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**CHESWICK GREEN PARISH COUNCIL**

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 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

Prior to letting the members of the public into the meeting, Cllr. Sedgley informed members that the meeting was being recorded. She also apologised and said she had mistakenly put everyone on mute at the start of the previous meeting.

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

498.1 None – all Parish Councillors present.

**499. Declarations of Interest.**

499.1 There were none.

**500. Dispensations.**

500.1 There were none.

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

501.1 No matters were raised.

**502. To resolve to accept the Minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2021 (issued to Parish Councillors with the agenda).**

502.1 Cllr. Cresswell said he proposed the minutes reflected that he had been unable to participate due to the host not letting him.

502.1.1 Cllr. Sedgley said she had apologised for this; she had not realised people were unable to unmute themselves.

502.1.2 Cllr. Gosling referred to the screen shot Cllr. Cresswell displayed showing he was on mute, she said they all had that screen. There was a slight disruption when Cllr. Cresswell displayed the screen shot as everyone disappeared.

502.1.3 There were comments about Cllr. Cresswell saying he did not have his phone on when he was challenged about phone numbers, but members stated he appeared to be taking the photo of his screen using his phone. Cllr. Cresswell said he had used a camera. He was then told this was not true as everyone saw him use his phone. Cllr. Cresswell then complained about his life being made difficult.

502.1.4 Cllr. Cresswell said he had been in contact with Deborah Merry (SMBCs Monitoring Officer), he proposed that the Clerk should host the meetings.

502.1.5 Cllr. Swain said he did not agree, if anything it should be shared between the Councillors.

502.1.6 Cllr. Sedgley pointed out that she bore the costs for Zoom meetings, as they were only free for 40 minutes. Cllr. Smith said she should claim the money back.

502.1.7 Cllr. Gosling said she was happy for Cllr. Sedgley to continue hosting the meetings, the Clerk had enough to do with taking the minutes. She added that Deborah Merry's advice had only suggested the Clerk host the meeting, she proposed it was left

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as it was for now. She said Cllr. Cresswell had constantly been asked to unmute himself during the meeting.

502.1.8 Cllr. Sedgley said the minutes should reflect that she had apologised for what had happened, she reiterated that she was sorry and said to Cllr. Cresswell it had not been deliberate.

502.1.9 Cllr. Cresswell said he accepted her apology.

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

**503. To agree the agenda for Annual Statutory Parish Assembly due to take place on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2021** (*circulated with the agenda to Parish Cllrs*).

503.1 There were no objections.

**504. 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 February 2021**

Payee	Reason	Total
DM Payroll Services	Administration of payroll & pension 2020/21 second half of year	£90.00
Vision ICT	Hosted email account	£21.60
More in confidential section.		
Petty cash £77.41		

**Resolved;** proposed Cllr. Swain, seconded Cllr. Townsend – all payments were approved.

**505. To resolve to accept the amended Financial Regulations** (*circulated to Parish Cllrs. by email 12/1/21*).

**Resolved;** proposed Cllr. Smith, seconded Cllr. Swain.

**506. To discuss CGPC asset register and items on insurance policy** (*circulated to Parish Cllrs. by email 26/1/21*).

506.1 It was agreed to leave this as it was and noted that costs to repair the Village Hall roof and the refurbishment of the toilets were covered on the Village Halls insurance.

**507. To discuss CGPCs CCTV policy and code of practice** (*circulated to Parish Cllrs. by email 26/1/21*).

507.1 Subject to a couple of amendments, there were no objections to these. It was stated some thought needed to be given to a form to log details.

**508. 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/2020/02931/MINFHO** - 68 Willow Drive Cheswick Green Solihull B90 4HW; Relocation of existing garden fence up to an outer boundary next to pavement.

508.1 It was stated there were no drawings for this application and there were concerns whether the applicant owned the strip of land or whether it belonged to SMBC.

The Parish Council would like to point out that if the fence is moved out it will reduce visibility of the road of both the applicants house and 2 Saxon Wood Road, as the drives are at the bottom of the two gardens and adjacent to each other, this could be an accident risk.

**PL/2021/00052/MINFHO** - 32 Creynolds Lane Cheswick Green Solihull B90 4ER; Ground floor rear extension.

508.1.1 There were no comments to be submitted.

**PL/2020/02384/TPO** - 21 Snowhill Drive Cheswick Green Solihull B90 4JT; T1 Ash reduce to historical pruning points, overall crown reduction by up to 5m.

508.1.2 There were no comments to be submitted.

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508.2 In relation to Cheswick Place; It was noted there had been various emails about the paths. It was stated the compound had been left open again, it was queried when this would be moved, as when it had been installed Bloor Homes had said it would be there for 6 weeks, but it had been there for 6 months now.

508.2.1 Cllr. Swain said it contained materials for the playground.

508.2.2 Cllr. Sedgley said she had been in contact with Borough Cllr. James Butler regarding SMBC and Bloor.

508.2.3 It was noted MP Saqib Bhatti had said he would do something in relation to this.

508.3 In relation to Blythe Valley; Cllr. Smith said she had walked up there last Friday, there had been a lot of polystyrene, with broken up pieces in the stream and she had seen pallets.

508.3.1 Cllr. Swain said a lot had blown around due to the winds, it was against the fences and in the reeds/hedges. It was queried which builder it was; it was stated it was part of Bloor Homes but a different region to the Bloor at Cheswick Place. Cllr. Swain said he would speak to the Site Manager.

### **509. To discuss SMBCs proposal to expand CG Primary School.**

509.1 To be discussed at the end of the meeting.

### **510. Report from Recreation Committee.**

510.1 It was noted there were 2 quotes to remove the dog wood by the large swings on the Recreation Ground. However, one included taking out willow trees, this was not required. It was stated these bushes need to be cleared properly including any rubbish and bricks.

510.1.1 It was noted a letter had been drafted to inform the residents of Heron Close these bushes were going to be removed. Cllr. Swain queried whether the content was sufficient. It was stated these bushes acted as a sound barrier and stopped balls going into gardens. It was pointed out that eventually the bushes would be replaced and additional items would be added to the area. It was agreed to include this to the letter.

510.2 Cllr. Swain spoke about the drain that was to be installed on the car park, he said this would happen when the person doing it received the materials. He said once it had been installed the tarmac around the area would be repaired.

510.2.1 Cllr. Swain said there would not be any beer wagons using the car park while the pub was closed. He referred to refuse trucks and what other vehicles used the car park. There were comments about deliveries to the shops and Viola trucks. Cllr. Cresswell queried what the shops did with their rubbish. Cllr. Swain asked whether it would be okay to block off the area, for a couple of days, for the work to take place. It was suggested once he knew when the work was to be carried out, to let people know what was happening.

510.2.2 Cllr. Townsend said when this work took place it would be an opportune time to do the potholes on the car park.

510.3 Cllr. Swain said Cllr. Sedgley and Cllr. Smith had been asked to look into costs for extra Christmas trees; a real one for by the Boer War Memorial, possibly on SMBCs land and for the Cheswick Place residents; a metal tree for the Recreation Ground by the memorial bench.

**Action item: Cllr. Gosling had received an email about real and artificial trees; she agreed to forward this to Cllrs. Sedgley and Smith.**

510.3.1 Cllr. Sedgley said the metal tree could be used for Christmas and other memorial occasions, there were leaves, residents could purchase these or buy their own tributes. She said the tree was quite low, it would need to be higher or for some safety fencing, however there were other trees.

510.4 It was stated more trees were needed to take up rainwater, to prevent flooding.

510.5 It was noted Cllr. Swain had obtained a quote for a concrete base for the BT telephone kiosk. There were no objections to this going ahead. He said it would be bolted to the base.

510.5.1 Cllr. Smith said at the Recreation Committee meeting she had suggested some steppingstones were installed, to get to a bench on the Recreation Ground.

Cllr. Townsend said they had also talked about putting some hard standing in front of where a bench was located on the Village Green.

510.5.2 Cllr. Gosling referred to flooding on the Recreation Ground, she said when this water froze it was like skating rink. She referred to when Cheswick Green was built and the brook being diverted. She said they needed to look at this very carefully.

510.5.3 Cllr. Cresswell said a few years ago P&R Builders had rodded the drain on the car park. He said regarding the river and the willow tree on the Village Green, that was where the river came from.

**Action item: Clerk to order the BT kiosk, prior to this to arrange for the grounds maintenance contractor to cut the tree that would be above where it would be located.**

510.6 It was stated the Recreation Committee recommended the Parish Council purchased some litter picking sticks, rubbish bags and disposable gloves. Cllr. Gosling said they already had some. It was agreed to order some more.

510.7 It was noted the grounds maintenance contractor had sent a quote - £280 - to reduce the height of the shrubs to the left of the steps to the Village Hall, down to the top of the wooden fencing. It was agreed this should go ahead.

Note: At 20:18 one member of the public left the meeting.

### **511. To discuss area in front of the shops.**

511.1 Cllr. Smith said she was looking into what could be done. She said some tenants had issues; she had suggested they looked at their tenancy agreement.

511.2 It was noted the managing agent for the shops had not returned a call to Cllr. Smith.

### **512. To discuss the car park.**

512.1 Deferred.

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

513.1 Cllr. Sedgley and Cllr. Smith had been working on this. Cllr. Sedgley said currently it was in various formats - Word/Excel - they needed to find the correct platform for this, it needed to be easy to update and one person needed to do this.

### **514. To discuss Parish Guardians.**

514.1 It was agreed to remove this from the agenda and add it to the ongoing list of actions.

### **515. To discuss Creynolds Lane crossroads and flood alleviation.**

515.1 Cllr. Swain said the plans for the crossroads were currently out for consultation, he thought they would be approved. He said the cricket club had offered SMBC a very simple solution but had not received any reply.

515.2 Cllr. Smith there had been flooding last Thursday down Creynolds Lane at the junction. Cllr. Gosling said it happened quite often.

515.2 Cllr. Swain said the cricket club flooded in the corner, some drainage was installed some years ago, but it was not helping, there was no leak. There were comments about when the water table was as high as it could get, water going under the path, it came up bubbling and this acted like syphon, which was why it was so bad.

515.3 It was stated flooding had been better since the culvert in Illshaw Heath had been unblocked.

515.4 Cllr. Smith referred to a truck which came quite often to Willow Drive to clear drains, which were not under any trees. She said she had never seen any drains on Watery Lane being cleared.

515.5 Cllr. Gosling she had seen drains cleared on Coppice Walk and all round the village, when there was heavy rain Watery Lane was flooded, it was called Watery Lane for a reason.

515.6 Cllr. Cresswell said lots of infrastructure was falling apart and failing now.

**Action item: Clerk to contact SMBC to enquire on what basis drains are cleared/cleaned whether they are done regularly or ad hoc.**

515.7 Cllr. Cresswell said it would depend on whether it was SMBC or Severn Trent.

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**516. To discuss speed sign.**

516.1 It was stated the sign had moved very slightly, this had been discussed at the previous meeting and agreed to keep it where it was due to data showing a car was driven at 80mph and there was lots of speeding.

516.2 It was stated someone had asked for it to be put on Creynolds Lane before the turning.

516.3 Cllr. Gosling said they could only have it at 6 locations, therefore they needed to think carefully about this. It was queried what the definition of a location was, that moving it on Creynolds Lane was only one location.

516.4 It was stated that the data from the speed sign needed to be to be put into a format that could be used.

516.5 Cllr. Sedgley referred to a demand on Facebook for the camera to be located by the sheep farm.

**517. To discuss purchasing and locating a red BT telephone kiosk.**

517.1 Covered.

**518. To discuss Winterton Farm.**

518.1 Cllr. Swain said there had been no activity since Christmas.

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

519.1 Cllr. Gosling said she had contacted CityFibre, it was not coming to the area now, she said people needed to register an interest on the CityFibre website, they needed to inform people about this via social media etc.

519.2 Cllr. Gosling said she had received an email from a local resident regarding speeding on Creynolds Lane, the resident had also written to SMBC about this. She read the email. It was agreed that Cllr. Gosling could inform the resident the speed camera would be going on Creynolds Lane.

519.3 Cllr. Smith referred to setting up a Zoom meeting to talk about an Electric Charging Point. It was noted Cllr. Gosling was not in favour of having an electric charging point on Parish Council owned land. Cllr. Swain was not in favour and neither was Cllr. Cresswell. Cllr. Smith to arrange an online meeting with SMBC to discuss this.

519.3.1 Cllr. Cresswell said they would fade out over time. It was stated if it were located by the Village Hall, it would take up too much space and the area would not be kept free for the purpose of people charging their cars.

519.3.2 Cllr. Gosling said people would have these at their homes. It was felt the Parish Council should have some involvement in where it was located.

519.4 Cllr. Gosling said some residents on Coppice Walk had been contacted by SMBC in relation to flood alleviation.

519.5 Cllr. Sedgley said the residents of Cheswick Place had their own Facebook page; they were not very happy about a number of things, for example the roads, dog faeces, lack of dog bins and they wanted speed bumps, she said they were talking about a petition. She said she had informed them the Parish Council had been in contact with SMBC, Bloor Homes and their MP about various issues.

519.5.1 It was suggested to put a statement on Facebook with a link for residents to contact SMBC directly.

519.5.2 Cllr. Swain said the Parish Council had objected to the Bloor Homes planning application in relation to many aspects of it.

519.6 The Clerk said Mark Andrews (SMBCs Head of Planning) had agreed to attend the Parish Council meeting in March, she wanted to know if members had any specific questions for him and whether he should be on the agenda before or after public participation. It was suggested he should be part of public participation.

519.7 It was agreed the Clerk could attend the WALC training.

519.8 Cllr. Sedgley said providing there were no objections, she wanted to see if anyone had used resin to encase stones, she wanted to do something to protect the stones that had been painted by children for the memorial garden. There were no objections.

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

520.1 It was noted the Village Hall was currently closed.

520.2 Cllr. Cresswell asked if it would be open for polling day? Cllr. Swain said no notification had been received from SMBC.

520.3 It was stated the Recreation Committee had discussed farmers markets and a pizza van that had been located in Earlswood. It was stated this could not take place on the car park. It was stated the village had a curry house and the pub served food. It was agreed the local businesses needed to be supported.

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

521.1 On going.

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

522.1 It was noted there had been various emails regarding the Census.

522.2 An email from a resident with a suggestion for a possible route for a foot/cycle path had been circulated to all members. It was stated to leave this until the school was discussed.

522.3 It was noted information had been received and circulated regarding the Commonwealth games.

522.4 Further to the recent Recreation Committee meeting, the Clerk had been asked to contact SMBC and the Borough Council, in relation to signs that existed in Dickens Heath regarding not parking on grass verges, to request these signs were also placed on Cheswick Way, Creynolds Lane, Coppice Walk and Watery Lane. A reply had been received that this would go ahead. There were comments about the wording on these signs; they stated people could be fined and/or asking people not to park on pavements.

522.5 There was a discussion in relation to an email received from SMBC about land between 559 and 561 Tanworth Lane and what was taking place there.

522.6 It was noted SMBC had sent information about its Draft Residential Backland Development Supplementary Planning Document consultation.

**523. Agenda items for next meeting.**

523.1 Mr. Mark Andrews.

523.2 Electric Charging Point.

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

524.1 Noted.

**525. 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.**

525.1 At 9pm the member of the public left the meeting.

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

526. In confidential section.

**Meeting closed at 9:40pm**