

Environment & Highways Committee

Thursday 20th September 2018, 7.30pm
Catshill Village Hall, Golden Cross Lane, Catshill

Members Present: Cllrs M Knight (Chair), M Ball, P Masters, B McEldowney, O Sweeting

In Attendance: Clerk R Powell

1. Apologies for absence Cllr G Blackmoor
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 14/06/18

It was noted that the minutes recorded Cllr Sweeting as giving apologies, when he was actually present at the meeting.

It was agreed that the rest of the minutes were an accurate reflection of the meeting and therefore would be authorised at the next meeting once the alteration had been made.

6. Clerk's report, to include updates on:

6.1 Path and steps from A38 through to Balance Pools

An inspector had agreed to work on the steps at the top of the path from the A38 to include repairing the lower steps and installing a handrail all the way down. The banks either side would also be cut back in an attempt to keep mud off the steps.

County Councillor Webb was meeting with an officer the following week to look at placing hard standing along the muddy stretch of path. It was estimated this would cost in excess of £2000 and funding would possibly be an issue. County Councillor Webb had agreed to fund half and had requested if the Parish Council were able to assist.

It was agreed to defer the decision to the Full Parish Council.

6.2 Progress with notice board for Social Club car park

Following investigations over land ownership, permission had been received from the club that the notice board could be placed at the front of the grassed area near the pavement, in the middle of the two entrances to the car park. The Clerk would submit the Purchase Order asap.

6.3 Fence around the garden at the Baptist Church

Using delegated powers given to Cllrs Sweeting and Knight in conjunction with the Clerk, a 4' picket fence with gravel boards at the base would be installed by the gardener at a cost of £1026 inclusive of VAT. The signs for the roads would be moved by BDC to allow this to go ahead.

6.4 Land for wild flower planting

The Clerk was yet to establish ownership of land at the area identified, but it would most probably require a planting licence. The Clerk suggested an additional area for planting, near Cottage Drive in Marlbrook.

It was agreed to request an area for planting in this location also.

6.5 Funding for Dog bag dispenser to be located on 'Old Horse Course' Estate

Funding had been received from WCC for the dog bag dispenser to be placed on the 'Old Horse Course' Estate

It was agreed to request that the dog bag dispenser be located near the children's play park at the end of Lingfield Walk and that the dog bin currently located at the end of Epsom Road, be relocated to the vicinity.

6.6 Cllr Callaway's Memorial

Cllr Baker was contacting Cllr Callaway's widow on behalf of the council to ask what his favourite tree or shrub had been. Once this was established, the Clerk would move forward with purchasing a pot and plaque.

6.7 Disabled Parking spaces – Barley Mow Lane and Aintree Close

The Disabled parking space that was no longer viable in Barley Mow Lane was being removed by Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) and the lines were already painted out. It had been established that a resident from Green Lane who had a Disabled Parking Space on Aintree Close had now left the area, therefore the TRO had also been raised to remove this. In the meantime, the lines would be painted over to free up on street parking for residents.

6.8 Parishioner correspondence

6.8.1 Speed

Reports of concern over speeding in Green Lane and Wildmoor Lane had been passed to County Councillor Webb who would request it be attended as soon as possible within the monitoring of her whole Ward.

6.8.2 Dropped Kerb Aintree Close x 2

A resident had contacted the Clerk following receipt of a letter about illegal parking due to driving across the pavement. However, the letter had been put together extremely badly with dates and maps that did not match so the resident felt it was a scam of some description. He also had extreme health issues as did his wife and daughter. The Clerk had contacted County Councillor Shirley Webb to confirm the works were taking place and the letter was genuine. The letter had been reported to the portfolio holder. County Councillor Shirley Webb had offered to fund the dropped kerb due to the residents extenuating circumstances.

Another resident who was a wheelchair user had contacted the Clerk about the camber of the dropped kerb at the bottom of Aintree Close. County Councillor Shirley Webb and Richard Clewer from Highways would be inspecting the kerb.

Members discussed the lack of dropped kerbs at the end of the alleyways in the area and also the tree roots that were lifting the alleyways and making them difficult for wheelchair users.

6.8.3 Trip rail at Sedgfield Walk

This trip rail had been reported as damaged and down by more than one resident.

When the Clerk reported the issue there had been some dispute over ownership of

the area and who was responsible for replacing it. The Place Team from BDC would be fixing the rail as soon as possible.

6.8.4 Fallen Tree

A tree had fallen on the path from the A38 down towards the balance pools. Again, there was an issue with ownership as certain elements of the path were the responsibility of the owner of the land, believed to be the hotel, and some to WCC as it is a public footpath. The hotel removed the tree and the area was inspected by the Countryside team. However, almost immediately another tree fell in its place which had again been reported.

6.8.5 The Meadow

There had been issues with vandalism on the Meadow, with children jumping on the roof of the changing rooms and damaging it. This had been reported to the police and Ian Prust was looking into anti vandal paint and signage. The Parish Council had been contacted about loud dogs very early in the morning and, following the Clerk reporting this to Mr Prust, he was also looking into signs regarding respecting residents that live around the Meadow.

6.8.6 Letters

The Clerk had received numerous communications from residents which had all been actioned appropriately and responded to by letter and email where relevant. These included concerns regarding weeds in Oak Road, the state of the pathways in Bromsgrove North Cemetery, issues with 'Old Horse Course Estate' including lack of signage, lack of bins, an unused disabled parking space, a vandalised sign and requests for a new bus stop, a dog bin dispenser and new street lights. The Clerk updated Members on the progress with each of the concerns, which were all being actioned. In addition, the Council had received a Thank You Card from the resident who received the Silver Award in the Summer Gardens Competition.

To note, deferred items/items in progress: Contact with WCC re: signs for shopping centre, letter to residents regarding tree planting, purchase of stones for gardens, review of the balance pool planted area in respect of tree locations, organisation of community speed watch, research into radar speed signs, water pricing and location of meter, 'Welcome to Catshill' signs

7. Following BDC/WCC assessment, to consider the location and purchase of Parish Council Grit Bins

The Clerk reported that the Council were reviewing their policies in relation to Grit bins, both Worcester and Parish Council owned. The Clerk had hoped to have further information by now in order for the Parish Council to make decisions about locations of possible grit bins prior to the colder weather. Unfortunately, there was no information to date.

Members discussed monitoring how any new grit bins were installed as they were sometimes not level and looked unsightly.

8. To receive an update on Catshill In Bloom and consider the Parish Council's contribution

The Clerk reported that the Catshill In Bloom application and application for grant funding would now be co-ordinated through the Village Hall rather than the Parish Council. However, the Parish Council could still consider any contributions they wished to make.

Cllr Webb had indicated that the application included the provision of hanging baskets on Golden Cross Lane and pots under the new 'Welcome to Catshill Signs' which had been something the Parish Council had previously been considering. These signs would be installed soon as they were now in depot. However, the Clerk had been told there were four when five had been ordered so she would be monitoring this. The Clerk also informed Members that a resident had offered to water a trough if it was placed under the notice board in Marlbrook.

9. To consider the effectiveness of the 30mph stickers for Wheelie Bins and the possibility of a further purchase

Members discussed this at length including the fact that some had not been used and others had not been positioned on the side of the bin facing the A38 to create a repeater effect. The Clerk informed Members of a request from residents in Golden Cross Road for some stickers. Members discussed the effectiveness of 30mph signs painted on the road and of the use of repeater signs.

Members discussed that some areas of roads were not as effective having 30mph wheelie bin stickers as others eg: the section of Golden Cross Lane that was set back from the road.

It was agreed that the Clerk would order 500 more of the 30mph stickers. Members would then target certain houses on streets that it was felt would be effective with a sign.

It was agreed that an article be put in the news magazine informing residents that if they wished to obtain a wheelie bin sticker then they could contact the Clerk.

10. To consider the next steps in relation to the Co-op car park suggested walk way

Despite continued efforts with the Co-op main property management representative, there was still no response relating to this. The Clerk requested Members advise how they wished to proceed.

It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Bromsgrove Councillor Shirley Webb for her thoughts and then next steps would be to contact Bromsgrove MP Sajid Javid regarding the issue.

11. To consider how the Ivy Cottage shrub bed and raised bed are planted

Members considered both gardens, their current planting and ideas for new planting, including the possibility of a Christmas Tree for the area.

It was agreed that Children in the Parish would be encouraged to enter a 'Design a Garden' competition and the winner would have their garden reproduced in the area where the shrub bed was now.

It was agreed that winter plants were not needed in the raised bed.

It was agreed to request some trailing plants for the raised bed when it was next planted.

12. Date, time and venue of the next meeting

17th January 2019 at 19:30hrs in Catshill Village Hall Committee Room

Agreed as a true record of the meeting held 20th September 2018

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