



Cheswick Green Parish Council

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CHESWICK GREEN PARISH COUNCIL
Wednesday 13th January 2021 7:30pm 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

2 members of the public

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

469.1 None – all Parish Councillors present.

470. Declarations of Interest.

470.1 There were none.

471. Dispensations.

471.1 There were none.

472. Public participation (15 minutes).

472.1 No matters were raised.

473. To resolve to accept the Minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 9th December 2020 (issued to Parish Councillors with the agenda).

Resolved: proposed Cllr. Townsend, seconded Cllr. Swain – the minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

474. 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 Councillors with the agenda).

Chgs/Electronic payment transactions to be approved January 2021

Payee	Reason	Total
PPL	Planning representation	£1030.00
Vision ICT	Hosted email account Feb 2019-Jan 2020	£ 21.60
Farthing Properties	Work to reinstate hand-rails by steps to Village Hall	£1471.20

More in confidential section.

Petty cash £77.41

Resolved: proposed Cllr. Townsend, seconded Cllr. Sedgley – all payments were approved.

475. To receive third quarter (April-Dec 2020) monitoring expenditure sheets and bank reconciliation (issued to Parish Councillors with the agenda).

475.1 The documents were accepted - there were no queries.

476. To discuss CGPC 2021/22 budget (proposed budget circulated by email 04/01/2021) for setting the precept.

476.1 The proposed budget was accepted.

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 13th January 2021

Signed

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477. To agree 2021/22 Precept and delegate authority to the Clerk to submit this to SMBC.

477.1 Information in relation to members not being in Council Tax arrears for setting the precept was noted.

Resolved; proposed Cllr. Sedgley, seconded Cllr. Townsend; CGPC 2021/22 is set at £52,000 and the clerk was delegated the authority to submit the form to SMBC.

478. To discuss having an Electric Charging Point.

478.1 Cllr. Smith had circulated information about this to everyone by email.

478.2 Cllr. Gosling said she could see the virtue of installing an electric charging point, however practically it would be difficult.

478.3 Cllr. Smith said if the Parish Council did not do this, SMBC would and it would be put in front of the shops. She said it would be better by the Village Hall. There were comments about cabling. Cllr. Smith said it would all be underground.

478.4 Cllr. Sedgley said she thought it was a brilliant idea. Cllr. Swain said he was against it. Cllr. Cresswell's microphone was muted, he was asked to give a thumbs up or down, he did neither.

478.5 Cllr. Gosling felt it was fraught with problems, she felt residents would have their own charging points and queried whether it would be used.

478.6 Cllr. Swain felt it would be used, however it was stated not only residents from Cheswick Green would use it. Cllr. Swain commented about if there was damage to cars, would the Parish Council be responsible.

478.7 Cllr. Smith suggested they invited someone from SMBC to talk to them about it in more detail.

478.8 Cllr. Townsend queried if any other Parish Councils had installed one and whether they could trial this.

478.9 Cllr. Smith said officers from SMBC were going round to see where these points could be installed, she said they could obtain a grant towards the costs.

478.10 Cllr. Gosling commented that it was a lot of money for not much gain.

Action item: It was agreed that Cllr. Smith should arrange a zoom meeting to investigate this further before any decision was made.

478.11 Cllr. Townsend suggested once the meeting had taken place, the Parish Council should ask residents opinions and obtain an idea of how many would use it.

479. To discuss CCTV including policy and code for CCTV and agree who will monitor the footage and how it will be controlled.

479.1 There had been no progress with this. Item deferred.

480. To discuss CGPC draft Equality and Diversity policy (issued to Parish Councillors with the agenda).

Resolved; proposed Cllr. Townsend, seconded Cllr. Swain; the draft policy was accepted.

481. 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/2020/02637/MINFHO - 569 Tanworth Lane Shirley Solihull B90 4JE; Ground floor side extension to form granny annexe.

481.1 It was noted there had been no access to planning applications on SMBCs website since Friday 8th January 2021; due to essential maintenance work.

Action item: Clerk to request an extension on the time to respond to this application, which was currently Thursday 28th January 2021.

481.1.1 Cllr. Swain said the neighbours to this proposed extension were broadly in agreement. He said the drawings were not very good, the garage was set to move forward to meet the neighbours, it would take some of the neighbours' brick and cause an infringement, if the fascia's were not flat they would overhang the neighbouring property. He said they were not extending beyond the boundary, it was the height he

was concerned about, he referred to the break line and not showing the full extent of what was intended. He said he was happy to advise on this.

481.2 In relation to Cheswick Place; Cllr. Gosling said with Cllr. Sedgley she had walked around the area with officers from SMBC, to look at the paths and trees etc. She said she had spoken with someone from SMBC today and they were far from happy with the paths, the wrong materials had been used, the gravel was meant to bond with what was underneath it, but it had not. It was stated the gravel was used by cats (and dogs) like a litter tray.

481.2.1 Cllr. Swain referred to the paths needing to be suitable and accessible for everyone. He said he has seen a woman with a pram taking a run at one path to get up it, this was unacceptable.

481.2.2 Cllr. Gosling said the officers they had met with were more involved with roads, however she had pointed out about the lack of lamps posts/lighting. She said SMBC was to ask Bloor Homes to take the top surface away and to replace it with the correct materials. She added they had told these officers that some people were frightened to use these paths.

481.2.3 Cllr. Gosling said the officers were going to check Bloor Homes had followed what was agreed in the plans.

481.2.4 There were comments about trying to encourage people to walk, but it was not possible on these paths especially when they were wet.

481.2.5 It was stated there were trees which needed trimming. Cllr. Gosling said hopefully SMBC would get back in touch with her. She commented about the path to the War Memorial not being completely repaired and about the compound that was meant to be there for 6 weeks, but it had now been there for 6 months.

481.2.6 It was stated that residents who lived close to the compound had contacted Bloor Homes, as the compound had been left open.

481.2.7 Cllr. Gosling said she had emailed Bloor Homes but not received any reply whatsoever.

481.2.8 It was noted Cllr. Sedgley had been in contact with one resident who was unable to push his wife's wheelchair on one of these paths, she was asked to update him. Cllr. Sedgley said the situation was miserable for them and they were considering moving.

481.2.9 Cllr. Swain pointed out that the same surfaces were being used at Blythe Valley, therefore these may need to be changed as well. He said the development was moving very quickly.

481.2.10 Cllr. Gosling said the officer from SMBC was to let her know where these paths had been done correctly, so they could go and see them.

482. To discuss area in front of the shops.

482.1 It was noted scaffolding had been erected around the shop where the flat above had been on fire. Cllr. Swain said there were several breaches of H&S; there should be a chute and they should not be throwing tiles from the roof. He said the roof was open to the elements, this would affect the ceiling of the shop below. He said they should have installed tarpaulin and secure this down, what they had used was very flimsy.

482.2 It was felt there was not much that could be done outside the shops until the scaffolding was removed. It was noted Cllr. Gosling had sent two emails to the Managing Agent for the shops but had received no replies. It was agreed Cllr. Smith should telephone them.

482.3 Cllr. Sedgley referred to a police report about a general waste bin being stolen from outside the shops. There were comments about a red bin and the possibility of a bin from the back of the shops being pushed round to the front of the shops.

482.4 There were comments about the Christmas tree lights and the possibility of purchasing some more. Cllr. Smith said she would obtain a quote.

482.5 It was noted when the Recreation Committee had discussed the Christmas tree lights, it had been suggested the Parish Council provide a couple of trees with lights for residents to hang tributes to loved ones. Possibly by the War Memorial and on the Village Green/Recreation Ground. There were concerns about lighting being stolen.

482.5.1 Cllr. Gosling pointed out that the Parish Council only owned land immediately around the War Memorial. It was suggested the tree could be put by the play area within the Cheswick Place development.

482.5.2 A member of the public queried whether the trees needed to be real ones. She was also a member of the RA; she said the RA may wish to get involved with this and possibly pay for one.

482.5.3 It was agreed members should think about this and discuss in again later in the year.

483. To discuss the car park.

483.1 It was noted a contact had been obtained for the brewery and agreed the emails sent to the shops managing agents should be sent to this contact.

483.2 There were comments about the police attending the car park recently. Cllr. Sedgley referred to an articulated lorry blocking the view of the CCTV camera, she said a transit van had been taken away on a low loader, this was unusual.

483.3 There was reference to a horse vehicle being reversed onto the car park and some kerfuffle taking place.

483.4 Cllr. Sedgley said she had not been asked for any CCTV footage and the CTV footage from the pub would probably be better.

483.5 It was queried if the Youth Shelter and children's play area should be closed off, as well as whether the goal posts should be removed, due to the current lockdown. Cllr. Sedgley said she had seen football coaching taking place. Cllr. Swain said he had seen people playing football but nowhere near the goal posts. It was also suggested to install signage.

484. To discuss having a Parish Council plan.

484.1 Deferred.

485. To discuss Parish Guardians.

485.1 Deferred.

486. To discuss Creynolds Lane crossroads and flood alleviation.

486.1 Cllr. Swain said he did not know if SMBC had been given permission from the cricket club yet and he had not seen the revised plans.

486.1 The Clerk said she had received an email from a local resident who lived in Coppice Walk, who had been speaking to their neighbour and understood the Council was installing flood defences to properties in Coppice Walk. The resident had stated that in 2019 the flood water had come to the level of their porch, if they had not sealed around the door it would have entered the property. The resident wanted to know if they were eligible for any flood defence measures for their property. The Clerk had forwarded this to the relevant officer at SMBC and received a reply that by a strange co-incidence the officer had met with this resident on site that afternoon and they had chatted.

487. To discuss speed sign.

487.1 Cllr. Smith had circulated data from the speed sign, she said it was in kilometres not MPH and not many cars were over the speed limit. Cllr. Gosling said it appeared most cars were within the speed limit.

487.2 It was suggested the sign was moved to Watery Lane next, pointing in the direction towards Creynolds Lane. It was stated there were only a few lamp posts that could be used.

487.3 Cllr. Smith said the four weeks to move the sign came round quickly.

488. To discuss purchasing and locating a red BT telephone kiosk.

488.1 Cllr. Sedgley said they had found a site and they were ready to order this now.

488.2 Cllr. Swain said he was obtaining a quote for a base, however he queried whether the kiosk would need to be sealed to the base. He said he had not considered this as it weighed 750 kilos, he did not think it would need to be set in place. It was suggested to ask other Parish Councils that had these.

488.3 Cllr. Gosling queried what would happen at night, if it would be left open, as there could be problems.

488.4 It was hoped people would be sensible and pointed out the only other thing to do would mean it would need a caretaker. It was queried whether it was to be located near any lighting.

488.5 It was noted the base would need to be installed before it was delivered and to find out how long it would take from ordering it for it to be delivered.

489. To discuss Winterton Farm.

489.1 Cllr. Swain said he was reporting on this to about 15 people. He said he had no sympathy with the highways department dealing with the footpath, they would not do anything as there was an Order on the farm. He said the EA was dragging its feet and he did not know what enforcement were doing, he would wait until the end of the month and then chase up on this, he said it was a difficult time for the Council due to COVID-19.

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

490.1 Cllr. Gosling said due to various reasons she had been delayed in contacting CityFibre.

490.2 Cllr. Sedgley said there was a major water leak on Badger Close, water was going into the back of properties and it would cause flooding, she had been in contact with Severn Trent who said they would do something on/from 25th January, that was a long time away, she would chase them.

490.3 Cllr. Sedgley said she had attended the COVID-19 Champions meeting; they had been updated on the vaccine roll out, all the 90 and 90 plus year olds had been done, all the 80-year-olds had been vaccinated and all people in care homes, apart from two which had people with COVID-19 in them, had been done.

490.3.1 Cllr. Sedgley said by mid-February it was hoped all shielders would be vaccinated. The vaccine was not being rolled out to small pharmacies yet, because each vaccine was precious, when they were taken out of the fridge there were 7 doses in each batch, they needed to use them all, they could not be put back in the fridge.

490.3.2 Cllr. Sedgley said very very few people were refusing to have the vaccine. They were trying to calculate how many were needed each day. If people did not turn up or were not available, they moved to the next person on the list. She referred to people being asked to go to Millennium Point, but if they could not do this to contact the Monkspath surgery.

490.3.3 Cllr. Gosling said those registered with Cheswick Green Village Surgery were being vaccinated at Monkspath surgery.

490.3.4 Cllr. Sedgley said one or two Parish Halls were on the list to be used. She queried whether CG Village Hall could be used. She said the mostly likely place to catch the virus was in supermarkets.

490.3.5 There were comments about getting people vaccinated in the right order, not doing people in their 70s before people in their 80s, it also depended on any underlying health issues.

490.3.6 Cllr. Sedgley said infections had dropped to 55-year-olds now, it was hitting younger people.

490.3.7 Cllr. Townsend said his mother had received her first vaccine and she had been very impressed. Cllr. Sedgley said her mother-in-law was 96 but she had not received her vaccine yet. It was stated it varied from area to area, as age groups depended on demographics and where people lived. It was noted Solihull had a very high age group.

490.3.8 Cllr. Sedgley said people had to have two vaccines, 10 weeks apart, there was no impact from this, as it was better to have 60-70% immunisation than none. She added that it did not matter which vaccine you had. It was stated that some people in the village had already received both doses.

490.4 Cllr. Townsend referred to the recent consultation and meeting regarding the proposed expansion to CG Primary school; he queried what the Parish Council did next.

490.4.1 Cllr. Gosling said this had been pushed through during lockdown and it was possible a decision would be made by March, this was ridiculous.

490.4.2 Cllr. Sedgley pointed out that there had been issues with SMBCs website, people could not access the consultation to submit comments at one point.

490.4.3 It was pointed out that comments made by the Parish Council in 2016 had been referred to, there were different people on the Parish Council now.

490.4.4 Cllr. Gosling said in 2016 there were mostly inexperienced members on the Parish Council; she referred to the consultation and there being no proper traffic surveys and that SMBC was not concerned about how people were going to get to the school.

490.4.5 Cllr. Smith queried whether David Irwin (*Birmingham Evening Mail reporter*) would have listened to the meeting which took place at SMBC on Monday 11th January about this; Cllr. Gosling said she presumed he would have.

490.4.6 Cllr. Swain said due to COVID-19 no proper assessments were carried out. He said there were already problems in relation to the school, doubling the number of pupils would double the number of problems, there would be more people travelling to the school then there were now, no matter what mitigation was put in place the situation would be worse than it was now.

490.4.7 Cllr. Townsend questioned what they could do.

490.4.8 Cllr. Smith said the field at the back of the school was owned by SMBC; Cllr. Swain asked if she was referring to a second access; Cllr. Sedgley said the green belt status could be removed if it suited SMBC. It was stated that if drops offs went ahead at the back of the school there would soon be houses.

490.4.9 It was noted that at the committee meeting held on Monday 11th January, it had been agreed to move to the second stage of consultation, it was queried what this actually meant.

490.4.10 Cllr. Smith suggested the Parish Council contacted its MP - Saqib Bhatti to complain and ask for his response on this. She said they needed to act quickly. It was also suggested that once this had been done to contact David Irwin again.

490.5 Cllr. Townsend referred to an email he and Cllr. Gosling had received from Mr. Greg Allport. He asked Rebecca Cash what her thoughts were.

490.5.1 Rebecca Cash replied that the RA wanted to offer help in the form of things like leaflet drops, anything it could do to support the Parish Council.

490.5.2 It was noted that residents by St. Augustine School had managed to get proposals for this school to be expanded squashed. It was queried how they had managed to do this; Rebecca Cash said she thought residents would not let anyone park outside the school. It was suggested to find out what they had done and to follow this.

490.5.3 It was noted there had been comments at the committee meeting about providing a school bus, it was stated it was not possible to get a bus done the road to the school.

490.5.4 Cllr. Swain said there were already 11-16 members of staff parking outside the school on Cheswick Way.

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

491.1 It was noted the hall was currently closed. Cllr. Swain said so far, they had received £12200 funding for the Village Hall and they would probably get more.

491.2 Cllr. Sedgley said the CCTV that pointed towards the Youth Shelter had a massive spiders web on it, which blocked the view. Cllr. Swain said regular checks were made on the Village Hall, next time he went he would sweep all the cameras with a broom.

491.3 Cllr. Gosling said the letterbox had not been flooded despite all the rain.

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

492.1 Covered.

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

493.1 Cllr. Townsend referred to an email from a local resident and her daughter regarding dog faeces, he said what had been put together was brilliant.

493.1.1 Cllr. Sedgley thought this was an excellent opportunity to get children involved and educated.

493.1.2 Cllr. Smith suggested getting a photograph of the girl and putting something on social media.

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Signed

Date.....

493.1.3 Cllr. Gosling referred to the posters that had been produced; saying there was not anywhere on Parish Council owned land to put these. She added the main problem was educating dog owners to clean up after their dogs. She said her neighbour had put some signs up informing dog owners they could be seen on CCTV cameras, there was evidence, and this had seemed to work.

493.1.4 Cllr. Townsend queried how they should reply to the email and how to progress this.

493.1.5 Cllr. Sedgley suggested asking them to start a campaign.

493.1.6 Cllr. Swain referred to the first email they had received, which pointed out that one guy refused to pick up after his dog, claiming he had no bag to do this. He suggested that if people knew who the offenders were, to let the Parish Council know and this information could be passed on to SMBC.

493.1.7 It was noted that information could be submitted to SMBC via its website. Cllr. Sedgley said in relation to people that did not pick up after their dog, they would be named and shamed on Facebook, but residents did not report this to the local authority.

493.1.8 Cllr. Gosling said these people made responsible dog owners look bad.

493.1.9 Cllr. Townsend reiterated how should they respond to the email? It was stated that if the Parish Council obtained additional dog bins, it would need permission from SMBC to site these. It was suggested to ask SMBC to get some more dog bins and also for Cheswick Place.

493.2 Cllr. Smith referred to a message from a resident regarding litter picks, asking if the Parish Council could organise these, in particular for Cheswick Place. She said she had replied that litter picks were often carried out and lots of residents did litter pick, they were not currently in a position to organise group litter picks at present due to COVID-19 restrictions. The resident had also enquired about equipment.

Action item: Clerk to email Love Solihull and ask for some litter pickers, bags and gloves to be delivered to Cllr. Sedgley.

493.3 It was noted the Parish Councils planning consultant had provided the Clerk with a contact to approach in relation to a possible legal challenge to the Local Plan; it was stated it was worth exploring this to see what this person thought and to obtain an idea of the cost involved.

494. Agenda items for next meeting.

494.1 SMBCs proposal to expansion of Cheswick Green Primary school.

495. Ongoing actions list (issued to Parish Councillors with the agenda).

495.1 It was noted the defibrillator needed to be checked.

496. 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.

496.1 At 21:05 the members of the public left the meeting.

497. PAYE, payroll and pension scheme.

497.1 In confidential section.

Meeting closed at 9:20pm