

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING FOR CATSHILL AND NORTH MARLBROOK
THURSDAY 23rd May 2019, 7.30PM
CATSHILL BAPTIST CHURCH, MILTON ROAD, CATSHILL

- Chairman's welcome** The Parish Council Chairman, Cllr B McEldowney, welcomed all to the meeting, explaining that he was the newly elected Chair following the resignation of Mr Owen Sweeting, thanking all for coming and alluding to the interesting speakers that were to follow.
- Present** Parish Councillors: Cllr P Masters, Cllr T Gillespie, Cllr G Blackmoor, Cllr M Saunders, Cllr B McEldowney.
District Councillors: Cllr S Webb (also WCC Councillor), Cllr J Till
Community representatives: Dr Chris Fabray (Neighbourhood Plan Group), Mr Steve Wallace (Vice Chair of Royal British Legion), Ms Jane Kings (Treasurer of Royal British Legion), Mr Paul Fisher (Secretary of Catshill Baptist Church), Ms Melanie Andrews (Scouts), Pastor Jeremy Brooks (Welcome Hall Evangelical Church), Mr A Bate and Mrs J Bate (Catshill Village Hall).
- In attendance** Rebekah Powell (Clerk to the Parish Council), Ms Sophie Pryce (Reconnections Manager, Age UK Hereford and Worcester), Mr Geoff Taylor-Smith and Mr Dan Owen (YMCA Worcestershire)
- Apologies** Apologies had been received from Ms Deb Rattley (Chadsgrove School), Mr Daren Lacey (Secretary of Royal British Legion), Mr Ian Hooper (Chair of Royal British Legion), Mr Alan Kelly (M&C Friendship Group), Mr Ian Prust (NWWA), Rev Anne Smith (Catshill Methodist Church), Ms Nicki Hitchcock (Catshill Library), Ms Claire Wing (Catshill Village Hall), Ms Mary Davies (WI), Mr Paul Essenhigh (Catshill First and Middle School), Cllr P Baker, Cllr M Knight, Cllr M Ball, Cllr N Ward

Minutes of previous Parish Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held 12/04/18 were approved and signed.

Chairman's Annual Report

- Cllr McEldowney again thanked all for coming then provided a report that outlined the work of the Council; thanked retiring Councillors and newly appointed Council Members; thanked the Clerk and Assistant Clerk for hard work throughout the year; informed those present of the achievement of Foundation Award in Local Council Award Scheme by the Parish Council and the wish to progress to the next level; an outline of the events and tasks the Parish Council undertakes; partnership working with BDC and WCC and thanks to Members of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group for their dedicated work on the project.

Reports from elected community representatives

- **County Councillor (Woodvale division) / District Councillor Shirley Webb**
Cllr Webb had circulated a report (see attached) but thanked the Parish Council and the Clerks for their support throughout the year, commending the working relationship. Cllr Webb also reported on it being a busy year with the main issues being speeding which has no easy solution but included work with the Safer Neighbourhood Team and Road Partnership team to monitor

the situation; progress with Catshill in Bloom including planters and hanging baskets around the shop areas to be maintained by the Scouts and the Schools; information about the Christmas Light Switch on event and information about the Mucky Pup campaign which included the use of empty lemonade bottles as dog bag dispensers as introduced by the Scouts. Finally, Cllr Webb introduced the new District Councillor for Catshill North, Cllr J Till.

Members discussed concerns about the A38 improvements with Cllr Webb who echoed some of the concerns and informed those present she was looking for more involvement for residents in the consultation

Cllr McEldowney thanked both District Councillors present and congratulated them on their recent election.

Talk from Sophie Pryce (Reconnections Manager, Age UK Hereford and Worcester) raising awareness of the project that tackles loneliness in people over 50 by connecting them to other people and activities

- Ms Pryce thanked those present for allowing her to attend then proceeded to give a presentation on the project that was tackling loneliness in people over 50 (available on request). It was noted that there was a networking opportunity to be had between the Parish Council and Age UK Hereford and Worcester in relation to information sharing about the community groups that met in the Parish and assistance with the co-ordination of the Christmas Meal event that was held in the Village.

Talk from Mr Geoff Taylor-Smith (Head of Children and Families with Worcester YMCA) and Mr Dan Owen (Youth Worker) highlighting the effect of loneliness in young people.

- Mr Taylor-Smith introduced himself and Mr Owen, then handed over to Mr Owen to report to the meeting. Mr Owen engaged in a lively report outlining the background of the YMCA and his personal role; the work that is undertaken; the need for a venue in Catshill; lack of understanding around loneliness in young people; the project that had been undertaken regarding loneliness as commissioned by the Co-op Foundation; results of the study including mental health issues being one of the main issues causing loneliness and future planned projects. (report available on request)

Reports from Community Groups and Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

- **Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (Dr Chris Fabray)**
Dr Fabray gave a brief report regarding the achievements of the group in the last 12 months including; outline of what a Neighbourhood Plan allows; consultations with Parishioners that have taken place including workshops and questionnaires; explanation leaflets that have been produced; the development of a vision statement, objectives and policies following the extensive consultation; the housing target that had been detailed in the BDC Local Plan as ratified in January 2017 and the proposed impact; a Call for sites exercise that had been conducted and subsequent dealings with developers; the need to engage independent consultants, paid for by the government funding available; close work with BDC in order to ensure coherence with their planned review; plans for the future to include further consultation and a final referendum.
The group engaged in a question and answer session following this presentation.
- **Royal British Legion (Mr Steve Wallace)**
Mr Wallace gave a big thank you from the Lickey End branch for the Parish Council's continued support to Remembrance Day celebrations and the recent addition of the Tommy statue near the War Memorial. He continued with a report that highlighted the success of the secretary, Daren Lacey, in increasing the poppy collection from around £6000 to in excess of £9000 despite losing Blackwell and Barnt Green from the group; information about the size of the team and information about upcoming car boots and jumble sales to raise money for the cause.

It was requested that the Lickey End Branch be allowed to put an article in the Parish Council newsmagazine, which was agreed.

- **Catshill Baptist Church (Mr Paul Fisher)**

Mr Fisher took great pleasure in welcoming the group to the venue that evening and went on to highlight some of the new groups that were running since the new building had been in use, encouraging people and groups to get involved in the community. These included: Home for Good Coffee Morning for carers of fostered and adopted children on a Monday morning between 8:45am and 11am; 2nd Sunday Cinema using the room with the screen upstairs showing a wide variety of films with free refreshments from 6:00pm; Youth Club for 8-11 year olds on a Tuesday night; existing friendship groups – Oasis on a Thursday, Thursday lunch and Fellowship and Friendship on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday in the month; craft groups on a Wednesday night and the 2nd Saturday in the month; Refresh coffee morning on 2nd Saturday in the month between 10 and 12 and the food bank that operates from the church for which there is a high demand in the local area.

- **Welcome Hall Evangelical Church (Pastor Jeremy Brooks)**

Pastor Brooks gave thanks to God for another year of goodness, outlining the excellent attendance received at Sunday services with increased attendance during special services. He reported on a full range of community activities for people of all ages including; Baby and Toddlers on a Wednesday afternoon; Sunday School and teens group from age 3 to 19 with a current attendance of around 70 on a Sunday afternoon and no family connection with the church; weekly Monday club afterschool; Weekly games night on a Wednesday evening; weekly coffee mornings open to all; monthly Engage group on a Monday evening for adults with learning difficulties. Pastor Jeremy informed those present that Pete Sherwood had moved on to lead a new church plan in Stourbridge and talks were in place to engage a new full time assistant pastor. Pastor Jeremy appreciated the links with other churches in the village, highlighting the need to complement one another and serve the community in different ways.

- **Catshill Village Hall (Mrs Jill Bate)**

Mrs Jill Bate reported on her view of the Village Hall being the heart of the community due to its positioning, and the make-up of the Village Hall Committee introducing herself and her husband, Mr Andrew Bate, as two of the six trustees of the Village Hall plus their excellent Manager, Claire Wing. The Village Hall had had an interesting year that had meant a large expenditure, particularly due to a flood caused by a burst pipe under the hall that needed repairing; there had also been a lot of planned expenditure that would be ongoing including new fencing, removing weeds, drive resurfacing and redecorating. It was noted that the Village Hall were part of a large community in which all venues and groups had a part to play, with groups run from the hall being very similar to those mentioned by other speakers such as pregnant ladies groups, baby groups, social groups, WI, Callenetics, Karate etc. Mrs Bate informed those present about the website for the Village Hall then went on to discuss the age of the building, the need to raise funds, the need for new Committee Members and the wish to get more of the community involved.

- **Catshill WI**

Mrs Mary Davies, the outgoing WI Chair, had sent a report to the meeting (see attached)

- **Open Session**

Those present were encouraged to ask questions and circulate for discussion

There being no other business the Chairman thanked all present for attending, informed of current positions still available on the Parish Council to which people could be co-opted and acknowledged the work that all organisations were involved in which was part of making the Parish work.

The meeting closed at 21:14 hrs.

Signed

Date.....

Chairman, Parish Meeting, Catshill and North Marlbrook

Worcestershire Council Council
Annual Report

This has been a very challenging year for Worcestershire County Council. We started looking at a budget with a shortfall of £18m; this we are relieved to report has reduced to £2.8m. 70% of our County Council Budget is spent on 4% of our population; it is right and proper that we look after the most vulnerable in our Communities the young and the old but this does mean that we as a County Council have to look closely at how we deliver our services.

We will now take you through some of the headlines from this year:-

Worcestershire has been successful in its bid for Government Funding to test and explore 5G Connectivity. 5G is the next generation of mobile technology. When 5G becomes available in the UK, it is expected to have a profound impact on the way people live their lives. As many as 1.4 billion 5G connections are predicted by 2025; it is fantastic that Worcestershire is leading the Way in this new technology. The Worcestershire 5G Consortium, led by Worcestershire County Council and the LEP Board launched the first-ever British 5G factory trials at the Worcester Bosch factory in the last month.

Electric Trains were launched in Bromsgrove on 29th July; there are now up to five trains per hour travelling to and from Birmingham during peak times and between two and four during off-peak.

You may recall that Worcestershire County Council's Cabinet approved recommendations for the development of a wholly owned Council Company as the alternative delivery model to deliver Children's Social Care. The Company name is "Worcestershire Children First."

The Authority is making significant improvements in its delivery of Children's Services and this has been recognised in the latest monitoring visits by OFSTED. For the new school term in September 2018, 91.4% of young people in Worcestershire were offered a place at their first choice secondary school. For primary school, 92.5% were given a place at their first choice school.

The NHS celebrated its 70th Birthday this year and so too did our Adult Social Care Provision. A 70th Birthday Card signed by Members at County Hall was handed over to the Health Secretary in December by Cllr Hardman Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, and Richard Keble, the Assistant Director of Adult Social Services. The aim of the trip was to highlight that more needs to be done by Central Government to better fund adult social care in Worcestershire and across the Country. Worcestershire County Council was crowned Council of the Year at the West Midlands Energy Efficiency Awards. Through the implementation of a 'spend to save' scheme and installing Energy efficiency measures, the County Council reduced gas and electricity cost for their Corporate sites by £125,000 compared to the previous year.

Summer resident shows were held across the County. These annual roadshows give Councillors and Officers the opportunity to meet and speak with residents, answer questions and raise awareness of the services that the Council provides. We will provide the Clerk to the Parish Council with a list of this year's Roadshow dates when it is published. Your views are most important.

Libraries within our County Council Divisional area remain a priority to us both. We will continue to lobby hard on maintaining the current provision. We believe very strongly that libraries are about far more than just books, they offer the opportunity for people to interact and connect with the wider community.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their continued support.

Karen May
Clent Hills Division
07818 085140

kmay@worcestershire.gov.uk

www.worcestershire.gov.uk / report for any issues, ie potholes

Shirley Webb
Woodvale Division
07818 516682

swebb2@worcestershire.gov.uk

CATSHILL WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Report for Catshill and North Marlbrook Parish Council – 2018-19.

Since my last report we have celebrated our 50th Anniversary with Afternoon Tea for our members at Grafton Manor and a Supper Party for members of the Bromsgrove Group here in the Village Hall.

Our programme of speakers has proved popular and varied, ranging from a National Magazine short story writer to a demonstration of cookery for Christmas. Other activities include a monthly walk, various crafts and County events.

We have also enjoyed visits to the Carpet Museum in Kidderminster and the Royal Mint in Llantrisant. Our membership remains buoyant.

We meet on the second Monday of the month at the Village Hall in Golden Cross Lane at 7.30pm for a 7.45pm start. Any ladies who may be interested in joining us can expect a very warm welcome.

May 2019.