



# MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Catshill Village Hall

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023, 7.00pm

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

**In attendance:** Clerk – Carol Blake

**Apologies** – Cllr K Burgess

**Members not present:** Cllr M Amin, S.Khafajizadeh

## 23/11-01 Chairman's welcome

The Chairman welcomed all present to the meeting

## 23/11-02 To receive apologies from any Member unable to attend

Cllr Burgess sent his apologies.

## 23/11-03 Open Forum

### 3.1 Members of the Public

One member of the public was present.

### 3.2 Worcs County Councillor for the Woodvale Division.

Cllr Webb thanked the Parish Councillors who helped out on Saturday night's Christmas Lights switch on event, there were in excess of 1000 people in attendance and only one incident involving a child who had mulled wine accidentally spilt on her legs at one of the vendor kiosks, risk assessment documents have been provided to the girl's parents as requested. A meeting will be held in January to discuss requirements for next year's events.

Cllr Laniosh asked about the solar light between Golden Cross Lane and Oak Rd being moved, it was decided that Cllr Laniosh will meet with BDC when they are on site to discuss where best the light can be moved to for the best lighting to be obtained.

Friends of the Cemetery are holding services at Christ Church on 9<sup>th</sup> December @ 10:00 and at Catshill North Cemetery on 16<sup>th</sup> December @ 10:00

### 3.3 Bromsgrove District Councillors for North Catshill, South Catshill and

**Marlbrook Wards** - Cllr McEldowney reported that the replacement bus stop at Halesowen Road by Lydiate Ash will be installed between the 15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> January 2024. This will be monitored as this matter has been inherited from the previous District Councillor.

The clothing banks which are located at Kempsey Court and Meadow Rd appear to be linked to BDHT according to the stickers that are on the bins, Cllr McEldowney will make contact with BDHT to establish the permissions that are required to place clothes banks on the public highway.

Speeding complaints near to Bromsgrove hotel have been raised as an issue to some residents who have been asking why the police speed vans frequent Old Birmingham Rd but are never seen in attendance on the Birmingham Rd. This is a work in progress matter and the Parish Council will be purchasing another VAS sign that may help with this issue.

Cllr McEldowney reported that he attended an Audit Standards and Governance Committee meeting which was held on 27<sup>th</sup> November. At this meeting, a series of questions that Cllr McEldowney had raised to the Acting Chief Executive of BDC were discussed. These questions were in response to Birmingham City Council effectively being declared bankrupt. Cllr McEldowney wanted reassurance that BDC was not exposed to similar problems that resulted in what happened in Birmingham.

The questions covered were relating to Equal Pay; BDC's response to Birmingham City Council being required to pay £1 Billion in 2012 in relation to them losing an Equal Pay Claim; had BDC ever been notified by a Trade Union that they will be pursuing any equal pay claims against them; do some BDC staff get paid bonuses, and if so, what roles do these relate to; do BDC have any Task & Finish practices. If so, what roles do they relate to; and questions about other vulnerabilities, as there are several Councils nationally which are experiencing severe financial problems.

A Catshill Community meeting was held on 14<sup>th</sup> November. It was reported that the District Council has updated the advice leaflet on the Cost of living and Christmas. The Parish Council is willing to consider grant applications for upcoming events and to advertise them. The Village Hall improvements were discussed, and the possibility of a Youth Club being held there in the future.

Cllr Webb suggested a Catshill wall of poppies next year at Christ Church and she will be asking for volunteers to help with this.

An information poster has been circulated on Facebook advertising the events that are being held in the area.

### **3.4 Any other community representative**

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No update.

#### **23/11-04 Declarations of Interest**

None received.

**23/11-05 To re- open the meeting** Parish Councillors and the Executive Officer may only speak from this point forward

#### **23/11-06 Dispensations**

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

**23/11-07 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 19/10/2023.

## 23/11-08 Chairman's Report

The Chairman updated members on the various meetings he had attended during the month.

- 8.1 Budget figures for 2024/2025 to be discussed and agreed** – Cllr Osman talked through the budget figures for 24/25 and **it was agreed** that they would be accepted, no amendments are required. The precept will remain the same as last year at £50805.
- 8.2 To ratify purchase of projector for Christmas Lights switch on** – **It was agreed** to accept the figure of £28.99 for the projector which can be used for other events too.
- 8.3 To discuss non-attendance at training sessions** – Recently two councillors have not attended CALC training that they have booked themselves on and not cancelled prior to the session taking place so the Parish Council have been invoiced. Everybody was reminded to attend the sessions or ensure that they send an email to cancel prior to the event if they know they will not be able to attend otherwise the Parish Council will be invoiced.

### Finance

23/11-09

- 9.1 The payments and receipts report to 14/11/2023 see below was received and noted.**

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

An excerpt from the council's accounts spreadsheet for November had been sent along with the bank reconciliation to 14/11/2023 it is as follows:

<b>Bank Reconciliation as at 14/11/2023</b>		
Opening Cash Book balance		<b>£102,483.02</b>
Add receipts between 1 April - 14 Nov 2023	52,551.05	
Less payments between 1 April - 14 Nov 2023	-62,484.40	
Cashbook balance at 14 Nov 2022		<b>£92,549.67</b>
Bank statements at 14 Nov 2023		
Unity Trust Bank	99,501.91	
Soldo Card	40.20	
Less unpresented cheques, as list below	£6,992.44	
Bank balances at 14 Nov 2023		<b>£92,549.67</b>

- 9.2 Update on salary award 23/24** – The clerk reported that the 23/24 pay award had been agreed upon and was paid in November, it equated to a £1 an hour increase backdated to April 2023 plus £1925 flat rate.
- 9.3 Summer Plants update for Ivy Cottage Garden** – The clerk reported that the Ivy Cottage Garden has now been planted for Winter.

**23/11-10**

**Items for Discussion**

**10.1 Events Update** – It was agreed that all the events to date have been a tremendous success and will be organised for next year.  
Cllr Osman discussed the Christmas Party event, which is this year being organised by a Ukrainian Charity, they will be providing food for the event, transport has been arranged and entertainment has been booked. Cllr Osman will be assisting on the day.

**It was agreed** that the Parish Council will provide a contribution of £1000 less payment of presents for the attendees and the remainder will be paid to the charity. Cllr Osman will provide the Clerk with details of what needs to be paid to the charity after presents have been bought and BACS details of where the contribution will be paid to.

**10.2 To discuss donation to Bromsgrove Rovers for sleigh at Christmas Lights switch on - It was agreed** to pay a contribution of £200 to Bromsgrove Rovers. Cllr Parry will contact them to obtain BACS details which will be provided to the Clerk so they can be paid this month.

**10.3 Purchasing a Wi-Fi shelter for skate park area approx. £10k** Deferred until next meeting.

**10.4 Purchasing another VAS sign for the area approx. £2200 - It was agreed** to purchase another VAS sign and extra brackets, the Clerk will contact Elan City to arrange purchase and delivery.

**10.5 Costing for maintaining The Dock and COVID Memorial Garden** – This has been completed and is currently being done by the PC gardener.

**10.6 COVID memorial garden quotes – Cllr Osman** – On-going.

**10.7 Racking for lock-up** – Cllr Osman will look at this over the next month and will tidy the lock-up area to make it more suitable for tools and Christmas lights to be stored. This will be completed prior to the lights coming down in January.

**23/11-11**

**Committee and Representatives Report**

**11.1 News Magazine** – Cllr Masters asked that photographs of the events are sent to him to be included in the next edition of the news magazine.

**11.2 Junior Councillors** – Cllr Laniosh reported that Cllr Parry and Cllr Burgess will be attending the next meeting at the school which will be held in the Spring term.

**11.3 Footpaths Working group** – Cllr Laniosh reported that Little Barnsley Farm footpath has had two new posts erected, the next footpath to be repaired is in North Marlbrook near to Lickey Rock, it will be completed on 19<sup>th</sup> December. **It was agreed** that the Footpaths Group will receive a contribution of up to £75 which will be spent on a light meal for them as a gesture of thanks for all their hard work this year which is much appreciated.

**Meeting finished @ 21:12**

**Date and time of next meeting: 25<sup>th</sup> January 2024 @ 19:00**

Excerpt from accounts spreadsheet and half yearly budget figures for November 23

<b>Nov-23</b>						
Heron Press	BACS	V122	Autumn Newsletter	555.00	-	555.00
G Force Fireworks	BACS	V123	50% final payment for Bonfire event	2,250.00		2,250.00
Doorstep Kingdom	BACS	V124	Doorstep princesses for Halloween	289.00		289.00
Blooming Balloons	BACS	V125	Balloons for Halloween	145.00		145.00
Daren Lacey	BACS	V126	Skip for bonfire (previous payment co went into liquidation)	290.00		290.00
Water Plus	d/d	v127	Water Ivy Cottage Gardens	11.26		11.26
Talk Talk	d/d	v128	Office phone and broadband - Oct 2023	49.95		49.95
O2	d/d	v129	office mobile	17.76	2.96	14.80
EON	d/d	V130	War memorial electricity	85.08	4.05	81.03
Chris Cooke	BACS	v131	Lengthsman Oct 23	190.80	31.80	159.00
Worc CALC	BACS	V132	Traing for Cllr's Amin and Khafajizadeh	72.00	12.00	60.00
Cllr Brett Laniosh	BACS	V133	Expenses to meetings	18.90		18.90
Cllr Jess Parry	BACS	V134	Letters to Heaven postbox and Halloween Expenses	239.99		239.99
Meadowfields Ground Maintenance	BACS	v135	Maintain shrubs at gardens Oct 2023	237.60	39.60	198.00
JRB Enterprise Ltd	BACS	v136	Dog waste bags	327.60	54.60	273.00
Cllr Jess Parry	BACS	v137	Halloween sweets	25.18		25.18
Salaries for Nov		V138 - 139	LP salary Nov 2023	2,604.09		2,604.09
Mrs C Blake	BACS	V140	WFH Allowance	30.00		30.00
Catshill Village Hall	BACS	v141	Yearly rental of office	1,706.68		1,706.68
Worc CALC	BACS	v142	Traing for Cllr's Amin	48.00	8.00	40.00
G Burley and Sons Ltd	BACS	V143	Winter planters	504.00	84.00	420.00
A Pullen Memorials Ltd	BACS	V144	Letters to Heaven headstones	750.00		750.00
Soldo Card - Zoom monthly fee			Zoom monthly fee	15.59		15.59
Soldo Card	Soldo	v145	Microsoft monthly fee	7.99		7.99
Soldo card - Amazon			A4 Printer Paper	8.99		8.99
Meadowfields Ground Maintenance	BACS	v146	Maintain shrubs at gardens Oct 2023	237.60	39.60	198.00
				-	10,718.06	276.61
				52,551.05	62,484.40	3,860.24
						58,624.16

