

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING FOR CATSHILL AND NORTH MARLBROOK
THURSDAY 20TH APRIL 2017, 7.30PM
CATSHILL VILLAGE HALL, GOLDEN CROSS LANE, CATSHILL

Chairman's welcome The Parish Council Chairman, Cllr Owen Sweeting, welcomed all to the meeting.

Present As per attendance register inc. Parish Councillors O Sweeting (Chair), M Knight, J Bate, P Masters, M Shephard, T Gillespie, B McEldowney, G Blackmoor and N Ward

Members of the public including Mrs Claire Wing (CVH), Mr Alan Kelly (RBL and M&C Friendship Club), Mr Ian Prust (NWWA), Mrs Mary Davies (WI), Mr Ian Jones (6th Bromsgrove Scouts Group Leader and Member of Catshill Methodist Church Management Team), Mr Paul Fisher (Catshill Baptist Church Secretary), Mr Frank Fletcher (Chair of Governors, Catshill First and Middle School), Ms Pat Hackett (Christ Church), Cllr Shirley Webb (Bromsgrove District Council, Catshill South), Cllr Brian Cooper (Bromsgrove District Councillor, Marlbrook), Dr Chris Fabray (Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Chair), Mr Mike Webley (Volunteer Local Representative from Alzheimer's Society and Dementia Friends Champion)

In attendance Rebekah Powell, Clerk to the Parish Council

Apologies Apologies had been received from Worcester County Councillor Sheila Blagg, Mr David Morgan and Reverend Anne Smith (Catshill Methodist Church), Mr Paul Essenhigh (Catshill First and Middle School), Mrs Debbie Rattley (Chadsgrove School), Reverend Jeremy Brooks (Welcome Hall Evangelical Church), Nicki Hitchcock (Catshill Community Library), Reverend Simon Gudger (Catshill Baptist Church), Cllr Phil Baker, Cllr Mick Ball

Minutes of previous Parish Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held 21st April 2016 were approved and signed.

Chairman's Annual Report

Cllr Sweeting reported that it was now midterm for Catshill and North Marlbrook Parish Council and he was privileged to have served two years as Chair of the Council. The Council had had a good year in the main and had achieved most of the targets mentioned at the last Annual Parish Meeting.

On a sad note, Cllr Sweeting reported the loss of one of the Councillors, Patrick Calloway, who had passed away in February. Patrick was a fine Councillor and brought a lot of experience and expertise to the table. He was a considerable loss and would be greatly missed.

One target successfully achieved had been the appointment of an Assistant Clerk whose main areas of responsibility were Planning and the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. These were two areas with strong Chairmen who needed a strong and knowledgeable Clerk. The new Clerk 'Mighty' Jim Quinn was doing a great job in this and was a great asset to the Council.

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group was progressing very well and their Chair, Dr Chris Fabray, would be talking to those present about the progress and potential future progress later in the meeting.

Cllr Sweeting highlighted that more people were required on the Working Parties in this group. The setting up of the Neighbourhood Plan was another target set at the last Annual Parish Meeting.

The Council's new web pages, coupled with those of the Neighbourhood Plan website, were the envy of all Council's who visit them. The Clerk had full details of the designers and administrators, who were present and modestly did not wish to be mentioned by name, but Cllr Sweeting wished to pass on his

grateful thanks for their hard work. It was prudent to mention that they also designed, set up and managed the Charity Catshill Village Hall website, free of charge.

A further target at the last Annual Parish Meeting was to raise the profile of the Council, let the village know we are working on their behalf and that we are available to answer questions and co-ordinate requests for help using District and County Councillors, the majority of whom respond magnificently. Cllr Sweeting believed that this had been achieved with the help of the Parish Magazine and again, would like to pass on his grateful thanks to all those that are involved in compiling the Magazine and a special thanks to the team that delivered them, all unpaid Councillors.

The new garden near the Baptist Church had been experiencing some teething troubles but was getting there, and in time, would reach the standard of the other gardens the Council maintained.

The Council put a lot of hard work into putting on a Fireworks display very ably assisted by the Scouts Group and the North West Ward Association. Potential safety issues are a concern here but Cllr McEldowney, an ex-policeman, is the lead Councillor for co-ordinating this event.

The Council are very involved in the maintenance of the War Memorial, the supply of electricity and the committee that organise the Remembrance Day event, including the responsibility for the road closures. The Council were also involved in the excellent Christmas Party held in the Village Hall, financed by a very generous donation from a Parishioner who was currently in the hall and had asked that his name not be mentioned. Cllr Sweeting thanked this person then informed those present that the Council were going to try and run this on an Annual basis. It involved many volunteers from taxi drivers, waiters and waitresses to the vital cooks who cooked everything from fresh but the thanks from those that attended last year was an emotional response and therefore Cllr Sweeting hoped the Parish Council could try and replicate it.

Cllr Sweeting finished his report by saying that parking issues, speeding in the village, dog mess and litter were being addressed vigorously and to the best of the Council's ability.

If anyone had any questions, then the Clerk would be able to provide the answer.

Reports from elected community representatives

- **County Councillor for the Woodvale Division** Cllr Sheila Blagg had sent her apologies

- **District Councillors for Catshill and Marlbrook Wards**

District Councillor Shirley Webb provided a written report (see attached) and highlighted points including the possibility of starting a new Mucky Pup campaign, issues with parking along Meadow Road, the move and relocation of the Hunters Walk sign, current traffic regulation orders being progressed, the installation of defibs and the subsequent training session and meetings with PC Barney Kelso regarding car speeds. Those present proposed some questions to Cllr Webb including the progression of a 20mph speed limit trial in Rubery, speed of cars and the weightage of vehicles coming through the village.

District Councillor Brian Cooper had provided a written report (see attached) and outlined the main points relevant to the meeting including Litter tipping on Alvechurch Highway, problems with parking on pavements, the review of the A38 in Marlbrook and the Old Birmingham Road/Braces Lane/Linehouse lane crossing in WCC transport plan then to wider Bromsgrove issues including the election of a new leader, the approval of Bromsgrove District Plan and Bromsgrove Council Plan and the continuing development of Bromsgrove centre.

Reports from Community Groups

- **Catshill Village Hall (Mrs Claire Wing)**

Mrs Wing introduced herself as the new Hall Manager, having begun the role in March following a 3-month probation period. She now looked after the Village Hall including cleanliness, booking enquiries and updating the website. The biggest change to the Hall had been the refurbishment of

the ladies' toilet, but in recent weeks surveillance cameras had also been installed. Future plans included the installation of Security lighting ensuring the car park was fully lit, refurbishment of the men's toilets and the installation of LED lights within the hall which should provide a net saving of £1000 in energy costs. The Hall continued to make a small surplus.

At the AGM there had been resignations received from long standing Members but two new Members had also been welcomed. It was hoped that there would soon be a smartening up of the joint entrance to the Village Hall and Parish Council Office and the addition of more fundraising evenings. It was Mrs Wing's intention to raise the profile of the Village Hall slightly.

Cllr Sweeting commended Mrs Wing for a wonderful job.

▪ **Scouts (Mr Ian Jones)**

Mr Jones introduced himself as the Chair of the Executive Committee of the Scout Association. He reported that over the last 12 months the group continued to make progress. A substantial grant from the Parish Council had enabled them to refurbish the hut and they would now like to refurbish the kitchen too, bringing the facilities up to date and make it a community resource. The group had been very fortunate in receiving grants from Asda, Cadbury Trust, Bromsgrove Society and the Rotary Club. In addition to their own fundraising this had allowed them to fund activities for the Scouts, at least 50% of which were encouraged to be outside. This year they were celebrating 60 years of Scouting in the Village and a weekend camp was being held at a local campsite in May to celebrate. The Scouts were pleased to work with other groups and appreciated the relationship with the Parish Council and the Meadow Committee. There had been very successful Bonfire and car boot events, race nights with the Royal British Legion and fayres at Blue Cross and Primrose Hospice. In addition, helping on the car park with the Worcester Warriors was always good for fundraising and the group were always delighted to be involved with Remembrance Sunday event. All this however, puts a strain on Membership and a small number of people who get involved. In the Beaver unit numbers are restricted due to lack of leaders, although it appeared that most groups working with young people have similar issues. Mr Jones asked for anyone who might know someone who would be interested in assisting.

▪ **Methodist Church (Mr Ian Jones)**

Mr Jones reported as a Member of the Management Committee that the Methodist Church sought to be a Christian presence in Catshill and help to build community. The premises were currently used throughout the week by community groups including Preschool, Blackwell Band, dance groups, NHS Retirement groups and Bromsgrove Operatic Society. A club called Rendezvous was run fortnightly which included an opportunity to chat but also quizzes, outings and speakers. A carers group for people caring for the elderly etc met there once a month and there were also concerts and bus trips.

The new porch was now more than two years old and a coffee bar was held in there on a Friday and Saturday morning and was used to host special mornings for charities such as Macmillan. More than £3000 had been given away to charities that year. The Church has a special interest in the basement project which helps homeless young people in Bromsgrove. The Church take their responsibilities for safeguarding very seriously but this was becoming more and more challenging. Mr Jones stated they are always open to suggestions.

▪ **Catshill Baptist Church (Mr Paul Fisher)**

Mr Fisher introduced himself as the Secretary of the Baptist Church and reported that they were keen on encouraging a Christian presence in the village and were also keen to work with other Churches in the village.

It had been an exciting year for the Baptist Church as they welcomed Reverend Simon Gudger in April and also, following the ability to raise a considerable amount of money, they had been able to redevelop the old School Hall and 1980's building which had now been completely demolished and was being rebuilt. This would make the Church up to date and available for community in the future.

Mr Fisher thanked the Methodist Church and the Social Club for their assistance the latter of which had been where Sunday Service continued to run. In turn they had been able to help them, for instance with the roofing. The Methodist Church continued to run a food bank from the Church office on a Wednesday morning so people less well off can continue to access food at a difficult time for them.

It was hoped that the building project would be finished around June and they would be back in premises by July and the Church will then be encouraging people to come in and have a look around. If any groups in the village want to use the facilities then they are welcome. Mr Fisher thanked for all the support including the Parish and District Council and stated that they looked forward to getting back into their own Church.

- **Catshill First and Middle School (Mr Frank Fletcher)**
Mr Fletcher, as Chair of Governors, read a report that had been provided by the Executive Head for Catshill First and Middle School (see attached)
- **Royal British Legion (Mr Alan Kelly)**
Mr Kelly provided a written report (see attached)
- **M&C Friendship Group (Mr Alan Kelly)**
Mr Kelly provided a written report (see attached)
- **Catshill Women's Institute (Mrs Mary Davies)**
Mrs Davies provided a written report as President of the WI (see attached)
- **North West Ward Association/Catshill Meadow (Ian Prust)**
Mr Prust explained that it was a Charitable organisation that manages the Meadow and that the land is in trust for the people of Catshill. There are 8 or 9 members of the Management Committee but more are needed. They meet 3 or 4 times a year to discuss ongoing issues. A lot had been happening in the Meadow. A lot of work had been completed in the far right corner where Worcester Wildlife Trust had levelled the land and took out the trees to encourage wildlife and water voles which had also slowed down the water and would act as flood alleviation. Work had been carried out on the play area with the equipment being replaced with the help of BDC and the Pavilion (changing rooms) had now got a defibrillator which would be lit up at night by low level lighting following funding from the Parish Council. A few trees had been removed from the entrance which had been a little controversial but it was felt that it needed to be done due to the constant maintenance costs for cutting them down. The trees weren't a natural species and had all been taken out but the Woodland trust had given 100m of hedgerow and oak trees etc that had now been planted. There were current negotiations with a Neighbour about the party lines. The front gate to the Meadow had been replaced and the waste had been removed from the front to prevent trespass as much as possible. They had also received funding for new benches. Events on the Meadow had involved the Scouts and the Parish Council with the Bonfire, BDC Street Theatre, Car boots, horse race fundraiser and two football teams that pay to use the pitch. The Meadow is free to use; the Committee do not want to charge people to use it. Volunteers are needed to assist with fundraisers and the Committee are constantly on the lookout for grants but these are

inevitably for Capital. The Committee work very closely with the Parish Council, District Council and County Council and they are all very supportive as it is a valuable asset in the village. Funding had just been received for a new sign to be erected also. The Meadow have a website which can be found at <http://catshillvillagemeadow.co.uk/>

▪ **Catshill Community Library (Nicki Hitchcock)**

Being unable to attend, Nicki had sent a short report detailing that the information included in the Parish Newsletter was the latest on what the library was currently delivering. In addition to this, the library was now working more closely with the First School, Middle School and Chadsgrove facilitated by the slight change in their opening hours. This work had seen some fantastic outcomes for the library and the pupils, and visitor figures and book issues were up on the previous year. The library are always keen to work with the local community so if anyone had any ideas or events that they could get involved in then Nicki was keen to be contacted. The next event being held at the library was part of the Bromsgrove Festival and was a historical walk starting and ending from the library. Information could be gained from <http://www.bromsgrovesfestival.co.uk/whats-on/walks-and-talks/catshill-walk-2706/>

▪ **Christchurch (Pat Hackett)**

Unfortunately, the Clerk was unaware that Ms Hackett was in attendance at the meeting and apologies were given that due to this she was not called to provide her report. Ms Hackett provided a written report however (see attached)

Talk from Mike Webley including What does it mean to live in a Dementia Friendly Community? How can we help?

Mike had been involved for nearly three years in the Alzheimer's Society and had also received training for Dementia Friends sessions which he runs. He highlighted that there are currently 850,000 people living with Dementia and it affects 1 in 14 people over the age of 65 and some 40,000 people suffer with early onset Dementia which can start as young as 40.

Mike continued to explain the role of Dementia Action Alliance and what it means to be a Dementia Friendly Community and to train as Dementia Friends. He highlighted areas already involved such as Harriers Football Club who have a Dementia Friendly Area and Ombersley who had set themselves up to become a Dementia Friendly Community involving local businesses. Mike informed those present of events taking place through Dementia Awareness week from 14th to 20th May, and also a Dementia Café that is run in Bromsgrove which needed some support as numbers varied significantly meeting to meeting. He also informed the meeting about SURP (Service Users Research Panel) whose first meeting would be on 15th May at Bromsgrove Health Centre which intended to have speakers in from service providers which would then allow those people using the services to provide comment.

Mike reported that funding was being sought to allow Pop Up events to be carried out with a view to working closely with Parishes and getting several partners involved including Age UK, police, fire service etc with an open invitation for anyone to attend.

Mike highlighted that Dementia is not a natural part of aging but is caused by a disease and does not just affect memory, but perception and other areas.

Presentation from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (Dr Chris Fabray)

Dr Fabray opened this section by introducing himself and explaining a little about his personal and professional background as an overview to his role of Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. He then provided a presentation that introduced those present to the Neighbourhood Plan including the area that had been designated, what a Neighbourhood Plan is, why it is important, what it can and cannot do, the process it needs to take, the importance of community involvement, the need for a

sound evidence base, the referendum process at the end and finally information on how those present could become involved. In addition to the presentation, there were notice boards placed around the room with posters providing further information.

Dr Fabray informed those present that two workshops would be held on 13th May and the 24th June between 11am and 2pm which would allow people to come and find out more and complete a short questionnaire to assist with the evidence base. He encouraged people to attend and make their views known.

Open session

Those present were invited to circulate the room, read the information on the boards and network with those in attendance.

There being no other business the Chairman thanked all present for attending and closed the meeting

Signed

Date.....

Chairman, Parish Meeting
Catshill and North Marlbrook

DRAFT

Councillor Shirley Webb

Catshill South

Annual Update 2017

- I am pleased to have secured the funding for two debrillators for the village. One has already been installed at the Meadows Pavillion and another to be installed at Catshill Baptist Church once the building work has been completed. Another defib training day will be arranged once the second defib has been installed.
- Parking – Meadow Road Schools. This continues to be a problem for residents around school pick up times. We have worked with the Social club to arrange for parents to park there as well as the Crown Pub once the work is finished by Virgin Media. The schools remain cooperative and inform the parents to park respectfully.
- TRO – Julian Close - Completed
- TRO – Meadow Road – In process
- Yellow lines around the bus stop on Gibb Lane / Meadow Road – In process

- Speeding – A further meeting will be arranged in May with the Police Crime Commissioner in attendance along with the Safer Neighbourhood Team. I have recently met with PC Kelso and trialled out some new equipment on Golden Cross Lane. I will be discussing with the Parish Council to look into funding from the NHB for the same type of equipment for a couple of areas in the parish. I will also be arranging monitoring sessions with the police and will invite residents along.

- Perryfields. I am concerned about the planning application and the traffic flowing through the village and will work with the Parish Council and Neighbourhood Plan team to support the residents.

- A38 at Marlbrook is part of the LTP4 plan with WCC (Braces Lane / Old Birmingham Road)

District Council roles

Vice Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny

Chairman of working group with Measure Dashboard

Member of Licensing Committee

Represent BDC at the Citizens Advise Bureau

Annual Report to Catshill & Marlbrook Parish Council April 2017

Cllr Brian Cooper, Marlbrook Ward, Bromsgrove District Council

Parish Issues:

- Marlbrook tip – under ‘control’ of the Environment Agency; BDC has meetings with EA to ascertain progress, which is very slow
- Littering and fly tipping – especially in Alvechurch Highway. Area teams work hard to deal with problems. Solutions are being considered for problem areas.
- Parking on pavements- especially in Lydiate Ash and Old Birmingham Rd. Parking enforcement team are repeatedly reminded to monitor problem areas. Parking enforcement likely to be a topic for scrutiny by BDC Overview & Scrutiny Board.
- The A38 in Marlbrook and the Old Birmingham Road / Braces Lane / Linehouse Lane crossing are to be reviewed as part of WCC transport plan (LTP4).

District issues:

- New leader (Cllr Geoff Denaro) and cabinet in June 2016; minor cabinet revision in March 2017 because of cabinet member having to resign (new job in London).
- Bromsgrove District plan approved Jan 2017
- Bromsgrove Council plan approved Feb 2017
- Budget for 2016 / 2017 is likely to come in with a minor surplus.
- Budget for 2017 / 2018 was approved in Feb 2017. It will be very challenging to achieve because of the continuing reduction of the revenue support grant from central government and so, efficiency savings of about £600k will have to be delivered and the Council tax will have to rise equivalent to £5 on band D house. There will no reduction in services.
- Bromsgrove Town centre developments continue eg Waitrose
- Dolphin Centre replacement approved.

Cllr Cooper's roles in District Council.

Cabinet member for finance and enabling (from March 2017)

Chair, Audit, Standards and Governance Committee (up to March 2017)

Member of Overview and Scrutiny Board and of Licensing committee (up to March 2017)

Member of WCC Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee (up to March 2017)

Council nominated member of Bromsgrove & Redditch CAB Trustee Board

Catshill Federation 2017

Catshill First School

Currently graded **good** and pending inspection goes from strength to strength as we now move to 2 form entry throughout the school in September to 2017 with 10 classes and a Nursery which will be offering 30 hours childcare (for those entitled).

The school has had significant building development over the last 2 years including a full reroof project and refurbishment of Nursery and Reception.

The staff team is now a balanced group of experienced and young members of the profession. The first school is part of the Bromsgrove Learning Network (BLN) comprising of all First Schools in the locality who offer each other school 2 school support.

In addition we are now the tenants and managers of the Tulip Tree Centre in Catshill. Currently speech & language provision as well as pre and post school care operates from this facility. If other users are interested in using the facility please contact the office at the First school and the admin team will contact you.

Catshill Middle School

Currently graded **good** following inspection in November 2016 the school grows and goes from strength to strength. Now 3 form entry throughout, the school has increased in size considerably over the last 7 years. We are an active member of the Bromsgrove Middle School Learning Partnership (BMSLP) which supports schools not only locally but nationally.

Facilities have been improved over the last 2 years including a totally refurbishment of the Year 5 & 6 learning zone and the final phase of all window replacement as well as full boiler replacement.

Across both schools there has been a capital investment over 1.1 million pounds since 2012 which further supports the commitment from Worcestershire County Council for education in this part of the town. We hope that with the housing developments that will be coming on stream that the first school will fill up completely in all years (currently 30 pupils short across the whole school). In addition we hope that the middle school will move to a 4 form entry school as pupils of middle school age filter through the town.

Paul Essenhigh

Executive Headteacher.

The Royal British Legion. Lickey End Branch.

Membership has declined in the past twelve months but the branch is still active. The Poppy Appeal takings continue to grow year on year. Last year's Poppy Appeal raised over £9,000. We are always looking for more members and also anyone who feel they do a couple of hours as a street collector during the Poppy Appeal.

Marlbrook & Catshill Friendship Club.

The club has been going for nearly 8 years now and is still thriving. We meet twice a month here in the village hall, plus have about six coach trips per year. We have managed to maintain our very low fee of a pound per meeting, with no annual membership fee. We are getting to a point that we may have out grown the village hall, as we have on a couple of occasions used all the chairs here, so over sixty members. On coach trips we now regularly fill a 42 seat coach, compared with a few years ago when we used 20 seater coaches.

CATSHILL WOMEN'S INSTITUTE
Annual Report for Catshill and North Marlbrook Parish Council
April 2017

The W.I. has been in existence for over 100 years and still is the country's largest voluntary organisation. It is all about inspiring women and is a rich source of experiences, knowledge and skills passed down through generations and up-dated every day.

Here in Catshill we have, albeit small, a very dedicated membership. Over the past year we have had speakers as diverse as an expedition from Alaska by road to Argentina, to learning how to create Christmas tree decorations from Jumping Clay.

Our main fund-raiser was a Craft and Coffee Morning in the village for our members to meet others from the Bromsgrove Group of W.Is. We also took a stall at the Village Hall's Craft Fair.

We had an outing to the Cardiff Christmas Shopping event and a trip on the Droitwich Canal on their restored canal boat.

We meet on the second Monday of the month at the Village Hall, and would welcome any ladies who would care to join us in the future.

Christ Church, Catshill – Annual Report

Christ Church Catshill has stood on the corner of Church Road and Stourbridge Road for the last 179 years, and is a Grade 2 listed building. For a small country Church, there is a lot of history attached to it, with the Rev. Thomas Housman being the first vicar there and the family of A.E Housman buried there. There is also a connection, through the Morcom family, to the scientist Alan Turin. The Church is also on a computer based treasure hunt called Geo Catching, with several of the clues being around the Churchyard.

At the moment, Christ Church is the subject of a project for a Post Graduate student from Birmingham University looking at the effects of erosion on old buildings and what to do about it, and if there are any other uses for the building.

The Church has recently had a new heating system put in and, after a few teething problems, it is now working perfectly which means it can now offer a small meeting room in the vestibule for people to use.

Along with the other Churches in the village, people from Christ Church take part in the Open The Book which goes into the schools telling the children about the stories from the Bible. The Middle School and Chads Grove came into the Church and did concerts last year.

Community Service come and cut the grass and help to keep the churchyard clean and tidy, for which we are extremely grateful, as we do not have the manpower to do it ourselves, and any help from the community will be gratefully received.

We have a group of crafting ladies that meet once a month. They take their wares to trade and craft fairs around the area. If anyone would like to join us, they are very welcome.

We supported several charities over the last year, both local and overseas.

We support the Memorial Service in November.