

MINUTES OF THE CHESWICK GREEN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

WEDNESDAY 5th December 2012

Present Pete, Jason, Brian, Margaret, George, Barbara, Ian, Pat, Gary, Phil, Chris Burrows and Denise Swain. **Apologies** Lisa

Matters Arising Nothing

Village Hall.

A replacement boiler is being fitted and work will commence on the 18th December. City UK will be fitting a new Worcester Bosch boiler with a pump for each zone. Other works to pipe-work, radiator valves, controller, user accessible boost buttons and a PIR sensor for the men's urinals all being fitted at the same time.

Payment. George has spoken with Chris Nobel and the parish council have sorted a method whereby the management committee can contribute towards the cost of the work. Margaret asked if the parish council were able to pay for the work but Chris B said the budget was very tight. Denise said the hall was an asset of the parish council. Brian said the parish council does not have enough funds to pay the full amount and if they were to do so it would mean a rise in the precept. Brian reported that the PC is having to pay a considerable amount for professional advice over proposed plans to develop Mount Dairy Farm. Denise reported that the Village Hall has funds of £9000 which is decreasing every year since the bulk of that was built up during the time the hall was used a temporary doctors surgery. We currently are running at a shortfall of around £500 per year. Denise said we can only offer to contribute up to half the net amount. Denise said we had already paid over £800 to City UK for work last year. Denise said she has negotiated a three year fixed deal with the gas supplier. Brian proposed a contribution of £1500 plus the cost of the men's urinal sensor which should give a total contribution of £1700. George said he had discussed a figure of 50 percent of the net amount but Denise recommended a figure of £1700 as a maximum. At this point the committee voted to offer a contribution of £1700 towards the cost of the heating work and men's urinal sensor system. This would be termed a contribution towards energy saving that should see savings in the long term. Ian said he agreed with this amount and that the management committee had a duty of care to preserve the funds of the Village Hall to the best of its ability. These funds being for use solely for the upkeep of the village hall.

Possible Extension to the Village Hall. Brian reported that there had been some progress on this and produced a draft plan/drawing. Both Margaret and Ian were concerned at by the loss of the stage area in this plan. Chris B said the talks had only been in principal up to this point. George said that the funding should be sorted out before anything goes further than a draft stage. Pat asked if the parish council will be doing the fund raising? Chris said he thought it would as they were residual trustees of the hall.

Margaret asked what was happening regarding a replacement Village Hall sign for something more modern looking? George said he has obtained a price for a new sign of the same dimensions as the current one. The question is what should it say, in what font and what colours should be used? A basic font such as Tahoma was thought most appropriate. Chris B asked if the parish councils email address could be added to the sign if the sign was to display the CGRA web address? George, Brian and Denise said the sign should just have the words 'Cheswick Green Village Hall' with no web or email address. Gary and George said it should have the web address but Pat said we should not be doing anything that could aggravate matters.

It was decided that a separate sign should be used to give the web address that would replace the current paper sign over the door. George would obtain a quote for this. It was agreed that the village hall sign should be a light green background with a dark green Tahoma font displaying 'Cheswick Green Village Hall'. Margaret said the WI have requested that a PIR security light be fitted outside the front door. This was discussed at length but the overall feeling was that the current timed exit light was sufficient. George proposed a meeting in February to discuss all aspects of energy use and conservation of the hall. This was agreed.

Chris Burrows and Denise Swain left the meeting and members thanked them for attending.

Play Area Shops and Car Park.

George reported that after recent flooding along the Blythe and Mount Brook an empty canoe had been found stuck under the bridge in Coppice Walk.

George said he had spoken to local shopkeepers about reducing the number of advertising boards but with little success. Pat said the signs look 'shabby' and George said he would try writing to the shopkeepers this time.

Planning.

Brian distributed a list of applications between 29 October and 3 December and there were no concerns raised over these. George is writing to SMBC regarding the two unfinished houses in Saxonwood Road. What can be done? Was it possible for an enforcement order to complete or a compulsory purchase order to be placed on them? If this does not have a positive outcome Margaret suggested that we organise a door to door petition in the area.

Magazine and Website.

Pat reported that the lady that runs the magazine has had her baby and that her husband was taking over the magazine for the time being. It was agreed that the next magazine should contain an item on the unfinished houses in Saxonwood Road with an address to write to if people were concerned.

Local Policing.

Ian reported that there were a large number of small re-sealable plastic bags of the type used to store drugs discarded around the youth shelter. Ian to inform the local beat officer. Margaret reported that a car had been stolen from outside a house in the Pines.

Christmas and New Years Eve Parties

Tickets for the junior party had all gone. There were some remaining for the 5-12's. Margaret buying the food plus some food and drink for helpers for afterwards. Agree we should meet at 12pm to setup. Margaret to purchase new hall decorations up to £20 value. Costs so far are £100 presents for children, £20 plates etc, £15 Junior Party, £100 food and £150 Magician for 5-12's. It was decided that Father Christmas would be using the disabled toilet as a changing room this year. New Years Eve. George to get a raffle book, Barbara will buy food for buffet out of ticket sales money. Not many tickets sold as yet!.

Any Other Business.

Margaret and Pat have attended meetings of U3A in the village hall but are not aware that U3A are paying to use the hall although they are charging those attending. Ian said he was concerned that the management committee do not seem to have been consulted over charges for U3A meetings. Will check with Ruth when she returns from holiday.

Ian had received an email from the Solihull Motor Neurone Disease Association asking if they could have a stall at the next 'Party In The Park' ? The overall feeling of members was that whilst this was a very good cause, Party in the Park was not a fund raising event and was an evening entertainment not a Fete. Members did not want to set a precedent by having fund raising groups. Ian will email back with our response.

George has produced the draft envelope for next years subs collection. These he will get printed and invoice Margaret.

There are renewed concerns over 200 houses that SMBC is proposing may be built on land known as Mount Dairy Farm from Coppice Walk, Willow Drive, Saxonwood Road up to Tanworth Lane. This is in an area that would greatly increase the risk of flooding to property's in Cheswick Green if it was to go ahead. Members have previously written to SMBC objecting to this proposal especially in the light of a proposal to build 600 houses at Blythe Valley. Margaret had concerns over Solihull's previous history when it comes to planning with the narrow roads and lack of parking spaces in Dickens Heath.

Meeting Closed at 10.08pm - Next meeting - Wednesday 2nd January 2013