

MINUTES OF THE CHESWICK GREEN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION WEDNESDAY 7th March 2012

Present George, Brian, Jason, Phil, Margaret, Pat, Dot, Lisa, Barbara and Ian

Guests Len C, Ruth S, Denise S, Julie and Sheila Vanes.

Apologies Pete, Paul and Vicki Atkinson.

Public Forum

Julie's son had been struck by a car whilst crossing the road near the school. She was very concerned and would like a pedestrian crossing outside the school. George generally supported the idea but thought the distance between road junctions would raise a problem and said if inappropriately positioned could cause accidents.

Pat said she had been campaigning for some months for a crossing at Lady Catherine Everson School with little success. Dot suggested an attended crossing at school times manned with volunteers in high viz jackets. Ian said this could be inconsistent if entirely voluntary. Len believed it was unlikely that SMBC would put a crossing by the school but was in favour of an organised patrol. George said he could write to SMBC to ask if they could assess the location for a crossing. Brian suggested that Julie attend the next meeting of the parish council and put in her request.

Minutes from previous meeting

Len said attempts to clean debris and rubbish from the River Blythe as part of a 'stream clean' would not be welcomed by the parish council as it was a SSSI and we would require permission from both the PC and Natural England. Len said the pc had plans to get this done professionally. The Minutes were approved.

Village Hall

Work has been completed on the heating system and an additional pump has been fitted to increase flow to the radiators furthest from the boiler. The thermostats had been set to 19 degrees and covers fitted to stop users adjusting this and leaving the hall with the heating turned off. Ian said that at 6pm the heating had been working fine in both halls but for some reason was not working now. It seems that users had now taken to turning off radiators instead!

Len said if there was still a fault to withhold payment of the invoice until it was right and to send a letter to users asking her to not tamper with the heating.

Len said users were not using the extractor fans provided but were instead opening the doors and windows and then going off leaving them open. Len pointed out that one fan was not working properly and Ian said he would get it looked at.

Ian said he had reduced the thermostat setting in the large hall to 16 degrees as it is generally used for more energetic activities than the small hall.

Len reported that he attended a meeting on the use of 'Ground Source Heating' and the typical cost for a village hall was £50,000!

Village Hall – Fees and Charges

Denise produced a chart of options for a proposed increase in charges to bring us more into line with what other village halls were charging. Len had looked at other halls in the area and we were considerably cheaper. In view of this it was agreed that there would be a 10% increase in charges to be reviewed annually instead of every two years as was the current practice. Len said we need to give one month notice to users before the increase could come into effect. It was also decided to increase the deposit paid for the key from £5 to £20 which is the cost of a replacement key.

Brian said that parish council suggested we obtain copies of users third party insurance certificates..

Village Hall – Outgoings

Barbara and Ruth left the room in order for this to be discussed.

Denise reported that the last increase in the cleaner's wages was in 2008 and likewise for the booking clerk. It was agreed that there should be an increase in wages that took this into account and that this should in future be reviewed annually but that the amount should be decided between Margaret, Brian and Denise at a later date.

Play Area Shops and Car Park

Pat read out a thank you letter about a resident who had taken the trouble to clean up a lot of broken glass.

As a planned stream clean has been ruled out it was agreed to perform an organised litter pick on Sunday 1st April. Participants to meet outside the village hall at 10am.

Subscriptions

Margaret reported that the total so far received was £964 and that envelopes were still coming in. George said we should put a letter in the magazine thanking people who had paid and Pat said she would do this.

Planning

Brian produced the current list of applications 2012/156, 1747, 175 and 1767 and these were discussed without issue.

George said he had written to SMBC on behalf of the association, opposing development on the area known as 'Site 17 – Mount Dairy Farm'

George said it was important to inform residents of such plans and Pat warned we had to be careful what we publish but that we should provide links to what information is available. Brian said the new importance of the 'Localism' act meant that it would be beneficial for the parish council to produce a 'Neighbourhood Plan'.

Brian reported that the parish council has written to SMBC objecting to plans for a traveller's site at Salter Street.

Magazine and Website

Ian had added a link on the website showing the police crime figures for the area. It was thought that the information was rather vague. Was three reported crimes average? George would compare with Hockley Heath and report back.

Future Events

George said he had booked a band called 'Mixer' for this year's 'Party in the Park' who would charge £340. They would play two sets between 8 – 9pm and 9.30 – 10.30pm.

Pat said she had been approached by a local bouncy castle business asking why we did not use a local firm. George said we have used the same person for the previous two years and that they had proved very reliable and experienced. Everyone was in favour of keeping the same person for this reason. George to confirm he is booked.

Other organisations have shown an interest in attending earlier in the day. They should come along to our next meeting when we will set an agenda for the event.

Pat said she had been asked if we would put on another outdoor event possibly in September. This was discussed and the general feeling was that one outdoor event a year was enough as it evolved a great deal of work for those involved.

Maybe we could do something indoors that was less demanding.

Meeting closed at 10.00pm – Next meeting arranged for Wednesday 7th March 2012

Meeting Closed at 10.20pm - Next meeting Wednesday 4th April 2012