

HOCKLEY HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 17th September 2008 at Cheswick Green Village Hall. The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.40 pm.

Present:-

Cllr R Holt
Cllr B Brown
Cllr V Arfan
Cllr P Kennard
Cllr B Lintern
Cllr P Seddon
Cllr D Skelding
Cllr A Thompson
Cllr A Vine

Chairman
Vice Chairman

Mrs D Weir

Clerk

Members of the Public: 6

Public Forum

Mr Ian Sill, Chairman, Cheswick Green Village Hall Management Committee, together with members of the Management Committee were in attendance to request the Parish Council's support for work to the footpath around the village hall. The slabs were uneven and badly chipped. The Clerk confirmed that the Village Hall and Ground were owned by the Parish Council and although the hall was managed by the Village Hall Management Committee, the ground was the responsibility of the Parish Council. The Chairman suggested members step outside to inspect the condition of the slabs. Following inspection, the Chairman requested the Clerk arrange for the uneven slabs to be pulled up and relaid and the broken ones to be replaced, in accordance with the provisions of S.101 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Members asked if item 10 on the agenda could be brought forward for discussion and this was agreed.

Minute 120/2007 - Cheswick Green Village Hall – Flooding – Hydrologist's Report

Cllr Brown, Parish Council's Representative on the Village Hall Management Committee reported that he was concerned that quotations had not been sought for flood protection systems.

Members noted the exchange of correspondence the Clerk had had with the Environment Agency. The Clerk advised that she had circulated the Hydrologist's Report to members for consideration and she had not had a copy of the Report until after the meeting. It was a fairly technical report and members noted that the Clerk had contacted the Hydrologist for clarification on issues raised in the Report and she was also pursuing remedial work to the watercourse in accordance with the provisions of the Land Drainage Act as she felt it would be prudent to try and alleviate future flooding to see what impact this may have on any intended work the Parish Council may decide upon.

The Clerk had contacted companies for quotations in accordance with the conclusions, but companies were unwilling to come out and quote without payment of a fee of £250. She had no authority to incur a number of fees for companies to quote.

IT WAS RESOLVED:- that consent be authorised for fees to be incurred for quotations for flood protection measures to be obtained.

Apologies

Received and accepted from: Cllr Pettinger who was in hospital, from Cllr McCarthy due to work commitments and from Cllr Robinson.

The **Minutes of Parish Council Meetings held on 25th June, 16th July and 31st July 2008** had been circulated. **IT WAS RESOLVED:-** that the Minutes of the above meetings be approved.

Minute 89/2008 - Declarations of Interest

Cllr Brown declared an interest in the item Land adjoining Cheswick Green Surgery - Access Drive due to business relationship with some shop keepers and the item Cheswick Green Village Hall – Flooding as a member of Cheswick Green Residents Association and Parish Council's Representative on the Village Hall Management Committee

Cllr Lintern declared an interest in the item Land adjoining Cheswick Green Surgery – Access Drive

The Chairman declared an interest in the item Land adjoining Cheswick Green Surgery – Access Drive

Matters Arising from the Minutes

The Clerk advised members that the following figures had been confirmed by the Borough Council for the number of properties in the parish.

BL01	Dickens Heath	1811
BL03	Cheswick Green	969
BL04	Tidbury Green	388
DH04	Hockley Heath	729

Minute 58/2008 - Rumbush Lane junction with Brockhurst Lane - Speed Limit

Members noted receipt of a letter dated 18th July 2008 from Mrs Caroline Spelman MP enclosing a copy of a letter from Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council's Acting Corporate Director, in response to the concerns raised by the Parish Council with regard to parking in Dickens Heath Village and the condition of the roads in Dickens Heath.

The Acting Corporate Director advised that new waiting restrictions in the centre of the village had recently been approved and would be implemented during July 2008. With regard to the general condition of the highways in Dickens Heath Village, the Borough Council have been progressing the making up and subsequent adoption of many of the roads within Dickens Heath village and most of the issues raised by the Parish Council had been dealt with, and it was hoped that completion of the works to Rumbush Lane, Dickens Heath, would be completed within the next few months.

Minute 82/2008 - Dickens Heath Youth Club

Members noted that an update would be provided for the October Parish Council Meeting.

Minute 87/2008 – Abolition of Parish Council - A ppointment of Project Manager

The Chairman reported that he had arranged to meet with Mr Blamire Brown to discuss his fee to act as Project Manager. Approximate figures were discussed.

Minute 130/2006 – Land adjoining Cheswick Green Surgery - Access Drive

Members considered the problems with exercising the Agreement between the Parish Council and Dr Leese to jointly maintain the access drive between the surgery and Heron Close. The Chairman suggested negotiating a new agreement. The Clerk advised that any new agreement may not be solely in relation to the access drive. Members appreciated the area outside the village hall which extended to the surgery and which the Parish Council was solely responsible for and the problems associated with taking on additional responsibilities for resurfacing. Members recognised the Health and Safety risk in not having the work undertaken. Following discussion of various options,

IT WAS RESOLVED:- that the Clerk contact the contractor to see if it's quotation was still open for acceptance and to see if the Borough Council's contractor would undertake the work and invoice the Parish Council and the other party to the agreement.

Minute 89/2008 - West Midlands Police – Police Community Support Officer - Funding

IT WAS RESOLVED:- that West Midlands Police be invited to attend the October Parish Council Meeting to discuss the future funding or termination of the agreement for the Police Community Support Officer by the Parish Council.

Minute 90/2008 - The Mount – Cheswick Green – Request by Cheswick Green Primary School for gate to be fitted and for access to the Mount

Members considered a letter dated 22nd July 2008 from Cheswick Green Primary School requesting the Parish Council's consent to the fitting of a gate in the fence between Cheswick Green Primary School and the Mount to enable children to have the opportunity to enjoy the benefits offered by "Forest School in Solihull".

IT WAS RESOLVED:- that a) the Parish Council grant permission for a licence to be granted to the school to erect a gate between the school and the Parish Council property known as the Mount b) the Parish Council make a donation of £300 towards the cost of the gate and c) the Clerk grant a formal licence to the school in respect of the Mount

Minute 91/2008 - West Midlands Police – Rural Assembly Meeting

The Chairman reported receipt of a letter dated 16th July 2008 from West Midlands Police enclosing the Minutes of the Rural Assembly Meeting and giving notice of the date of the next meeting to be held on Thursday, 11th September 2008 at 7.30 pm in the Solihull Civic Suite.

Minute 92/2008 - Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council – Public Rights of Way

Members noted receipt of a letter from Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council's Rights of Way Officer, enclosing a summary detailing the work of the Rural Footpaths Ranger within the parish during May, June and July 2008.

Minute 93/2008 - Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council – Register of Members Interests

Members noted receipt of a letter from Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council dated 24th July 2008 advising of the appointment of Donna Ohdedar as Monitoring Officer.

Minute 94/2008 - WALC – Annual General Meeting – 28th October 2008/Newsletter/NALC Legal Briefings

Members noted receipt of the Newsletter and Legal Briefings received from WALC together with notice of two social events organised by Warwickshire Rural Community Council which had been circulated to all members. The WALC Annual Report had been passed to the Chairman.

Minute 95/2008 - Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council – Premises Licence

Members noted receipt of an application for a variation of the premises licence for the Bulls Head, Lime Kiln Lane Earlswood, from Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council and the link to the application on the website.

IT WAS RESOLVED:- that this item be deferred to the Parish Council's Planning Committee to consider.

Minute 96/2008 – Hanging Baskets at Dickens Heath - Solihull in Bloom

Members noted the email request received from Parkridge Holdings Ltd regarding the position of the hanging baskets at Dickens Heath and the Clerk's advice that the Borough Council may need to approve the position of the hanging baskets affixed to the street furniture. The Clerk advised that the Borough Council also undertook an inspection of the fittings and she had copied the email to the Borough Council for comment.

Members considered the request for additional planters to be provided along the route from the library to the canal. The Clerk advised that this may be a matter for the new Parish Councils to consider, however, members were conscious of the fact that this would need to be approved this financial year for the hanging baskets to be erected under the Solihull in Bloom scheme for 2009.

IT WAS RESOLVED:- that the Parish Council agree to fund upto £4,000 for Britain in Bloom for 2009.

Minute 97/2008 - NALC – Seminar 20th/21st November 2008

The Chairman reported receipt of an email from NALC advising of a seminar to be held at the Russell Hotel, London when the implications of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act, 2007 and the Communities in Control White Paper 2008 would be covered.

Minute 98/2008 - Local Government Pension Scheme – Pension Policy

IT WAS RESOLVED:- that this item be deferred to the next Parish Council Meeting.

Minute 99/2008 - Abolition of Parish Council

The Clerk advised that this item will now appear as a standing item each month until Abolition.

Minute 100/2008 - Any Other Business

- a) Cllr Brown reported that he had resigned from the Solihull Area Committee due to pressure of work.
- b) Cllr Seddon reported that flooding had occurred at Braggs Farm Lane and Birchy Leasowes Lane, Tidbury Green and the state of foliage at road junctions.
- c) Cllr Brown reported that the bench repairs were still outstanding and the need for the poplar trees at Cheswick Way, Cheswick Green, to be cut back. The Clerk confirmed that she had chased up Mr Phillips regarding the repairs and the request for the trees to be pruned was with the tree surgeon to look at.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.50 pm.