



MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
Held at Catshill Village Hall THURSDAY 29th  
February 2024, 7.00pm @ 19:00

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

**In attendance:** Clerk – Carol Blake

**Apologies**

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

**24/02-01 Chairman's welcome**

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting

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

No apologies had been received.

**24/02-03 Open Forum**

**3.1 Members of the Public**

Daren Lacey and a member of the Village Hall Committee attended the meeting.

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

Cllr Webb reported that she has been in contact with Highways regarding making safe the War Memorial after the road traffic accident, the utility marker needs to be removed as it is a trip hazard, Daren agreed that he could do that. A metal bench could be placed by the War Memorial as part of the chatty bench idea.

**It was agreed** that Cllr McEldowney will source prices for the bench with a logo and report back in the next meeting.

Another Mucky Pup Campaign with help from the scouts is going to take place to promote keeping the area clean from dog mess.

Cllr Laniosh suggested liaising with the litter picker volunteers and Jane Hallet our employed Litter Picker to tackle the worst areas rather than everybody doing their own thing. Cllr Laniosh agreed that he would liaise with the litter picker in future about the areas that require action.

All the hedges have been removed by the Cage area as the hedges had all died. A consultation will take place regarding the Skate Park idea and the local school children will be delivering letters to residents to keep them informed and gauge residents opinions on the idea.

Cllr Webb has contacted Bromsgrove District Council regarding the scaffolding outside 86 Barley Mow Road that has been in place for many years. BDC stated that the longevity of the presence of the scaffolding could be due to a variety of reasons including financial constraints or personal circumstances and as the dwelling is not in an unreasonable state of disrepair to cause an adverse impact to amenity in the locality BDC did not therefore consider it reasonable for them to intervene but suggested that the Parish Council could take some course of action by initially contacting the house owner.

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

Cllr McEldowney attended a Full Council Meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> February where it was agreed that Bromsgrove District Council remove parking charges in council car parks for parking of up to 30 minutes, after 6pm and for blue badge holders. Regular parking charges increased from an average of 80p an hour to £1 after a 13-year price freeze.

All District Councillors will be allocated £2000, for spending on local issues. Detailed guidance is to be issued.

A survey is being drawn up for all BDC Councillors, to identify if any of them are experiencing problems of abuse or harassment. Cllr McEldowney has been appointed as the Risk Champion for this area at BDC and reports on that role to meetings of the Audit Standards and Governance Committee. At a recent meeting between fellow Independent Councillors and the BDC Acting Chief Executive Sue Hanley, it was agreed that council officers compile a questionnaire, in consultation with other independent councillors, and to circulate it to all BDC councillors. It will then be assessed to gauge if any problems are being experienced by councillors and then formulate an action plan to address these problems. This could then be used for Parish Councillors in the future.

Regarding the issue of 14 Wildmoor Lane, an update has been received this week from Dale Birch, Development Management Manager at BDC, he has passed the matter over to Leon Hill to consider whether the CPW process is now appropriate given the time that has elapsed since September 2022 and the current appearance of the site. Leon will undertake a Land Registry search in the first instance and contact the owners accordingly.

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

No update.

**24/02-04 Declarations of Interest**

None received.

**24/02-05 To re- open the meeting** Parish Councillors and the Executive Officer may only speak from this point forward

**24/02-06 Dispensations**

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

**24/02-07 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 06/02/2024. The Chairman then duly signed the minutes.

**24/02-08 Chairman's Report**

**8.1 Update on War Memorial** – There was a two vehicle road traffic collision on the evening of Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February at the roundabout adjacent to the war memorial. One vehicle crashed into the railings, causing significant damage to railings and nearby lamppost, which had to be cut down. Cllr McEldowney and Daren Lacey attended the scene on the night of the collision and provided their details to the police as the Parish Council will be seeking compensation from the owner of the car's insurance company, to date there has been no update from the police. Cllr McEldowney thanked Daren and fellow members of the Scout movement who helped clean up the scene on the night of the accident, after the police had completed their investigation. All Tech, the company who supplied the railings, have visited the scene and reported that the railing panel by the pedestrian gate is bent with a slight bit of damage to a bar on the railing panel. To replace the railing panels to the side would cost £1050+VAT, the other panel mentioned above would be an extra £735+VAT. The gravel also needs to be replaced and the footpath towards the war memorial made safe, as this is a trip hazard. The utility pillar also needs to be made safe as this is also a trip hazard. The railings have been removed and are currently being stored in the scout hut for safe keeping. Cllr McEldowney has emailed Shirley Webb (Local BDH Councillor for that area), expressing concern about how dangerous the roundabout is and asking if she could request WCC Highways Dept undertake an urgent review of the roundabout. Cllr Webb reported that Highways have checked the area and the roundabout, and it all meets

with Highways regulations, but a letter could be written to a member of the cabinet to raise residents' concerns.

**8.2 Community Speed Watch – Cllr Webb** has contacted PCSO Simon Cadwallader who is currently checking the volunteers for this speed watch campaign.

**8.3 Bus shelter at Meadow Road** Cllr Webb agreed to ask permission from County Council to put a bus shelter with seats on Meadow Road outside Chadsgrove School.

**It was agreed** that Cllr Osman will source a supplier for stickers with the PC logo which can be placed on all the bus shelters and dog waste dispensers purchased by the Parish Council and will report back in the next meeting.

**24/01-09 Finance**

**9.1 The payments and receipts report to 18/02/2024 was received and noted.**

The council's accounts spreadsheet for February 2024 was circulated.

An excerpt from the council's accounts spreadsheet for February had been sent along with the bank reconciliation to 18/02/2024, it is as follows:

<b>Bank Reconciliation as at 18/02/2024</b>			
Opening Cash Book balance		£102,483.02	
Add receipts between 1 April - 18 Feb 2024	58,416.69		
Less payments between 1 April - 18 Feb 2024	-76,789.95		
Cashbook balance at 18 Feb 2024		£84,109.76	<b>A</b>
Bank statements at 18 Feb 2024			
Unity Trust Bank	88,048.89		
Soldo card	12.26		
Less unrepresented items, as list below	3,951.39		
Bank balances at 18 Feb 2024		£84,109.76	<b>B</b>

**24/02-10 Items for Discussion**

**10.1 Encourage Others to become Parish Councillors Questions – Cllr Laniosh** reported that he has received most of his questionnaires back from Parish Councillors but requires the other outstanding ones so that he can collate an honest opinion on the reason people join the Parish Council.

- 10.2 Open Spaces Society Subscription – It was agreed** by all that the Parish Council join the Open Spaces Society at a cost of £45 per annum.
- 10.3 Discuss Committees and Attendees – It was agreed** that the Chairs of each Committee and dates of committee meetings be discussed and agreed in the next meeting.
- 10.4 Litter and Dog Waste Strategy** - This issue was discussed at point 3.2 above.
- 10.5 Grant for Village Hall Birthday Event It was agreed** that the grant for £1500.00 be donated for this event.
- 10.6 Grant for Games Hub It was agreed** that a grant of £500.00 is donated to help with this project.
- 10.7 Grant discussion for YMCA It was agreed** that the grant for £1661.46 is granted to YMCA after receiving the benefits of the project by Catshill Moddle School.
- 10.8 Racking for lock-up** - Defer until next meeting.
- 10.9 Update on COVID Memorial Garden quotes** Defer until next meeting.

## **24/02-11 Committee and Representatives Report**

- 11.1 News Magazine – Cllr Masters** asked that all articles are sent in as soon as possible, there are several photos that require text such as the Christmas Party event and the magazine can then be sent to the printers once all items have been sent to the Clerk.
- 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. An additional eight previous Junior Councillors will be joining the meeting.
- 11.3 Footpaths Working Group – Cllr Laniosh** reported that a gate had been replaced at Millenium Way and blocked pathways in the area had been cleared.

**Meeting finished @ 20:52**

**24/02-12 Date and time of next meeting: Parish Council Meeting 28<sup>th</sup> March  
at the Village Hall @ 19:00**

**Excerpt from February Spreadsheet**

<b>Feb-24</b>			<b>Description</b>	<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Payments Gross</b>	<b>Payments VAT</b>	<b>Payments Net</b>
Catshill Baptist Church	BACS	V184	Remembrance Service Booklets		157.73		157.73
JRB Enterprise Ltd	BACS	v185	Dog waste bags		327.60	54.60	273.00
Worcestershire County Council		R13	Lengthsman Refund Nov 2023	253.25			-
Salaries	S/O	V186-187	Salaries Feb 2024		979.24		979.24
Mrs C Blake	BACS	V188	Working from Home Allowance		30.00		30.00
Chris Cooke	BACS	V189	Lengthsman work for Jan 2024		362.40	60.40	302.00
Bromsgrove Ukrainian Support and Relief	BACS	V190	Donation to Christmas Party event		500.00		500.00
J Lawrence Sound Services	BACS	V191	Sound system for Christmas lights switch on event		100.00		100.00
Mrs C Blake	BACS	v192	Licence fee for cherry picker not enough funds on soldo card		35.00		35.00
Soldo card	BACS	v193	Top up on soldo card		100.00		100.00
Waterplus	d/d	v194	water at Ivy Cottage Gardens		7.81		7.81
O2	d/d	v195	office mobile		17.28	2.88	14.40
Talk Talk	d/d	v196	Office phone and broadband - Jan 2024		49.95		49.95
Worcestershire County Council		R14	Lengthsman Refund Dec 2023	241.50			-
EON	d/d	v197	Electricity at War Memorial		95.74	4.56	91.18
Soldo - Zoom			Monthly fee		15.59		15.59
Soldo Microsoft monthly fee	Soldo	v198	Microsoft monthly fee		7.99		7.99
Soldo Microsoft monthly fee			Microsoft monthly fee		7.99		7.99
HMRC	BACS	v199	Month 9 PAYE & NI		1,617.15		1,617.15
JRB Enterprise Ltd	BACS	V200	Dog waste bags		327.60	54.60	273.00
				494.75	4,639.07	177.04	4,462.03
			<b>Total for year to 31/03/2024</b>	<b>58,416.69</b>	<b>76,789.95</b>	<b>4,699.94</b>	<b>72,090.01</b>