

# MINUTES OF THE CHESWICK GREEN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

## Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February

### Present.

**CGRA.** George, Phil, Helen, Lisa, Debbie, Mark, Martin, Becky, Deb, Bob, Ian, Barbara

**Apologises.** Pete, Greg

The meeting was attended, mob-handedly, by members of the Parish council, who chose to attend despite exhaustive correspondence pointing out that it would be more conducive to better relationship if they were to wait until the CGRA had had opportunity to debate before the two groups meet together.

As a result of the attempt to hijack our meeting and the antagonistic debate that followed, it was hard to take minutes, the notes that follow are written to convey the main points raised.

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### Village Hall Management

- Item postponed
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### Minutes from previous meeting.

- Nothing to add / contest; Passed for publication

### People

- Item postponed

### Parish Council

- The Parish Council were asked why it was they chose to ignore our communications regarding a joint meeting that should be convened after we had held our February meeting; No satisfactory answer was given, we did however agree to keep going with the joint debate.
- The Parish Council were asked why it was they went ahead with their questionnaire regarding Blyth Valley Development despite concerns from the CGRA; No satisfactory explanation was given nor debate entered into, simply a repeated wish to draw a line under the issue, the CGRA opinion was that to draw such line would require at least a modicum of investigation, this did not happen, but in order to move forward we chose, for the time being, to continue conversation. The issue of Neighbourhood planning was raised and very briefly discussed, but being as that the purpose of the meeting was to improve the relationship between the groups this was not explored in any detail.
- The issue of the actions of the Parish Councillor who put forward for development to SMBC sites in the village was raised. There was confusion from Cllr Creswell who believed that the problem was the sites put forward as opposed to the manner in which they had been put forward, that being that they were purported to have been from the Parish Council whereas in reality no such agreement to put forward the sites had been made by the Parish



Council. Cllr Creswell was also interested in how it was members of the CGRA were aware of the identity of the Councillor, he was advised that it had been given by at least two of his fellow Councillors. Cllr Hall asked why it was the CGRA had not proceeded with legal action or exposure in the press, he was advised that the CGRA had not felt it appropriate to use residents association funds on the issue though that they would again chase up the local press to progress publication.

- Cllr Gosling pointed out how much work each and every councillor did and what a shame she thought it was that so few people actively joined their focus groups on such issues as local development, it was suggested that perhaps the overtly formal process of the Parish Council could be a barrier, the CGRA suggested having a more leisurely and fun approach such as we have at our meetings may help, Cllr Hall misconstrued this as a statement that the CGRA were not interested in issues of local politics, this confusion was explained to him and Cllr Brown explained that the workings of Parish Councils were, rightly, governed by statute. It was considered that whilst right to have such guidelines, it was perhaps time they were updated to reflect more modern practice.
- Cllr Swain proposed discussion on the management of the Village Hall and how the Parish Council would like a greater involvement in the Hall Management. Cllr Swain further explained how the repairs to the roof had cost in excess of £47,000. It was noted that the Parish council were not seeking any contribution toward that figure from the CGVHMC. It was agreed that a working party be established with members from both the PC and the CGVHMC meet quarterly to discuss future, (non-reactive or operational) issues. It is not clear whether the intention of the PC is for this subdivision to become the Management Committee, or whether it would, more appropriately, be a division of the existing Management committee. Clarification of intent needs to be established.
- Cllr Creswell thought it appropriate to make all aware that should they so desire; the Parish Council could, at any time they saw fit, sell the Village hall.

Members of the Parish Council and their entourage left the meeting

- The blatantly antagonistic and inappropriate nature of the intrusion by the Parish Council was briefly discussed, but on account of the time and also the draining nature of the earlier part of the meeting it was considered best to carry on with other agenda items
  - To move on, we would ask the PC for dates upon which a meeting could be convened between three members of the CGRA and PC to outline an agenda and scope for a combined and amicable meeting at which our differences could be addressed.
  - A team of three to represent the CGVHMC at the quarterly meeting with members of the PC was proposed; Mark and Martin volunteered and it was also thought that Greg may be interested.
  - It was noted that the current high level of Goodwill that is extended by members of the committee regarding the maintenance of the Hall may suffer as a result of the new working relationship.

## **Pennies**

- Handover: postponed
- Subs envelopes; rounds and envelopes handed out for delivery.



## **Minutes**

- Agreed that verbatim minutes were neither feasible nor necessary, minutes from our meetings were to act as a basic record and aid memoir.

## **Party in the Park**

- Still need to organise a band

## **Community Events**

- Item postponed

## **Planning.**

- No contentious domestic plans

## **Shops and Open spaces**

- Item postponed

## **Website & Community Communication**

- Item postponed

## **Police**

- Current high incidence of Burglary noted.
- Offer use of Hall and support to local Neighbourhood Watch
- Brief mention of the new WMP Now service

## **Pub**

- Item postponed

## **Any Other Business**

- Nothing to add

## **Village Hall**

- Safety checklist and walk around Completed by George and Martin

Meeting Closed 21:45

Next Meeting Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March

