



MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING
Held at Catshill Village Hall THURSDAY
27th March 2024, 7.00pm @ 19:00

Present: Cllrs B McEldowney, (Chair) B Laniosh,
T Gillespie, B Pagett, J Parry, M Pagett, A O'Hare

In attendance: Clerk – Carol Blake

Apologies Cllr Osman and Cllr Masters

Members not present:

All minutes are draft until approved at the next meeting

25/03-01 The Chairman's welcome

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

25/03-02 To receive apologies from any Member unable to attend

Cllr Osman and Cllr Masters sent their apologies

25/03-03 Open Forum

3.1 Members of the Public - Five members of the public attended. Two of the residents highlighted the speeding issue on Stourbridge Rd from Catshill towards Bromsgrove by Willowbrook Garden Centre. Police did a speed check on 13TH March; Cllr Webb will request data from that check. Cllr Webb reported that a pedestrian crossing is planned to be put in just past Willowbrook Garden Centre to try and slow down traffic. Cllr Webb will request that the VAS sign is moved from the current 40mph area to 30mph area.

Cllr Webb confirmed that the Safer Neighbourhood team do fine drivers for speeding in the area. A Safer Speed Campaign will be taking place this month and Cllr Webb will also request that a 30-mph reminder is painted on the road by the Crown Public house towards Bromsgrove.

3.2 Worcs County Councillor for the Woodvale Division.

Cllr Webb thanked everybody who attended the official opening of the Community Orchard.

A community garden is due to open in Bracken Grove, the local schools and scouts will be involved, and residents have all been consulted.

CCTV is to be set up in the area by Milton Rd.

The Games Hub will be taking place on a weekly basis after Easter.

Funding is still being sought for the skatepark.

A newsletter promoting what is happening in Catshill is being hand delivered to all residents, this will be printed and delivered twice yearly to residents. This newsletter has been created by the 'Catshill Community Events' team.

Cllr Webb attended an Extraordinary meeting of Bromsgrove District Council, to discuss Local Government Reorganisation which will see new larger unitary authorities replacing district, borough, and county councils. The proposed reorganisation of Local Government will also see extra powers being given to Town and Parish Councils.

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

Cllr McEldowney reported on the Bromsgrove Ward Councillors' Fund, a total funding figure available of £2000 for 24/25. The purpose of the funding is to enable Councillors to allocate funds to facilitate 'good works' in and for the benefit of their respective Wards and thereby become more closely involved in their communities.

The recent successful funding allocations have been provided to:

- 1). Catshill Middle School & First School Poetry Slam - £492 ;
- 2). 6th Bromsgrove Scouts - Amount requested: £1508 The request for funding came from Phil Lacey, the Scout leader of the local 6th Bromsgrove Scout Group, Catshill. The front of the building needs to be excavated to lower it below the slab of the building. The work will include slabbing of the area, drainage, and removal of one of the trees. In addition to addressing leak related problems, this work will also provide an additional external space for young people to do their outdoor work. Although the cost of the work will be £1980, Cllr McEldowney will be requesting £1508, which is the remainder of his Ward Fund.

A damaged bollard at Lingfield Walk was reported by Daren Lacey, this was reported to BDC Parks Team.

Fly tipping reported at Green Lane this was reported to BDC and Facebook was updated.

Aintree Close fly tipping which may include asbestos material, reported to BDC.

Fly Tipping can be reported online on:

<https://www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/.../street.../fly-tipping/>

The planning application relating to another residence being built at the rear of 21 Meadow Road: Bromsgrove District Council as the Local Planning Authority refused permission in principle for the following reason:

- 1) The proposed amount of a dwelling in this location would conflict with the prevailing character and appearance of the area.

Cllr McEldowney attended Catshill Community Orchard Launch on 21st March with Adam, Kim, and colleagues from Friends Of Catshill Wildlife Group, along

with Councillor Shirley Webb, Bradley Thomas MP, Town Crier Kevin Ward, and many children from local schools, along with members of the local community.

3.4 Any other community representative - Cllr Laniosh has sent an email to Cllr Jones to introduce himself and to invite her to the next Parish Council meeting. Cllr Jones is invited to each monthly meeting but so far has not sent any apologies for her absence or attended any meetings, so the North Marlbrook area is never represented.

25/03-04 Declarations of Interest

None received.

25/03-05 To re- open the meeting Parish Councillors and the Executive Officer may only speak from this point forward

25/03-06 Dispensations

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

25/03-07 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 27/02/2025. The Chairman then duly signed the minutes.

25/03-08 Chairman's Address

The chairman reminded Parish Councillors of the importance of attending Parish Council training, the clerk receives regular training timetables with dates and training opportunities which are sent to all Councillors, it is up to individual Parish Councillors to put their names forward on what training courses they would like to attend and on what dates. The majority of the sessions are online and at various times of day and evenings so these should be taken advantage of especially for the new members of the team.

The annual parish council meeting which is to be held on 29th May will include discussions and agreement on a chair for the Planning, Environment & Highways Committee.

Also potential new projects for 25/26. Since the creation of the 'Catshill Community Events' team, the Parish Council involvement with local events is mainly related to providing funding for them. Serious consideration needs to

be given to identifying some new projects. All current projects should have details of who is the lead councillor, what the timescales, costs etc are.

The chairman reported that he was still progressing his project to install a new bus shelter at Meadow Road. He had experienced inordinate delays in receiving a response from the Minor Infrastructure Projects (MIP) Team at Worcestershire County Council, whose advice he was seeking, in relation to what legal authorities were required, to allow the bus shelter to be put in place. The MIP team have now provided the requested advice, which states, that to install Street Furniture within the public Highway, a section 115 B (notice) and G (Licence) process is required. The Legal department at Bromsgrove District Council are now processing this on behalf of the Parish Council.

25/03-09 Items for Discussion

9.1 Events and events budget discussion – Cllr Osman - It was agreed to accept the events figures for this year in Cllr Osman’s absence.

9.2 Dock Garden and Ivy Cottage Garden update Deferred as Cllr Osman was not in attendance.

9.3 Update on Insurance renewal items – Cllr Osman/Gillespie Deferred as Cllr Osman was not in attendance.

9.4 Christmas lights Cllr Parry has spoken to Hannah at MK Illuminations who was her contact for purchasing the lights last year. Cllr Parry informed her that one light was not working, Hannah is speaking to her team to work out the best plan. She will send a new part to try and if that does not work, she will arrange for it to be returned for testing.

25/03-10 Finance

10.1 The payments and receipts report to 23/03/2025 was received and noted.

The council’s accounts spreadsheet 25th March was circulated.

An excerpt from the council’s budget up to March had been sent along with the bank reconciliation to 23/03/2025, it is as follows:

Bank Reconciliation as at 23/03/2025		
Opening Cash Book balance		£105,931.00
Add receipts between 1 April - 23 Mar 2025	£38,509.62	
Less payments between 1 April - 23 Mar 2025	-£74,857.48	
Cashbook balance at 23 Mar 2025		£69,583.14
Bank statements at 23 Mar 2025		
Unity Trust Bank	72,139.16	
Equals card	19.20	
Less unpresented items, as list below	2,575.22	
Bank balances at 23 Mar 2025		£69,583.14

10.2 Finance package for 25/26 accounts - The clerk reported that she has received a trial 3 free months finance package from Easy PC Accounts, after the trial, if in agreement, then it will cost £9.99 per month. Clerk will report back after the trial date.

10.3 Reminder of Annual meeting date - Clerk reported that the Annual Parish Council meeting will be held on 27th May this year. It follows a different format to the usual Parish Council meeting whereby the first item on the agenda is to elect a chairman for the year. Cllr Laniosh informed the Parish Council that he would like to be considered for Chairman this year as well as the current Chairman so a vote will need to take place at this meeting.

Committee and Representatives Report

25/03-11

11.1 Footpaths Group – Cllr Laniosh – Woodrow Lane that links with the A38 has been cleared and the handrail has also been fixed.

Two members of the Footpaths group will be attending a brush cutting course. A kissing gate has been erected at Monarchs Way.

The group have received £200 grant funding from Lickey Parish Council.

Cllr McEldowney reported that a fence is protruding onto the footpath on the walkway from the Old Birmingham Rd that links to Birmingham Rd, Cllr Laniosh will approach the owner.

11.2 Junior Councillors - Cllr Pagett and Cllr Parry attended a meeting of the Junior Councillors last week, the children discussed the dog poo issues in the area, they agreed to design their own posters to be put up in the area.

They also discussed VE Day and what will be taking place.

Bulbs will be planted as part of the next meeting.

11.3 News Magazine – Cllr Masters - No report

Meeting finished @ 20.40

**25/03-12 Date and time of next meeting: Full Parish Meeting 24th April 2025
at the Village Hall @ 19:00**

Excerpt from March Spreadsheet

Mar-25						-
O2	V190	office mobile		18.79	3.13	15.66
Talk Talk	V191	Office phone and broadband - Feb 2025		52.95		52.95
Waterplus	V192	water at Ivy Cottage Gardens		8.02		8.02
Unity Trust Bank	v193	Monthly Bank charge		6.00	-	6.00
Cllr Brett Laniosh	v194	Litter picking tool		24.59		24.59
Worcestershire County Council	R14	Lengthsman Refund Jan 2025	225.25			-
Amazon Stationery	v195	Envelopes and paper		8.99		8.99
Equals Card Microsoft monthly fee		Microsoft monthly fee		7.99		7.99
Equals Card Microsoft monthly fee		Microsoft monthly fee		7.99		7.99
Equals Card Microsoft monthly fee		Microsoft monthly fee		7.99		7.99
CC Cleaner for laptop		CC Cleaner update for laptop		10.00		10.00
Amazon		Laptop charger		15.10		15.10
Equals Card Microsoft monthly fee		Microsoft monthly fee		10.49		10.49
Salaries	V196-197	Salaries		1,064.06		1,064.06
Mrs C Blake	V198	Working from Home Allowance		12.00		12.00
Equals Money Card	V199	Top up on debit card		30.00		30.00
BluWave	V200	Grant donation		500.00		500.00
Chris Cooke	v201	Lengthsman work for Feb 2025		274.20	45.70	228.50
JRB Enterprise Ltd	v202	Dog waste bags		325.20	54.20	271.00
Jane Hallett	v203	LP mileage for Feb 25		4.95		4.95
HMRC	v204	Month 12 PAYE & NI		253.82		253.82
Chris Cooke	V205	Lengthsman work for March 2025		116.40	19.40	97.00
			225.25	2,729.53	122.43	2,607.10
		Total for year to 31/03/2025	38,509.62	74,857.48	5,521.58	69,335.90