



**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**held at CATSHILL VILLAGE HALL**  
**GOLDEN CROSS LANE, CATSHILL, B61 0JZ**  
**THURSDAY 29<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2018, 7.30pm**

**Members Present:** B McEldowney (Vice-Chairman), P Baker, M Ball, J Bate, T Gillespie, V Harman, M Knight, P Masters

**In attendance:** Locum Clerk, G Lungley

- 18/03-01** Chairman's welcome  
In the absence of Cllr O Sweeting, Cllr B McEldowney welcomed all to the meeting in his role as vice-Chairman
- 18/03-02** Members' apologies for absence  
Apologies were received from -  
Cllrs O Sweeting (Chairman), G Blackmoor, M Shephard, C Stark, N Ward
- 18/03-03** Open Forum:  
Official business was suspended in order to receive representations / reports from:
- 3.1 Members of the public**  
No members of the public were present
  - 3.2 Worcs County Councillor for the Woodvale Division**  
County Councillor Shirley Webb had tendered apologies for absence from this meeting and had provided a report, as attached.
  - 3.3 Bromsgrove District Councillors for N Catshill, S Catshill and Marlbrook wards.**  
District Councillors B Cooper (Marlbrook ward) and S Webb (S Catshill) had tendered apologies for absence from this meeting.
  - 3.4 Any other community representative**  
No other community representative was present.
- 18/03-04** The Open-forum was closed, and official business resumed.
- 18/03-05** Declarations of Interest  
No member stated any declarable interest.
- 18/03-06** Dispensations  
No requests for dispensation had been received.
- 18/03-07** Approval of Minutes of previous council meeting  
**It was agreed** to defer approval of the minutes of the council meeting held 22/02/18 to the next meeting of the council.
- 18/03-08** Members' Questions  
No questions were presented.

**18/03-09**      Chairman's Report

Due to the absence of the Chairman, no report was presented.

**18/03-10**      Clerk's report: Emergency Actions, Update and List of Communications

Although absent from this meeting, the Clerk had provided the following report:

**10.1**      **Parishioner Correspondence received during the last month:**

- requests for information as new residents in the area,
- communications from Mr Philip Cooper regarding the Catshill Online programme,
- requests for adverts in the newsletter
- requests for information from volunteer litter pickers in Chaddesley Corbett as to how effective our litter awareness signs are and where they could be obtained.

**10.2**      **End of Neighbourhood Plan Grant Reporting**

All invoices to One Creative Ltd for the Landscape Character and Capacity Assessment Study have now been paid and Cllr McEldowney and Dr Fabray have met to complete the end of grant report in my absence. This needs to be submitted before the next grant is applied for.

The Assistant Clerk and Dr Fabray have met to look at the details and information needed in order to complete the next application for funding. The amount being applied for has already been agreed by Full Parish Council to enable printing of the Phase 2 questionnaire and distributing to each house in Catshill and North Marlbrook. Early grant request submission as soon as the opening date is passed will allow progress to continue in line with the Project plan.

**10.3**      **Response to complaint about horses using footpaths in Parish**

Further to my enquiries, following contact from a Parishioner about horses using footpaths in the area, Cllr Webb has today spoken to the officer at WCC regarding this and they will speak to the landowner and also make a visit to the footpaths and report back to her. I will keep the Parish Council updated when I hear more.

**10.4**      **Annual Parish Meeting Reminder – 12/04/18 Catshill Village Hall at 19:30 hrs**

The Annual Parish Meeting will be attended by Chris Fabray giving a report on the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan and Caroline Webster (Senior Technician, Community Risk, Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service) covering details of services on offer to support people to reduce the risk from fire, including those available to vulnerable households. All invitations to community groups have been sent out by the Assistant Clerk and some responses have already been received. Agendas are in the notice boards and has been posted on the Facebook page.

**10.5**      **Relevant correspondence available from the Clerk:**

Weekly CALC updates March 2018; weekly updates from BDC Planning lists, WCC road works lists and reports, Neighbourhood Watch Alerts and E newsletter, NRSWA, Wellbeing in Partnership March 2018 plus extra newsletter, Bromsgrove Advertiser, Worcestershire Voices March 18.

**18/03-11**      Committee and Representatives Reports

It was noted that due to lack of content, both the Environment and Highways Committee and the Planning Committee scheduled for this month were cancelled

**11.1**      **Any other report** from Parish Council representatives including those for:

- Consultation Feedback Meeting with One Creative Ltd – 06/3/18, Cllr B McEldowney  
Cllr McEldowney had received the detailed report which had identified areas of potential housing development, some of which would be more sensitive than others,

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that would be presented for public consultation.

The level 2 questionnaire is now being prepared for the Neighbourhood Plan.

The first phase of the Neighbourhood Plan grant funding has ended, and the parish council's report has been submitted. The small amount of un-used funds is to be returned prior to applying for the next phase of funding. The Clerk and Assistant Clerk were thanked for their input.

- Bromsgrove Area CALC meeting -14/03/18 (Cllr O Sweeting)  
The Locum Clerk had attended this meeting and reported that four presentations had been given:
  - County Councillor Ken Pollock, Portfolio Holder for Economy and Infrastructure answered questions relating to matters including 20mph zones, Blakedown railway station and parking, Bromsgrove traffic alleviation;
  - Kelly Mitchell, Bromsgrove DC Communications Officer provided information about Facebook and the support that could be provided by BDC;
  - Coun Rod Laight, Bromsgrove DC, Chairman of Committee that looked into Social Media use;
  - Becki Staite, Bromsgrove DC Data Processing Officer on the subject of the impending General Data Protection Regulation.
  
- Village Hall Management Committee – (Cllr J Bate, Cllr O Sweeting)  
Cllr J Bate advised that the ground is being cleared ready for the installation of the base to the new storage unit. CCTV is to be installed.  
The AGM is to be held in April  
The management committee is to meet with fire officers to verify the hall's capacity.
  
- Newsletter update – (Cllr P Masters)  
The Clerk has all the copy for the next edition of the newsletter (to be re-named 'News Magazine' with a new header), but it is not clear if there are any deadlines that need to be met. Cllr Masters offered to take control of collation and design, with Mr D Webb, and recommended the council provides three issues each year.

#### **18/03-12** Finance

It was noted the payments and receipts report from the Responsible Finance Officer will be prepared on return from leave of absence along with the financial year-end report.

**12.1 It was agreed** to approve the increase in Lengthsman Fees to £12.50 from 01/04/18 (£0.50 per hour increase).

**12.2 It was agreed** to purchase first aid cover for the Bonfire event at £240 for two first aid qualified staff from Pulseline Ambulance Service.

There was comment about the need for extra toilets during the event.

**12.3 It was agreed** to delegate to the Clerk working with the Chairman, acceptance of the quotation provided by Birmingham Parks and Nurseries at £740.96 + VAT for the replant of the Ivy Cottage Gardens' raised bed, subject to checking the requirement to strip out old plants as the bed has already been cleared.

**12.4 It was agreed** to delegate to the Clerk working with the Chairman and vice-Chairman, the

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additional payment of up to £1040 to create the foundations and guttering for the Parish Council storage unit subject to clarification of what has already been agreed for the storage unit with regard to guttering.

**18/03-13** To agree the contract for the Lengthsman as provided by Worcester County Council

No documentation had been issued by WCC in time for this meeting, but the Lengthsman Scheme supervisor at WCC had commented that the scheme will continue for 2018/19 at the same rate as 2017/18, with a few minor changes yet to be advised.

**It was agreed** to delegate agreement of the 2018/19 Lengthsman Scheme contract to the Clerk working with the Chairman.

**13.1** To consider the contract renewal with the Lengthsman being issued to Luke Farnsworth following the retirement of Allen Farnsworth.

**It was agreed**, in order to show transparency and value for money, to seek tenders for the position of Parish Lengthsman. In the meantime, Luke Farnsworth would be asked to take on the role on a casual basis, on the terms currently agreed with Allen Farnsworth.

**18/03-14** To note the progress in relation to 'Catshill online' and consider a request from the co-ordinator to make the trial period longer

**It was agreed** to allow a 3-month trial period subject to monitoring by the parish council. The co-ordinator would be asked to meet with councillors after one month in order to assess the position.

**18/03-15** Items for the next meeting

**Cllr P Baker** asked that consideration be given to a memorial for the late Cllr Patrick Callaway in the form of a tree planting.

**18/03-16** Date and time of next meetings

- Annual Parish Meeting – 12/04/18
  - Planning Committee – 19/04/18
  - Full Parish Council Meeting – 26/04/18
- \* All meetings at Catshill Village Hall, 7:30pm unless otherwise stated

This meeting ended at 21:40hrs

Signed ..... Date.....  
Chairman, Catshill and North Marlbrook Parish Council

Minute no. 18/03-3.2

Report from County Councillor Shirley Webb – Woodvale Division

**Fairfield** dropped kerbs in process, we are still waiting for BT to move the service box.

Area outside school to be assessed again for a school crossing patrol.

**Bournheath** Road closures for Severn Trent Flood alleviation works. I am meeting with representatives from all parish councils to discuss the closure and effect it will have on other villages

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Catshill and North Marlbrook Parish Council, minutes

Chairman's initials .....

on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

**Dodford** First School, proposed yellow lines to be increased around the school for safety reasons.  
**Catshill** potholes reported for repair, both roundabouts on Gibb Lane and Meadow Road.

### **Worcester County Council**

Worcestershire has been chosen as one of only six areas in the UK to develop a new testbed for **5G technology** to revolutionise the way businesses will operate both in this country and globally. We are working on this with the Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership (WLEP) and other partners. The testbed launches on April 1. Read more about it in the **Business Leader**.

Worcestershire's energy from waste plant **EnviRecover** has been celebrating its first anniversary. It was fully operational by March 2017 although wasn't officially opened until June last year. So far almost 200,000 tonnes of household waste – the equivalent of 13 million black wheelie bins - has been processed at the plant. The facility produces and exports enough electricity to power the equivalent number of homes as the whole of Kidderminster, Stourport-on-Severn and Bewdley combined.

The way our **Children's Social Care Services** will be delivered in the future is to be decided by Cabinet on 29 March. Following a detailed option analysis, reported to Cabinet on 14 December 2017 and the completion of a full business case, it is being recommended that a wholly owned council company is developed to deliver children's social care services in the future. Subject to final Ministerial approval, work will commence to implement the new company with the aim to go live on 1 April 2019. For more information, including a list of FAQs, visit [www.worcestershire.gov.uk/adm](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/adm) or email [adm@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:adm@worcestershire.gov.uk).

This week we have been celebrating **World Social Work Day** (Tuesday 20 March) with our colleagues from Children and Adults Social Care. This year the theme is sustainability and we decided to interpret that as 'What Sustains Us'. In line with this theme we asked social care staff to think what sustains them, and write it on the tree of Sustainability at our drop in event. All morning social care staff to popped in, to have some cake and look at the tree and take part in social work book exchange to help support professional development

Last week the Council proudly supported **Tell Someone**, a campaign aimed at raising awareness of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). The campaign, in partnership with West Mercia Police, encourages people to recognise the signs of child sexual exploitation and to tell someone if they have concerns. Worcestershire social workers learned how to spot the signs of CSE and act accordingly. This video below highlights some of the signs.

**Purdah** is upon us once again as three district elections will be taking place on 3 May. Elections are taking place in Wyre Forest, Redditch and in Worcester. Purdah ensures the County Council's political neutrality in the light of legislation and guidance from the Secretary of State. During purdah the County Council is restricted in the publicity it generates relating to individuals involved directly in the election. We are also not allowed to proactively publish material about controversial issues or report views that could influence voters.

Good news for all new parents who haven't had chance to register with the **Childcare voucher scheme**, Kiddivouchers. The scheme was due to close in April, but last week, the Secretary of State for Education Damian Hinds MP confirmed that it would remain open for another six months. You can read more on the **BBC website**. If you would like to join the scheme, please go to the **Kiddivouchers website** or call **0800 612 9015**. You will need to use our company reference number **S719472A**.

Despite the cold we completed our Winter Roadshows in Worcester on Saturday. This month we have held events in the north and the south of the county. Members of the Cabinet joined our staff **talking to residents** and answering their questions. People were asked what they love most about living in Worcestershire. We talked to them about our plan for the county, **Shaping Worcestershire's Future** and our **Children's and Young People's plan**. Talking to our residents face to face is really important and we will be holding more roadshows in the summer.

Over 800 visitors attended the **Herefordshire and Worcestershire Chamber of Commerce Spring Business Expo** recently. It featured more than 120 exhibitors from the world of business. At the Expo, there was a networking breakfast, a food and drink producer's zone and free seminars. Mark Wright, winner of BBC's The Apprentice, gave an insight into building a strong digital marketing strategy. People could also meet fund managers from the Midlands Engine Investment Fund.

Worcestershire has been ranked 18th in the whole of the country for the number of **new firms** starting out in 2017. There were 7,804 new businesses formed in Worcestershire according to figures from the Inform Direct UK Review of Company Formations. This is an increase of 15.9% on the previous year.

Please remember you can report problems at [www.worcestershire.gov.uk](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk) reporting page for potholes, floods or drain problems or highway matters.