



MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held at Catshill Village Hall

THURSDAY 23rd February 2023, 7.00pm

Present: Cllrs B McEldowney (Chair), K Burgess, J Parry, P Masters, B Laniosh, S Osman

In attendance: Clerk – Carol Blake

Apologies – Cllr Baker and Cllr Webb

Members not present:

23/02-01 Chairman's welcome

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting

23/02-02 To receive apologies from any Member unable to attend

Cllr Baker and Cllr Webb sent their apologies.

23/02-03 Open Forum

3.1 Members of the Public

Emma Nolan from Chadsgrove School and Val Harman from Catshill Social Club attended the meeting to discuss a grant request that had been submitted from them for £1800 which needed more clarity and information to be able to be voted on.

It was agreed that Emma would submit the grant request again and obtain more information and a breakdown of finances which will be sent to the Clerk to be submitted to Parish Councillors once received.

3.2 Worcs County Councillor for the Woodvale Division.

Cllr Webb had reported that the pedestrian crossing which will be on Barley Mow Lane is currently under consultation and will be in place by April 2023. The Christmas lights switch on will take place on 25th November and the Easter Egg Trail will take place on Good Friday 7th April. Katie Burgess asked for some funding for the Easter event and the King's Coronation, Katie will send the Clerk more details and a breakdown of what funding is required, and this will be discussed when the details have been received.

Cllr Laniosh asked for an update on the skate park.

Cllr Laniosh has forwarded a resident complaint to Cllr Webb regarding North Bromsgrove Cemetery, there are a lot of ornaments and trinkets that have been placed on graves that according to the rules of the cemetery are not allowed. No update on 144 bus service but currently liaising with National Express on this.

Cllr Webb expressed her thanks to Cllr Parry and Katie Burgess for helping at events.

VAS sign that needs to be put on Birmingham Rd outside the Hotel needs a post to be erected, Cllr Masters will raise this with Cllr Webb. Cllr Osman was reminded that he needs to download data from the VAS signs.

3.3 Bromsgrove District Councillors for North Catshill, South Catshill and Marlbrook Wards

Cllr Till reported that the bus shelters at the bottom of Birmingham Rd will not be replaced until the bus service in the area has been agreed to.

3.4 Any other community representative

No update.

23/02-04 Declarations of Interest

None received.

23/02-05 To re- open the meeting Parish Councillors and the Executive Officer may only speak from this point forward

23/02-06 Dispensations

No member had submitted a request for dispensation to any agenda item.

23/02-07 Approval of Minutes of previous council meeting and previous matters arising **It was agreed** to accept the minutes of the previous Full Parish Council meeting held 26/01/2023. The Chairman then duly signed the minutes.

23/02-08 Chairman's Report

The Chairman summarised the various meetings he had attended during the month. The Chairman reported that Cllr Phil Baker intends to stand down at the next election and that he wanted to thank Phil for his 28 years' service to the Parish Council.

8.1 Reminder of election and purdah process – The Chairman reminded Councillors of the purdah process which starts on 27th March whereby the Parish Council cannot publish any material which appears to be designed to promote public support for them, this includes social media posts. The clerk has sent out details of the process and nomination packs which need to be completed by each Parish Councillor and hand delivered to Parkside in Bromsgrove. Details of this were sent on 14th February and will need to be referred to by Councillors.

8.2 Update on Lengthsman – The Chairman, Cllr Baker and the Clerk interviewed the only candidate who applied, Chris Cooke. He is very well qualified and has vast experience for the post and therefore has been accepted for the position. The Clerk has emailed his manager to inform him, and a contract will be drawn up next week to follow correct procedures to appoint him.

23/02-09 Finance

9.1 The payments and receipts report to 13/02/2023 was received and noted.

The council's accounts spreadsheet for February 2023 was circulated.

An excerpt from the council's accounts spreadsheet for February had been sent along with the bank reconciliation to 13/02/2023, it is as follows:

Bank Reconciliation as at 13/02/2023		
Opening Cash Book balance		£105,685.54
Add receipts between 1 April - 13 Feb 2023	56,589.13	
Less payments between 1 April - 13 Feb 2023	-56,983.15	
Cashbook balance at 13 Feb 2023		£105,291.52
Bank statements at 13 Feb 2023		
Unity Trust Bank	107,627.66	
Soldo card	35.29	
Less unrepresented items, as list below	2,371.43	
Bank balances at 13 Feb 2023		£105,291.52

9.7 Ratify £50 for Xmas Lights at Village Hall – It was agreed that £50 would be paid for extra electricity for Christmas lights outside Village Hall.

23/02-10 Items for Discussion

- 10.1 Recruiting New Councillors report** – Cllr Masters reported that there is an article regarding recruiting new councillors in the next edition of the News Magazine.
- 10.2 Project Officer update** – Cllr Baker has contacted Paul Crysell, but no update has been received so item is deferred to next meeting.
- 10.3 Grant Application – Chads Grove School in providing a Warm Space £1800 request** – See point 3.1.
- 10.4 Meet up Monday at Pub idea update– Cllr Laniosh/Burgess** – Three pubs have agreed to this idea, The Crown, Royal Oak and Plough and Harrow, posters are currently being designed to promote the events and dates and the project will launch in the middle of March.
- 10.5 Letters to Heaven – Cllr Parry** – Deferred to next meeting.
- 10.6 Easter and Christmas Lights budget** – Cllr Parry will send the Clerk some details of what is required and a breakdown of all funding for the Easter event to be approved by members before the next Full Parish Council meeting because of tight timescale.
The Christmas lights event and budget will be discussed in the next FPC meeting.
- 10.7 Remembrance Service complaint/suggestion** – Cllr Osman has received a query from Trudy Saunders from Woodrow Lane who has asked if she can place a wreath on behalf of the NHS at this year's Remembrance Day Service, this was agreed to, and Cllr Osman will inform her of this.
- 10.8 To agree solar panel upgrade for VAS sign – Cllr Osman** Deferred to next meeting.

10.9 Donation of £250 to Chadsgrove for wildlife boxes – Cllr Osman - The wildlife boxes are to be made by pupils of Chadsgrove School for the natural networks project which will be linked to British Science Week on 13th March.
It was agreed to fund up to £250 , receipts will be sent to when items have been purchased and then funding will be provided.

10.10 Donation to First School for bulbs and equipment for planting – Cllr Osman
Item deferred until next meeting.

10.11 Promote eco4 energy performance certificates – Cllr Osman asked that item is removed from agenda for now.

23/02-11 Committee and Representatives Report

11.1 Finance and Staffing Committee – Nothing to report, no meeting held.

11.2 News Magazine – Cllr Masters – The next news magazine is due to be finalised by the end of February. Thanks to all who provided articles for the magazine.

11.3 Junior Councillors – Cllr Laniosh – Cllr Burgess will attend the next meeting to be held on 20th March with Junior Councillors

11.4 Natural Networks Project and Footpaths Report– Cllr Laniosh updated that the funding for the Natural Networks Project has ended. The groundwork at Millennium Way has now been completed. Planting day will be Friday 17th March. As well as planting, 5 bird boxes will be installed, and a litter pick will take place. The sign manufacturer has all the information for the interpretation board so as soon as they have drafted a design it will be shared for feedback.

Footpaths group erected a new gate, their first unsupervised project at Valley Farm this month.

11.5 Events Meeting Update – Cllr McEldowney/Masters – An update on the meeting was provided and, it had been previously reported and minuted that when the forthcoming Kings Coronation was discussed at the previous Full Parish Council meeting, it was agreed, that in principle the Parish Council would like the event to be marked in some way, in the Parish Council area, but that with limited number of councillors, the Parish Council would be more in favour of offering funding to other local groups who wished to commemorate the event, rather than running our own bespoke PC event. **It was agreed** that the funding request for this event will be provided by Katie Burgess and discussed in an emergency meeting to be organised in the next couple of weeks.

11.6 Environmental, Highways and Planning – Cllr Osman Chatty benches will be purchased and placed in locations, which have still not yet been formally identified, by end of April 2023. The remainder of the memorial stones for the Parish Council controlled gardens, will be installed on Saturday 25th February.

Cllr Laniosh reported that he is at present seeking 3 quotes for solar lights to be erected on alleyway between Oak Rd and Barley Mow Lane

Meeting finished @ 21:00

23/02-12 Date and time of next meeting: Thursday March 30th @ 19:00

Excerpt from February Spreadsheet

Feb-23	How Paid	Voucher No	Description	Receipts	Payments Gross	Payments VAT	Payments Net
EON	d/d	v182	Electricity at War Memorial		83.45	3.97	79.48
Waterplus	d/d	v183	water at Ivy Cottage Gardens		6.75		6.75
O2	d/d	v184	office mobile		14.74	2.46	12.28
Talk Talk	d/d	v185	Office phone and broadband - Jan 2023		49.95		49.95
Dave Webb	BACS	V186	Newsletters 2022		150.00		150.00
Worcestershire CALC	BACS	V187	Election training		30.00	5.00	25.00
Salaries Feb 2023		v188-189	Salaries Feb 2023		948.45		187.80
Mrs C Blake	BACS	v190	Working from Home Allowance		24.00		24.00
Catshill Community Library	BACS	V191	Grant for Library		439.00		439.00
Bromsgrove Youth and Community Hub	BACS	V192	Grant for Jackets for Hub		245.78		245.78
Catshill Village Hall	BACS	v193	Electricity for xmas lighting		50.00		50.00
Chris Cooke	BACS	V194	Lengthsman work for Dec 2022		57.60	9.60	48.00
Chris Cooke	BACS	v195	Lengthsman work for Nov 2022		99.00	16.50	82.50
Soldo Monthly Fee			Zoom monthly sub		14.39		14.39
Soldo - Microsoft monthly fee	Soldo	v196	Microsoft monthly fee		7.99		7.99
Soldo - Amazon			Lanyard Jessica Parry		10.99		10.99
JRB Enterprise Ltd	BACS	v197	Dog waste bags		327.60	54.60	273.00
					2,454.75	85.70	1,608.40
			Total for year to 31/03/2022	56,589.13	56,983.15	2,894.75	53,327.75