Council from Solihull MBC, with a slight increase from 1st April 2020 and another slight increase from 1st April 2021.

357.1.1 It was unanimously agreed to apply these increases to CGPC allowances and back date from 1st April 2020.

Action item: Clerk to notify payroll provider.

357.2 Cllr. Gosling referred to information received in relation to clerks pay increases.

Action item: Cllr. Swain to notify payroll provider.

358. To discuss purchasing a red BT phone box, to be located on the Village Green for a book swap.

358.1 Cllr. Smith said she thought it was a brilliant idea. Cllr. Cresswell said there was one in Earlswood which contained a defibrillator. Cllr. Sedgley said there were a number of these phone boxes around and about. Cllr Swain said he had seen 2 at the weekend.

358.2 It was noted if there was already an existing red BT telephone box these could be purchased for £1, the telephone box located by the shops could only be decommissioned by BT to store a defibrillator, however Cheswick Green already had a defibrillator located outside the Village Hall.

358.3 It was noted it cost £2750 to purchase one; it was queried whether this cost included installation and an electrical supply. There were comments about illumination, having a solar cell, security and where to site it for it to be accessible to all. Cllr. Sedgley suggested the Village Green.

358.5 Cllr. Swain and Cllr. Townsend both agreed it was a good idea. Members of the public agreed it was a good idea.

358.6 It was stated it would need to be kitted out with shelves etc. Cllr. Smith said it would be a nice thing for the village.

358.7 Cllr. Gosling said it looked like the majority were in favour.

358.8 It was stated there was only one accredited supplier for red BT phone kiosks. Cllr. Sedgley said it would state 'Book Swap' rather than 'Phone box'.

358.9 Cllr. Cresswell said they needed to discuss where it could be located, rather than the Village Green possibly by the shops.

358.10 There were comments about having it by the bus stop, where Solihull MBC had removed some bushes, to see if this was possible. The remaining 2 members of the public left at 8pm.

359. To discuss CCTV including policy and code for CCTV and agree who will monitor the footage and how it will be controlled (*draft circulated by email 24/8/2020*).

359.1 It was agreed that Cllr. Gosling, Cllr. Sedgley and Cllr. Swain would look at this and bring something back to the Parish Council.

360. 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/2020/01209/MINFHO - 159 Creynolds Lane Cheswick Green Solihull B90 4ES; Erect two new outbuildings for use associated with the residence on the site.

360.1 It was agreed to submit that CGPC is opposed to this due to the proposed height of this application, if this was permitted this would drastically affect the light of the neighbouring property in particular, due to the fact that these neighbours are already losing light due to work already started on another extension on the house on the other side of it, which the Parish Council also objected to.

PL/2020/01545/MINFHO - 38 Creynolds Lane Cheswick Green Solihull B90 4ER; Front, side and rear ground floor extension.

360.1.1 There were no comments to be submitted

PL/2020/01494/TPO - 80 Creynolds Lane Cheswick Green Solihull B90 4FB; Crown clean to remove all deadwood and inspect in two years 1 no. mature Oak tree (4534) in front garden.

360.1.2 There were no comments to be submitted

PL/2020/01987/TPO - 18 Badger Close Cheswick Green Solihull B90 4HR; Fell 1 No. oak tree.

360.1.3 Cllr. Gosling said her neighbour was no longer working as an arborist, however he had offered to help the Parish Council to look at trees to see what needed to be done. She said as he lived here he was happy to help out.

360.1.4 It was stated the Parish Council would still need to have the 3-year tree audit carried out for insurance purposes. Cllr. Cresswell queried if Cllr. Goslings neighbour would like to join the Recreation Committee. Cllr. Gosling did not think he would.

360.2 In relation to Cheswick Place; it was stated this was being finished off now, the parking area would be taken away, a path would be put in and a play area.

360.2.1 It was stated a lot of work was needed on the paths as they were awful, they were not being maintained and they were full of weeds. It was stated that the gravel paths were used as litter trays by cats

360.2.2 It was stated that the fencing by the water was not good.

360.3 There was nothing reported in relation to Blythe Valley.

361. To discuss area in front of the shops.

361.1 It was stated that a meeting needed to be arranged.

362. To discuss the car park.

362.1 It was stated that a meeting needed to be set up.

362.2 It was noted that the brewery/pub had done something about the potholes.

363. To discuss having a Parish Council plan.

363.1 A draft put together by Cllr. Sedgley and Cllr. Smith had been circulated by email. This was not discussed.

364. To discuss relationship with CG RA.

364.1 It was stated that CG RA appeared to be non-existent.

365. To discuss Parish Guardians.

365.1 Cllr. Swain said he had located 3 Parish Councils that have guardians, Great Linford, Linford and Walton. Limited information was available about how they operated. Walton had 95 volunteers for litter picks; Cllr. Swain said he could not find any information regarding how they achieved such a high volunteer base.

365.2 Cllr. Swain said he had also looked at the Keep Britain Tidy site, there were 2 approaches to litter picking; asking individuals to either organise picks in their own friendship groups or for people to pledge an amount of time to help with organised picks. People could pledge upwards from 15 minutes.

365.3 Cllr. Swain read how Great Linford attract parishioners; *'If you would like to join in with making our environment better, sign up to be a Parish Guardian. Report issues you spot whilst out and about in the parish - issues such as antisocial behaviour i.e. graffiti, criminal damage, areas of excessive dog mess or litter, people you witness who don't pick up their dog's foul, faulty street lights/play equipment, untaxed vehicles, landscaping problems - to name but a few!*

Get involved in community events, help us to find solutions to the problems you encounter, let us know what we all can do to make things better in our community. If you spot a problem whilst out and about, you can contact us to help resolve the issue. Would you like to become a Parish Guardian? Complete the form, we will send you a GDPR form for completion, that is all it takes! There are no meetings to attend; you don't have to commit to anything. You will receive emails about our tidy-up days and events, just help out when and if you can'.

365.4 It was suggested that if CGPC went ahead with this scheme information could be put inside the phone kiosk.

365.5 Cllr. Swain said the Cheswick Green book exchange outside of homes since COVID-19 had been very successful, this could continue during winter however there would be a need to provide a weatherproof container.

366. To discuss Creynolds Lane crossroads and flood alleviation.

366.1 It was felt that Creynolds Lance crossroads had already been discussed. It was stated that someone had suggested there were stop signs at every junction, however these were already there.

366.2 In relation to flood alleviation it was suggested that Solihull MBCs Flood Officer should contact the Parish Council about this.

367. To discuss speed signs.

367.1 It was agreed the first location would be Cheswick Way, due to a child being knocked off their bike there. Cllr. Smith had produced a map with numbered streetlamp posts and suggested which ones the sign could be located on.

367.2 Other locations suggested were Coppice Walk, Watery Lane, Illshaw Heath Road and Tanworth Lane.

367.3 It was suggested to ask Solihull MBC to install a speed sign on Creynolds Lane, it was noted there had been one there previously.

367.4 Cllr. Swain referred to people crossing back and forth on Tanworth Lane and an increase in traffic.

367.5 Cllr. Smith said there was a sign on Tanworth Lane, however there was too much overgrowth.

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

368.1 Cllr. Swain referred to Winterton Farm, it was noted that burning had been taking place very late at night recently, there were still fires burning at 01:45am, there were comments from members about these fires being the tallest they had ever seen.

368.1.1 It was noted Solihull MBC was doing everything it could in relation to this.

368.1.2 There were further comments about this, it was noted that the footpath was blocked and there were concerns about what was being burnt and what was going into the ground – asbestos.

368.2 Cllr. Gosling said that she had still not received anything from BT, she would draft something about this to make the issue public, she said it was ridiculous as the village was surrounded by fibre.

368.2.1 It was stated that Virgin was very expensive, people needed to have a choice. It was suggested to involve the MP and Julian Knight.

368.3 Cllr. Cresswell raised an issue, details in confidential part.

368.4 Cllr. Sedgley said she had attended the first Solihull MBC Covid-19 Champions meeting last night; there had been a presentation, this included information about the number of cases, that there had been a drop in the age of people infected from age 60 to mid-30s; there had been substantial numbers of increased infection, Solihull MBC could not say a particular road or area, it was everywhere, it was due to things like people going out to the pub meeting a friend not wearing a mask. She said it appeared to be more in the west of the Borough.

368.4.1 Cllr. Sedgley said a website and dedicated email were set up with a rapid response for people to report shops/premises/businesses not doing what they should be doing.

368.4.2 It was stated that there had been complaints from residents about people not wearing face coverings in the local shops. It was pointed out the shop keepers did not have to wear these and that there should be screens at the tills. It was noted that the chemist was very strict about face coverings.

Action item: Parish Council to write to all the shops/businesses in Cheswick Green to remind them of their duty of care, to ensure their customers were wearing face coverings.

368.5 It was noted that the AGAR for year ending 31st March 2020 had now been completed by the auditors and now the completion notice needed to be displayed. It was agreed this would be put on noticeboards and the website on Monday 14th September 2020 for a period of at least 14 days.

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

369.1 It was noted the decorating had been completed and the hall looked good. It was pointed out that 4 of the door locks had been affected and were difficult to open, this would be sorted out.

369.2 It was noted there were new blinds.

369.3 Cllr. Smith asked if anything was going to be done in the kitchen. Cllr. Swain said it would be spruced up at some point.

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369.4 Cllr. Swain referred to some old swing seats and chains that had been found in the Village Hall, he asked if he could request the Parish Council's grounds maintenance contractor to take these away. He said the VHMC had got rid of some of the Parish Councils stuff, there was also a need to get rid of some cleaning products, the grounds maintenance contractor could do this as well.

369.5 It was noted that the governments 'rule of 6' was due to be announced soon, it was not known if the Village Hall could be kept open.

369.6 The VHMC had told the booking clerk not to allow any parties to be booked. Cllr. Swain said the VHMC wanted to know what bookings were for now before they agreed to them. He referred to a request for a tabletop sale, it was stated it was better to hold these outside. Cllr. Sedgley referred to tabletop sales held on Tanworth Lane.

370. To discuss the letter/post box located on the Village Hall.

370.1 It was noted the letter box was prone to filling with water rendering the post useless on occasions.

370.2 Cllr. Swain made a suggestion to possibly prevent this from happening. It was agreed he could look into progressing with this.

370.3 Cllr. Cresswell referred to the original letter box in 1992 he said it had a self-extinguishing mechanism for if anyone tried to set it on fire.

371. To discuss storage.

371.1 Cllr. Swain said when the Parish Council office had been decorated he had removed files with documents older than 7 years, however the cupboard was still every full. He suggested asking Solihull MBC if it could offer the Parish Council any storage space.

371.2 Cllr. Smith queried if there was loft space. Cllr. Swain said there was a lot of stuff in the loft, such as RA kit and chairs, there were all sorts of things in the loft.

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

372.1 In relation to the 'rule of 6' it was agreed to wait and see if the Parish Council could still meet in the Village Hall or whether it needed to go back to Zoom.

373. To consider and resolve any action(s) in relation to items of correspondence received (issued to Parish Councillors with the agenda).

373.1 A request to purchase a piece of land the Parish Council owned by 14 the Dingle had been circulated to members.

Resolved: it was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would not sell any of its land as it wanted to keep as much open space as possible.

373.1.1 Cllr. Smith suggested the Parish Council could write to the sellers informing them that the Parish Council would not sell the land, Cllr. Townsend agreed. However, it was pointed out that the selling agent could change. It was suggested to write to the owners of the property and to inform them.

373.2 It was noted that Mr. Matthew Gardner (Neighbourhood Delivery Officer Solihull MBC) had offered to meet with members of the Parish Council to look at overgrowth, trees and bushes. Cllr. Smith referred to a list of what needing doing. It was agreed Cllr. Gosling, Cllr. Smith and Cllr. Townsend would provide dates and times for a meeting with Mr. Gardner.

373.3 An email from Borough Councillor Ken Hawkins 'welcomed the views of the Parish Council on the Department of Transport's consultation on pavement parking'. Cllr. Cresswell said there should definitely be no parking on pavements at all. He referred to signs in Dickens Heath. It was stated this could be a national thing, however no-one would be policing it. It was stated that sometimes it was necessary to park slightly on the pavement, however cars should not park so people could not use pavements and were forced to walk in the road.

373.4 An email from Mr. David Keaney (Traffic Manager Solihull MBC) to discuss funding for the junction at Creynolds Lane was noted, he wanted to arrange to meet members of the Parish Council and the Borough Council to discuss this. It was suggested this could take place via Zoom and Mr. Hopkins should be invited. It was thought members of the Parish Council needed to discuss this first, it was agreed members should send their

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ideas to Cllr. Gosling and she would collate them and circulate them. It was pointed out that the Parish Council survey had been inconclusive.

373.5 It was decided to hold a Recreation Committee meeting via Zoom on Wednesday 7th October 2020 at 6pm. Cllr. Smith asked if she could join the Recreation Committee, this was agreed.

373.6 It was noted the Parish Council needed to hold the Annual Statutory Parish meeting. It was agreed to do this via Zoom on Wednesday 7th October 2020 at 7pm.

373.7 Emails, photographs and information about the Mount and other areas from the grounds maintenance contractor and Mr. Steve Hall were noted. It was agreed the steps at the Mount needed repairing.

374. Agenda items for next meeting.

374.1 Winterton Farm.

375. Ongoing actions list.

375.1 Noted.

376. 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.

376.1 There were no members of the public present and nothing further to discuss.

377. PAYE, payroll and pension scheme.

377.1 In confidential section.

Meeting ended 21:25pm

**Three members agreed via email to submit the following to SMBC before the deadline date; 'Cheswick Green Parish Council does not agree this tree should be felled, as it does not appear to be in a dangerous state and no major limbs were fractured from the recent high winds. It does, however, probably need some work doing as it has grown rather large and there are a couple of dead branches (not unexpected on a mature tree) that need removing. Mature oaks should be kept as long as they are in good health especially when protected by a TPO. As far as members of the Parish Council are aware oak tree roots grow downwards rather than spread close to the surface so it is unlikely that the crack shown in the photo submitted was caused by this tree'.*

Cllr. Sedgley had declared an interest and did not comment on this. Three out of five is a majority.