

Environment & Highways Committee

Thursday 13th June 2019, 7.30pm

Catshill Village Hall, Golden Cross Lane, Catshill

Members Present: Cllrs M Ball (Chair), M Knight, B McEldowney, M Saunders

In Attendance: Clerk R Powell, 3 Members of the public

1. Apologies for absence None received

2. To appoint the Vice Chair of the Committee

It was agreed that Cllr Blackmoor would be Vice Chair of the Committee as she had previously expressed an interest in the role and agreed to take the position if it was voted in her favour.

3. Declarations of Interest None

4. To consider members' written requests for dispensation None requested

5. Adjournment of meeting for Public Question Time

The Members of the public present were expressing deep concerns about the speed of the traffic on the Stourbridge Road. Members listened to their concerns and discussed them. The Clerk outlined the lack of powers the Parish Council have in relation to tackling speeding, but also the work being done in order to represent Parishioners including looking into a community speed watch, requesting speed monitoring in key areas, looking into assisting with funding with new VAS signs and trialling wheelie bin speed stickers. It was noted that large '30' signs painted on the road may have some effect. The Clerk distributed 30mph wheelie bin stickers to the residents present and suggested that their neighbours were also welcome to a set if they requested them from the Parish Council.

The 3 Members of the public left following this agenda item.

6. To reconvene to consider approval of minutes of meeting held 24/01/19

It was agreed that the minutes were an accurate reflection of the meeting and were duly signed by the Chairman

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

7.1 Parishioner Correspondence and Speed signs

The Clerk had received communications from a parishioner regarding the speed sign not working on Wildmoor Lane. The Clerk had passed the concern to Highways and Cllr Webb, the latter of whom had reported the sign not working and subsequently chased the issue when further correspondence was received. It was noted that the signs were now old and needed replacement rather than repair. This was to be discussed during Agenda Item 10.

The Clerk had also received correspondence regarding the speed of traffic on the Stourbridge Road and a request for double yellow lines on Ash Drive. It had been established however, that WCC will not line a cul-de-sac as it restricts access to residents but Cllr Webb was looking into a white H line to be painted outside the affected elderly resident's property.

7.2 Update on trees at War Memorial

BDC Tree Officer is still waiting for the brewery to confirm whose responsibility it is under the lease agreement with the pub managers to maintain the trees in the area that the Parish Council have concerns regarding. WCC have confirmed they do not see a threat to Highways land from the trees therefore will not take action. If no progress was made soon, Cllr Webb would co-ordinate a meeting with the pub manager to discuss. Cllr Webb was also looking into funding availability to assist with improvements to the War Memorial area. It was noted that the schools had planted poppies in pots for the area and the scouts were keen to assist in any way they could.

Members discussed the issue with the trees and whether it was prudent to gather quotes for the cutting of the trees in preparation. The Clerk advised to wait until the meeting with the Manager had been arranged.

It was noted that the brook area needed clearing still. The Clerk would look into the information she had previously sought as to when the best time of year was to carry this out in relation to wildlife. It was also suggested that a contact who deals with waterways may be able to assist.

7.3 Continued correspondence regarding the Co-op walkway

Cllr Webb had finally received a response from a member of Co-op head office team who was looking into the situation, but couldn't explain why a designated walkway was not part of the original design. Cllr Webb had emphasised the complaints made and the lack of safety for Parishioners in the area.

Members discussed this and a suggestion was made that if no progress was received in this way, maybe a Member of BDC's Health and Safety team should be approached

To note deferred items/items in progress: Contact with WCC re: signs for shopping centre, letter to residents regarding tree planting, 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, installation of dog bag dispenser on Old Horse Course Estate, Stickers for dog bag dispensers and property, bus stop clean, land registry at War Memorial

8. To discuss issues of vandalism to the fence at the Baptist Church Garden and possible alternatives

It was noted that on repeated occasions the gardener had needed to replace uprights in the fence following them being pulled off. However, the issue did now seem to be abating and therefore the situation would be monitored at present.

It was noted that sleepers were still not in place at the base of the fence to hold back the soil from falling into the road.

It was agreed the Clerk would check the quote for work and ascertain if this was something that should have been installed by now.

It was discussed that the path and gate that had been agreed was not yet installed and this was awaiting the removal of one of the road signs in order to allow the gate to be positioned.

It was agreed that the Clerk would chase the removal of said sign to allow work to commence

9. To consider the purchase of winter plants for the Ivy Cottage Garden and ‘Welcome to Catshill’ signs

The Clerk had received a quote to the value of £77 per planter for a winter display that usually consisted of pansies and ivy to provide colour from October through to February, with the addition of spring bulbs that provide colour in the spring period. Watering was not necessary over the Winter periods as the rain water would catch in the reservoirs of the planters.

It was agreed to accept the quote for the planters

It was noted that a quote had not yet been received for Winter plants in the Ivy Cottage Garden and that this would be circulated to Members once received

10. To consider allocating funding to the purchase of speed signs in conjunction with WCC

Following the earlier discussion with Members of the public, the Clerk informed the Committee that reserves had been put in place to fund additional bus shelters, but that due to the amount of concern in the village regarding speeding, this may be better used in assisting with the provision of speed signs in the area.

It was noted that Cllr Webb wished to install speed signs in four locations – Wildmoor Lane, Stourbridge Road, Golden Cross Lane and Braces Lane. These cost just under £3000 each.

Members discussed the concerns of residents along with the price of the signs.

It was agreed to recommend to Full Parish Council that 50% of the funding for the 4 signs be provided from reserves.

11. To organise a date and location for a litter pick within the Parish

Members discussed wishing to involve residents and community groups in regular scheduled picks throughout the Parish.

It was agreed that the Scouts would be contacted regarding a potential litter pick in the Summer and the schools would be approached about contributing in the Autumn. The Clerk confirmed that bags, pickers, gloves and rings were available from BDC.

12. To agree a date, time and judges for the Summer Garden Competition

It was agreed to defer this decision to FPC as there may be new Councillors who wish to be involved.

13. Date, time and venue of the next meeting

13th February 2020 at 19:30hrs in Catshill Village Hall Committee Room

The meeting ended at 20:49hrs

Agreed as a true record of the meeting held 13th June 2019

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