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**CHESWICK GREEN STATUTORY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
 Wednesday 24th March 2021 7pm via Zoom**

Present:

0 local residents
 Cheswick Green Parish Councillors; Margaret Gosling (*Chairman*), Len Cresswell,
 Sam Sedgley, Michelle Smith, Mick Swain and Peter Townsend.
 CGPC Clerk: Mrs. Marie Zizzi

1. Welcome and introduction.

1.1 Cllr. Gosling welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending. She explained that;

'The Statutory Annual Parish Meeting is not a Parish Council meeting. It is a meeting of the electors of the Parish that must take place between 1st March and 1st June usually, however this year due to the pandemic (Coronavirus) the dates were altered and this meeting could be held online from 1st September. Electors have the opportunity to learn of the activities that have been undertaken by the Parish Council during the past twelve months, this year it was for the last 18 months. The meeting is chaired by the Parish Council.

Electors can debate current issues and put forward resolutions for consideration by the Parish Council. Such resolutions will not bind the Parish Council.

The Parish Council is not obliged to pursue these resolutions, except in the case of the provision of Allotments. Following the resolution in 2010 the Parish Council despite trying, by contacting several landowners, has unfortunately, so far, been unable to find land that could provide allotments'.

2. To accept apologies for absence.

2.1 None.

3. Minutes of the Statutory Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 7th October 2020.

Resolved; proposed Cllr. Sedgley, seconded Cllr. Townsend that these Minutes should be signed as a true and accurate record.

4. Report from 2020/21 Parish Council Chairmen, Cllr. Margaret Gosling.

4.1 Cllr. Gosling gave her report - copy attached.

5. Report from 2020/21 Recreation Committee Chairman, Cllr. Mick Swain.

5.1 Cllr. Swain gave a report - copy attached.

6. Issues of particular local importance.

6.1 It was noted that Warwickshire Wildlife Trust had recently sent an email informing the Parish Council work would not start until September.

6.1.1 Cllr. Swain said they could discuss the Recreation Ground at the Recreation Committee meeting being held next week.

6.1.2 There were various comments about a digger being required to dig some deep trenches, for drainage and about possibly planting some trees.

6.1.3 Cllr. Swain said he would start looking at playground equipment and the WALC funding available.

6.1.4 It was stated the concrete table tennis table was being used.

6.2 Cllr. Gosling said she had spoken with someone from Saqib Bhatti’s office regarding broadband, a letter would be sent to residents.

6.2.1 Cllr. Swain said he had seen CityFibre in the area. Cllr. Gosling said the nearest CityFibre would get was the sheep field on Creynolds Lane; she added the more people that signed up the more likely they were to get this.

6.3 Cllr. Sedgley said once the BT phone kiosk had been installed, she would get some footage for the Parish Councils Instagram. She said she may get footage of it being installed.

6.3.1 It was suggested children could be asked to write stories, which could be put inside the telephone kiosk.

6.3.2 Cllr. Smith suggested putting a ribbon/bow on it and having an official opening ceremony.

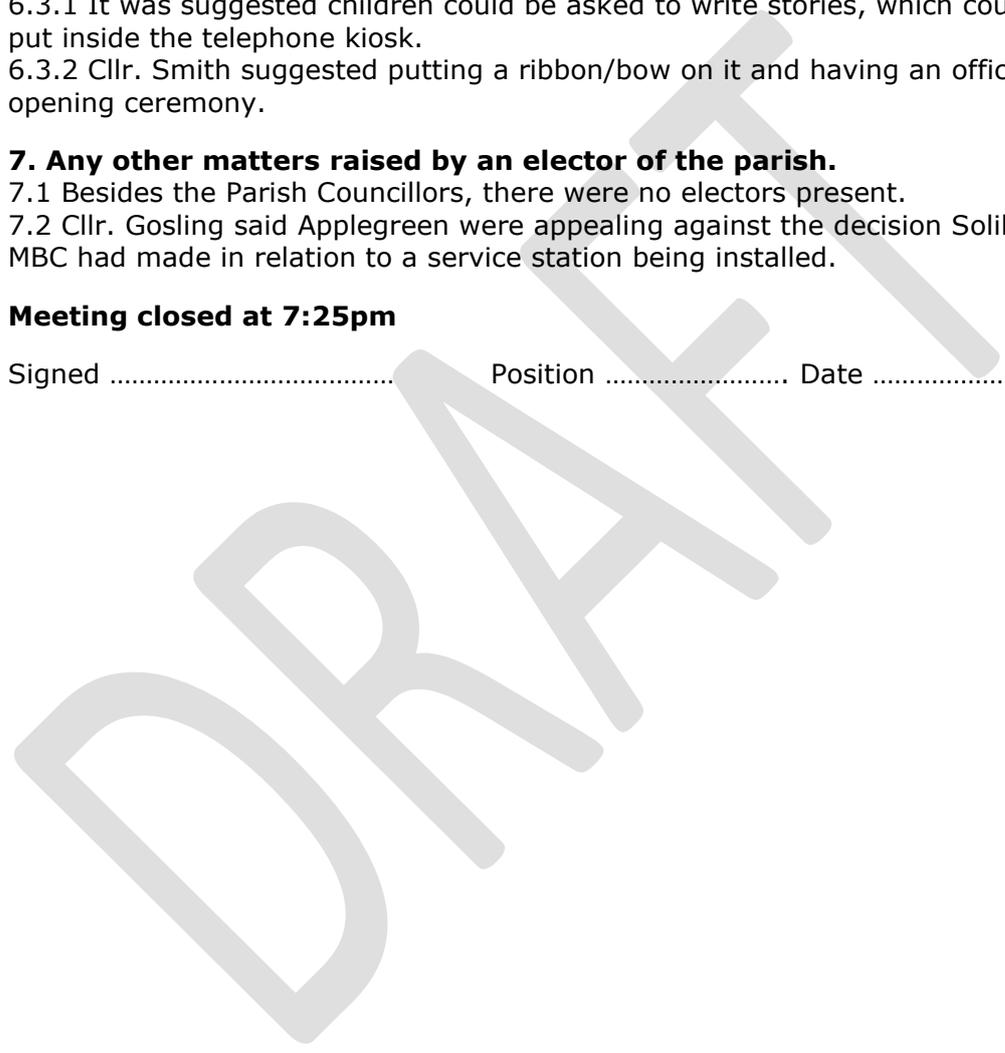
7. Any other matters raised by an elector of the parish.

7.1 Besides the Parish Councillors, there were no electors present.

7.2 Cllr. Gosling said Applegreen were appealing against the decision Solihull MBC had made in relation to a service station being installed.

Meeting closed at 7:25pm

Signed Position Date



Chairman's Report March 2021

This report covers the period from October 2020 until March 2021 rather than a full year as the 2020 Annual Parish Meeting was delayed due to the pandemic. Despite this, these have been a very busy few months for the Parish Council.

I would like to thank my fellow councillors and our clerk, Marie, for all their hard work over this period.

SMBC approved the draft of its Local Plan during the autumn and since then had a further period of consultation which ended in early December. The Parish Council responded to this with the help of a professional planning consultant objecting to the release of land south of Dog Kennel Lane for housing and a school in the strongest possible terms. It is considered that this development does not follow National Planning requirements regarding the release of green belt and insufficient work has been carried out to address issues such as traffic congestion and flood alleviation. Members now await the next stage in this process.

Members have also objected to the proposal to double the size of Cheswick Green Primary School during both consultation periods. It is felt that this proposal is not in the best interests of the children as the extra building does not allow for increases in the size of the school roll and members are particularly concerned by the impact such an extension will have on local residents in term of parking and traffic issues. The effect on the quality of the environment will also be considerable.

Work has also been undertaken in conjunction with SMBC regarding the completion of the Cheswick Place development prior to the adoption of the site by SMBC. There have been major concerns over the gravel type footpaths and also about the way the path between Saxon Wood Road and Kingfisher Way has been constructed. Following further lobbying involving local borough councillors and our MP Saqib Bhatti we have now heard that this path is to undergo modifications to make it safer. The contractors have carried out some work on the other paths, but members are far from satisfied with the results so far.

After much effort by members and also other residents' modifications to the junction at the bottom of Creynolds Lane have finally been agreed and these should be taking place within the next few months. These include lowering of the speed limit on much of Creynolds Lane to 30mph and also on parts of Watery Lane, Vicarage Road and Illshaw Heath Road. Hedges are being cut back to improve visibility and more warning signs installed to make road users aware of other traffic. Hopefully, these measures will have some impact on safety at this junction which has seen a number of serious accidents.

Members are still trying to get improvements to the broadband service within the original village to enable residents to have a choice of fast broadband provider. So far, we have not managed to get anywhere with Openreach despite them having fibre installed down Creynolds Lane and also on the remaining part of Cheswick Place. Our MP is going to try to put pressure on them to act more quickly. As a result of this we have now contacted CityFibre who install fibre infrastructure and have agreements with number of service providers. They are gradually moving into the Solihull area and have asked residents to sign up on their website (www.cityfibre.com) in order to express an interest so they can plan their rollout.

The Parish Council has also purchased a speed sign which is being moved every few weeks to different locations around the village. This was in response to complaints from residents regarding speeding in various places and it allows us to determine where there may be problems.

Members are also hoping to have a local book swap location soon and in order to do this have now ordered a second-hand red BT phone box to house it. This will be located at the bottom of the green by the footpath. Residents may have noticed that a base has already been laid for it.

A drain has now been installed near the doctors in the car park which, we hope, will help to reduce flooding there. Work has also started on improvements to the recreation ground which will be ongoing.

Sadly, the Parish Council was unable to hold the usual Christmas Tree light switch on last December due to the pandemic. However, the tree was illuminated over the Christmas period despite the restrictions.

I would now like to ask Cllr Mick Swain to give the Recreation Committee report which will add details to some of the projects mentioned above.

Cheswick Green Statutory Annual Parish Assembly Wednesday 24th March 2021

Recreation Committee Annual Report 2020/21 – Cllr. Mick Swain

Cheswick Place

We have been made aware of numerous complaints via Facebook, some of which we have acted on when considered serious, others we have not. Would you please make us aware of your concerns by emailing our Clerk on clerk@cheswickgreen-pc.gov.uk which we will act upon rather than post on social media which we may not always see.

That said, all residents of Cheswick Place need to be aware that this site remains under the management of Bloor Homes until handed over to Solihull Council. We have spoken to the Head of Planning at Solihull Council who has informed us that there is at present no set date for handover of the site.

We have been pursuing several matters that we consider do not comply with the planning approval of this development. Following a lot of correspondence with Solihull Council, Bloor's and subsequently the intervention of our MP Saqib Bhatti further works will be undertaken to the link bridge and the ash path surfaces will be improved. We do not have all the details yet, but the bridge will be partially raised at the low points where under water following heavy rain. At each end of the bridge the gradients will be reduced for ease of use. The paths will be levelled to even out cambers and a more suitable material will be used that adheres to the substrate below.

Grounds Maintenance contract - CGPC

The Grounds Maintenance Contract will be put out to tender for a 3-year period with an option to extend for a further two years commencing April 2022.

The 8 areas of Parish Council land have been well cared for, but we have significant issues at the Recreation Ground which have required attention for the past 12 months. We recently removed 2 huge bushes adjacent to Heron Close and we will replant later this year.

We have other works planned which cannot be undertaken until the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust carry out an improvement project at no cost to the Parish Council. Funding for the works has been protracted due to the number projects included within the overall package which includes several sites throughout the Borough. The latest delay concerns the ownership of Brueton Park.

We have had several incidents involving substance abuse, small parties have been held where alcohol and drugs were available and vandalism occurred. Our thanks to the police and residents who were instrumental in resolving these issues at their peak. Generally, the overall situation has improved.

There continues to be a number of issues regarding litter and debris around the shops, Village Hall and car park. Discussions with representatives of the owners of land were held last year that yielded little progress. The condition of the car park surface has numerous potholes and requires repair. We will continue to raise these matters but at present one of the owners concerned will not enter into discussion or reply to our correspondence.

Rubbish has and continues to be dumped in and around the area of car park and passageway between the shops, which is a privately owned piece of land.

An old BT red telephone kiosk has been purchased, to be used as a location for residents to swap books, it will be sited on the Village Green soon.

Grounds Maintenance - SMBC

We asked Solihull Council to provide us with a schedule of maintenance works together with frequencies undertaken in the Parish and they have agreed to do so. These works include grass mowing, emptying of litter bins, litter picking, cutting verges etc. If you have any concerns regarding maintenance works not being undertaken, please contact us.

Speeding in Cheswick Green

We took the decision to purchase a mobile speed camera following many complaints about speeding motorists. The camera is moved to another location roughly every four weeks. To date, we have moved the camera three times and we will analyse the data shortly.

Creynolds Lane crossroads

We have publicised the progress of undertaking improvements of this junction many times during the last 12 months. The works will be undertaken in April 2021.

Tanworth Lane & Watery Lane junction

This junction has been resurfaced following 2 years of complaints.

Winterton Farm – Illegal Waste Reception Site & Right of way footpath

We wrote to the Council on 26th May 2020, expressing our concern that a part of this farm is being used as an illegal tip and thereafter the right of way footpath that bounds the border the property had been made impassable for walkers by the owners of the farm. Following initial progress in resolving these issues the opposite currently applies. We understand that resolving the illegal site is the responsibility of the Environment Agency and footpaths are managed by Solihull Council. We have recently requested our MP Saqib Bhatti to intervene on our behalf.

Christmas festivities

The Christmas lights were switched on but unfortunately, we were unable to hold any other festivities. Hopefully, we will be back to normal this Christmas and the children will see Santa followed by a party in the Village Hall.

COVID-19

All our lives have changed to some degree and the same can be said of the way we and Solihull Council operate. Wanting the best we can achieve for Cheswick Green however remains our priority.

During this period there has been more litter and the emptying of Parish Council bins has doubled from once to twice a week. Dog fouling also became more of an issue. A pity that some residents could not have taken a measure of personal responsibility.