



MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
Held at Catshill Village Hall THURSDAY 25th  
January 2024, 7.00pm  
rebooked for Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February @ 19:00

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

**In attendance:** Clerk – Carol Blake

**Apologies** – Cllr P Masters

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

**24/01-01 Chairman's welcome**

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting

**24/01-02 To receive apologies from any Member unable to attend**

Cllr Masters sent apologies.

**24/01-03 Open Forum**

**3.1 Members of the Public**

No members of the public attended the meeting.

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

Cllr Webb reported that she has received several complaints regarding the roadworks around Bromsgrove. She has requested a meeting with Highways and a Cabinet member to discuss these issues and will report back.

A litter bin has now been replaced in Byron Way; Cllr Laniosh expressed his thanks to Cllr Webb for sorting this out.

The Place Team are organising a dog waste campaign, as there have been several complaints regarding this issue, Cllr Laniosh asked that he is kept updated on this as he would like the Junior Councillors to be included in the campaign.

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

Cllr McEldowney reported that a new bus stop has now been installed at Halesowen Road.

Funding from the PCC's Safer Roads has been applied for to fund two VAS signs and two solar powered units. The original date for applications was extended as not many applications had been received. It should be confirmed in a few weeks' time if this has been successful.

Cllr McEldowney has received several resident requests for assistance, namely, damage caused to a car at the junction of Halesowen Rd, Worcester County Council have been contacted by Cllr McEldowney to ask if they would reconsider awarding compensation.

Bromsgrove Planning Department has been contacted regarding 20 Woodrow Lane. They replied stating that they are pursuing action, but cannot reveal what, for legal reasons but the issue is currently on-going. Other complaints include the state of the bus stop by Miu Miu Chinese, the poor state of the hedges that have been cut by Lydiate Ash, fencing that has blown down in bad weather at 16 Wildmoor Lane which are all being pursued or have now been sorted out.

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

No update.

#### **24/01-04 Declarations of Interest**

None received.

**24/01-05 To re- open the meeting** Parish Councillors and the Executive Officer may only speak from this point forward

#### **24/01-06 Dispensations**

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

#### **24/01-07 Approval of Minutes of previous council meeting and previous matters arising**

**It was agreed** to accept the minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting held 30/11/2023. The Chairman then duly signed the minutes.

#### **24/01-08 Chairman's Report**

**8.1 Planning Enforcement training for Parish Councillors** – Cllr McEldowney reminded Councillors that Senior Planning Officers will be offering Planning Enforcement Training to all Parish Councillors on - Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024, 6:00pm to 7:30pm, at the Council Offices Bromsgrove if any Parish Councillors can attend to put their names forward.

**8.2 Events Update** – Cllr Osman reported that he, along with other Parish Councillors, had attended an Events meeting along with the main event coordinators for this year's events.

**It was agreed** in this meeting that the Scouts will be taking over the total ownership of this year’s bonfire event, which includes booking fireworks, first aid, skip etc. the cost of which will be paid by the Parish Council.

It looks unlikely that there will be a Pancake event as there has been very little interest shown.

The Easter egg event will take place on 29<sup>th</sup> March 11am – 1pm and Christ Church would like to have some involvement if possible. It was suggested that an article with pictures and a brief history of the Church could be included in the next edition of the news magazine. Cllr Parry will speak to the Church representatives to see if they would like to organise this.

**24/01-09 Finance**

**9.1 The payments and receipts report to 18/01/2024 was received and noted.**

The council’s accounts spreadsheet for January 2024 was circulated.

An excerpt from the council’s accounts spreadsheet for January had been sent along with the bank reconciliation to 18/01/2024, it is as follows:

<b>Bank Reconciliation as at 18/01/2024</b>			
Opening Cash Book balance		<b>£102,483.02</b>	
Add receipts between 1 April - 18 Jan 2024	57,921.94		
Less payments between 1 April - 18 Jan 2024	-72,150.88		
<b>Cashbook balance at 18 Jan 2024</b>		<b>£88,254.08</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>Bank statements at 18 Jan 2024</b>			
Unity Trust Bank	91,701.92		
Soldo card	43.83		
Less unrepresented items, as list below	3,491.67		
<b>Bank balances at 18 Jan 2024</b>		<b>£88,254.08</b>	<b>B</b>

**9.2 Review Asset Register (Document sent 14/01/2024) It was agreed that the register is true and accurate.**

**9.3 Review Risk Assessment policy (Document sent 14/01/2024) It was agreed that the Policy is true and accurate.**

**9.4 Review Financial Regulations policy (Document sent 14/01/2024) ) It was agreed that the Policy is true and accurate.**

**9.5 Review Internal Financial controls (Document sent 14/01/2024) ) It was agreed** that the document is true and accurate.

**9.6 To record HMRC vat refund received 23-24** The clerk reported that an amount of £4990.89 has been received into the bank relating to the vat refund.

## **24/01-10 Items for Discussion**

**10.1 Lighting at Oak Road – Cllr Laniosh** reported that the middle post in the alleyway on Oak Rd has now been removed by the lengthsman and the solar light will be repositioned to gain more light for the pathway.

**10.2 Pavement Parking – Cllr Laniosh** has received and dealt with complaints from residents regarding unsafe parking on Churchill Drive and Green Lane.

**10.3 Discuss/review parish councillor roles/committee groups – Cllr Osman** requested details from the clerk on Committees and representatives so that Councillors roles can be re-visited, and committees can be reinstated if deemed necessary.

**10.4 Parish council notice boards and office – Cllr Osman** asked if the parish office is still required. The clerk stated that a secure area is still required to keep records.  
Cllr Osman requested a list of where the notice boards are located. The clerk will send these details to all members.

**10.5 Co-option policy review It was agreed** to accept the minor amendments to this policy.

**10.6 Grant discussion for YMCA It was agreed** that the clerk will contact Catshill Middle School requesting information on what the YMCA currently undertake at the school and if the school feels it is beneficial before the grant is discussed.

**10.7 Update on racking for lock-up -** Defer until next meeting.

- 10.8 Purchasing Wi-Fi shelter for skate park approx. £10k.** This suggestion came from local children at Catshill Middle school.

A formal decision has not been taken about the possible provision of a skating park or a Wi-Fi Shelter. The proposed skating park funding will not be coming directly from the Parish Council. Cllr Webb is looking to source external funding for the skate park. Before any decision regarding the possible location of the skating park, is taken an extensive consultation with the local community will be undertaken.

Currently the Parish Council are focusing their immediate attention on short term youth provision opportunities in the area rather than long term objectives such as a skate park.

- 10.9 Update on COVID Memorial Garden quotes** Defer until next meeting.

24/01-11

#### **Committee and Representatives Report**

- 11.1 News Magazine – Cllr Masters** The clerk asked that articles are sent in as the next edition of the news magazine is due out in March.

- 11.2 Junior Councillors -** Cllr Laniosh reported that Cllr Parry and Cllr Burgess will attend the next meeting to be held on 4<sup>th</sup> March.

- 11.3 Footpaths Working Group -** Little Barnsley Farm and Lickey Rock areas were cleared at the last group session. Cllr Laniosh expressed his thanks to Cllr McElcdowney and Cllr Parry for their help.

**Meeting finished @ 21:08**

24/01-12

**Date and time of next meeting: Parish Council Meeting 29<sup>th</sup> February at the Village Hall @ 19:00**

## Excerpt from January Spreadsheet

Jan-24		Description	Receipts	Payments Gross	Payments VAT
Elan City UK	V165	Purchase of VAS and brackets		2747.99	458.00
RBL Poppy Appeal	v166	Wreath for Remembrance Service		27.50	
Bromsgrove Rovers AFC	V167	Donation for Christmas event		200.00	
Dave Webb	V168	News Magazines 2023		150.00	
Talk Talk	v169	Office phone and broadband - Dec 2023		49.95	
O2	v170	office mobile		17.28	2.88
Water Plus	v171	Water Ivy Cottage Gardens		7.56	
Grenke	v172	Grenke Leasing for Copier		76.97	12.83
VAT Refund HMRC	r12	VAT Refund HMRC	4,990.89		
Unity Trust Bank	v173	Bank charge, 3rd quarter		18.00	-
Cllr Laniosh	v174	Footpath working group expenses		85.00	
Salaries	v175-176	LP salary Jan 2024		979.24	
Mrs C Blake	V177	Working from Home Allowance		24.00	
HMRC	V178	Month 7 & 8 PAYE & NI		1,617.15	
Vintage Class Singers	V179	Christmas Event		150.00	
Daren Lacey	v180	Items for Christmas Party event		57.98	
Cllr Osman	V181	Presents for Christmas Party event		288.50	
Soldo - Zoom		Monthly fee		15.59	
Soldo Microsoft monthly fee	v182	Microsft monthly fee		7.99	
Soldo Top Up		Top up on card		60	-
Chris Cooke	v183	Lengthsman Dec 23		289.80	48.30
			4,990.89	6,810.50	522.01
		<b>Total for year to 31/03/2024</b>	<b>57,921.94</b>	<b>72,150.88</b>	<b>4,522.90</b>