

# Environment & Highways Committee

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2017, 7.30pm

Catshill Village Hall, Golden Cross Lane, Catshill

**Members Present:** Cllrs M Shephard (Chair), M Ball, G Blackmoor, P Masters, B McElDowney, O Sweeting

**In Attendance:** Clerk R Powell; Assistant Clerk J Quinn

1. Apologies for absence      None received
2. Declarations of Interest      None
3. To consider members' written requests for dispensation      None requested
4. Adjournment of meeting for Public Question Time      No Members of the public were present
5. To reconvene to consider approval of minutes of meeting held 08/12/16

The minutes of the meeting 08/12/2016 were approved and signed

6. Clerk's report, to include:

**6.1 Bus Shelter repair**

The Clerk had established that the colour of the shelter was RAL6005 – Moss Green Full Gloss Spray Paint which the contact at B&C Shelter Solution Limited could provide.

**It was agreed** to fund the purchase of the spray paint from the company.

**6.2 Ivy Cottage Garden Bench renovation**

The Clerk had left a voicemail for Nigel Williamson requesting his assistance in both renovating the bench and painting the vandalised bus stop.

**It was agreed** to ask Nigel to clean all the bus stops, as carried out annually, in addition to the other tasks

A Local Transport Plan 4 consultation poster had been spotted on one of the bus stops. Members wished to ascertain if this was an official poster.

**6.3 Contact with Worcester Wildlife Trust regarding the best time to carry out the clearance and litter pick near the brook at the Crown Pub. To include discussions as to the organisation of the project and suggested dates.**

The Clerk reported the response received which detailed information regarding nesting times, the legal protection of birds during the nesting season, consideration to the vegetation's main flowering season and the need to consider the extent of the clearance leaving as much as possible for wildlife.

From the information received it was ascertained that October was the best time to be carrying out this project.

Members took this opportunity to discuss the state of the verges near this area following the work completed at Chadsgrove school – it was believed that the vehicles related to this parked along this stretch causing the damage to the grass. It was suggested that a letter could be written to Chadsgrove School in relation to this and the way forward in re-establishing the grass.

**6.4 Progress with signage at Hunters Walk**

District Cllr Shirley Webb had informed the Clerk that she was waiting for BDC to confirm where the sign for Hunters walk can be moved to as this is joint with WCC.

**6.5 Investigations as to land ownership in relation to the fields at the bottom of Milton Road where scramblers and bikes are churning up the ground.**

The Clerk reported that the land was owned by BDC. Although not a public right of way, the area had become a regular walking spot and blocking the quads would also mean stopping the walkers. It had been suggested that the best way forward was for the police to respond to the issue as Anti Social Behaviour, so for people to report to the police as it happens.

**6.6 Three Year Garden Contract**

The Clerk informed Members that Russel Peach of Meadowfields Ground Maintenance was currently on holiday but had acknowledged the offer of the contract and would sign and return it immediately on his return.

Cllr Shephard requested that the Clerk ask Russel to contact him in relation to some shrub pruning that needed to take place.

**6.7 Letter to the Co-op regarding the suggestion for a pedestrian path along the perimeter of the car park**

The Clerk informed Members that the letter had been completed and posted to the Co-op Head Office that same week. In addition, the Assistant Clerk had also sent a copy to the Manager of the local Co-op so that they too were informed.

**6.8 Contact from resident regarding the Speed survey carried out on the Stourbridge Road**

The Clerk reported that the resident who had originally contacted the Council with concerns regarding speeding had requested an update. When talking her through the points of the survey it had come to light that the 40mph speed area had been surveyed and not the area that had been requested which was the 30mph speed section on the Stourbridge Road from the Crown Pub down to Willowbrook Garden Centre. When the Clerk had contacted WCC about this there seemed to be some confusion as they were not aware a speed survey had been conducted. The Clerk continued to be in communication with WCC and would report back once more information had been received.

7. To consider the quotes obtained from Greenbarnes for the Parish Council Notice Board to be located by the Social Club on Meadow Road. To agree the purchase and expenditure for installation (documents circulated)

Members considered the options, comparing the detail of the quotes. Members also took the time to discuss the impact of the board on disabled and visually impaired residents, including the positioning and height. It was noted that other methods of communication were provided by the Parish Council that could be used to cater for this area.

**It was agreed** to recommend to the Full Parish Council, the purchase the notice board as close to the design of the current board to a value of £1697.46.

**It was agreed** to pay an additional fee for the installation of the unit

8. To consider the request from a Parishioner and the Secretary of the Church for a solution at the Catshill Baptist Church Garden to prevent the bark falling onto the road and pavement.

Members discussed this issue. It was suggested that the reason the bark was falling into the road was due to missing or sunken kerb stones that formed the edge of the boundary of the garden.

**It was agreed** to contact Highways for assistance with replacing the kerb stones in that area

**It was agreed** to ask the Gardener to regularly sweep the bark in that area when attending the garden.

Members considered other options for this area should it not be possible to replace the kerb stones including planting along the edges so the roots held back the bark and the use of gravel boards.

9. To discuss the issue within the Parish in relation to dog waste and proactive ways to reduce the effect

Members discussed the issue and the best way to raise awareness including increased signage around the Parish

**It was agreed** to add an article to the upcoming newsletter regarding the issue

**It was agreed** to check whether all litter bins in the area had signs showing they could also be used for dog waste disposal

**It was agreed** to request the issue to be added to the CALC Agenda for a District wide approach

**It was agreed** to contact BDC and confirm the correct contact details for reporting dog fouling as this may not be a commonly known number, which could then be made more prominent to residents. In addition, the Clerk would ask about spray templates for the pavements in problem areas and if these could be used and ask if there were any plans for a campaign to be rolled out as has been done previously.

10. To consider the suggestion for Parish Councillors to walk the footpaths of the Parish and identify any issues in need of addressing to include signposting etc.

Members felt this was an objective for the months with better weather conditions.

11. To review the Lengthsman Contract ahead of renewal in April (documents circulated)

Members discussed the content of both the Parish and Worcester County Council contracts.

**It was agreed** that the Clerk would check the Insurance Policy to ensure there was £5,000,000 public liability cover as suggested in the contracts

**It was agreed** to accept the contracts as presented

12. To receive an update from Councillors regarding progress with the following:

**Cllr M Shephard:**

- **Research in relation to a suitable surface to be used for the suggested path in the Balance Pool area and any funding available to assist with the project**

The area in question is a pathway that is currently naturally forming between the Balancing Pool and Epsom Road. Cllr Shephard reported that the process of creating a path would be to remove top soil for 2-3" or more. It is a boggy area so not digging too deep was important so the path remains proud and allows drainage. There should then be roughly 6" of aggregate added to the top and there could be a use for edging boards to finish the path. It was estimated the cost would be approximately £18 per square metre and therefore approximately £1500 to complete.

**It was agreed** to contact BDC and ask if the formulation of a path in this area would be possible. In addition, the Clerk would ask if they could assist with the works or were aware of any contractors they could recommend that could be used to achieve the result.

- **Continued research into Emergency Plan with a view to the Parish Council providing a simplified version**

The Clerk projected some examples of Emergency Plans that Cllr Shephard had found. The Plan was for providing information and describing what would happen in an Emergency. Members discussed points in relation to the plan including varying emergency types, levels of emergency, the location of premises to be used and keyholders. Cllr Shephard would continue with the task

**Cllr P Masters:**

- **Obtaining quotes for commemorative name stones in Parish Council Gardens. To include consideration of information provided and agreement as to which company to use.**

The Clerk projected various web links that Cllr Masters had found. It was noted that there was approximately £200 per stone available in the budget. Members preferred the more natural looking stones and discussed the need for them to be anchored into the ground.

**It was agreed** that Cllr Masters would look into purchasing the stones available from 'rusticstone.net'.

**Members noted current outstanding actions from the Clerk:**

- Co-ordination of documentation for submission to the next round of Tesco Bags Grant Funding, suggested previously to be a project related to 'Route 5' with Cllr Blackmoor
- Quote for place name signs for Catshill and North Marlbrook Parish
- Letter to Bromsgrove Hotel regarding steps near Miu Miu restaurant
- Investigations into adoption of land at end of Beehive Close

**13. Date, time and venue of the next meeting**

To be confirmed at the Annual Parish Council Meeting in May

This meeting ended at 21.15 hrs.

Agreed as a true record of the meeting held 09/03/17

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 Chairman, Environment & Highways Committee  
 Catshill and North Marlbrook Parish Council