



## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL

### MEETING @ CATSHILL VILLAGE HALL

THURSDAY 26<sup>th</sup> May 2022, 7.00pm

**Present:** Cllrs B McEldowney (Chair), P Baker, B Laniosh,  
P Masters, T Gillespie, S Osman, J Alderson

**In attendance:** Clerk – Carol Blake

**Apologies:** Cllr J Till, Cllr S Webb, Cllr G Blackmoor

**Members not present:**

#### 22/05-01 Election of Chairman

**It was agreed** that Cllr McEldowney would remain Chairman for the coming year and signed the Declaration of Acceptance at this point

#### 22/05-02 Election of Vice Chairman

**It was agreed** that Cllr Osman would be vice chairman

#### 22/05-03 Open Forum

##### 3.1 Members of the Public

Andy Seers, a Catshill resident attended the meeting and discussed the anti-social behaviour and the use of drugs in the area which he feels is becoming more common within the community.

**It was agreed** that the Clerk would send an invite to Lloyd Stone who is the local community policeman to join the next FPC meeting to discuss ways forward to try and address the main anti-social hotspots in the area.

##### 3.2 Worcestershire County Council member for Woodvale Division

No representation

##### 3.3 Bromsgrove District Councillors for North Catshill, South Catshill and Marlbrook Wards.

No representation

##### 3.4 Any other community representative

None present.

22/05/04 **To receive apologies from any Member not present** – Cllr Blackmoor, Cllr Till and Cllr Webb sent apologies

#### 22/05-05 Declarations of Interest

None raised

#### 22/05-06 Dispensations

No member had submitted a request for dispensation to any agenda item.

#### 22/05-07 Approval of Minutes of previous council meeting

**It was agreed** to accept the minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting held 28/04/2022.

#### 22/05-08 Chairman's Update

The Chairman updated members on the various meetings he had attended during the month.

**8.1 Memorial – Abdul Jilani** Cllr McEldowney and Cllr Baker attended Abdul's funeral and have since contacted his family to ask if they would like a pot and plant to be placed outside the Village Hall as a

memorial to Abdul. Currently awaiting response from Abdul's family

**8.2 Royal British Legion – Remembrance Service 2022** – An email had been received from RBL regarding this year's Remembrance Service informing the Parish Council that they would not be able to organise the service as they have not any members to carry this out.

**It was agreed** that the Parish Council will take ownership of the service and Cllr Baker will arrange a meeting with Daren Lacey if necessary to finalise the decision.

**8.3 Recruiting new Parish Councillors** – Cllr Baker circulated a document to all on his views on how to attract people into becoming Parish Councillors.

**It was agreed** that a gazebo with signage will be erected at the Big Picnic event where Parish Councillors will be able to chat to any interested parties and promote the idea of becoming a Parish Councillor.

**8.4 Chatty Bench** - **It was agreed** to ask residents on Facebook for their ideas on an ideal location for the proposed chatty benches.

**8.5 Creation of new Planning, Environment and Highways Committee** – The chair floated the idea of amalgamating the Planning Committee and the Environment & Highways Committee, into a super Planning, Environment & Highways Committee. He proffered a number of reasons for this suggestion, including the overlap of issues discussed by the two current separate committees, which are linked to the recently approved Neighbourhood Plan, making it more efficient for one committee to discuss such matters, and also with the current depleted number of parish councillors, it would enable future meetings of the new committee to be quorate. If Councillors felt it was worthwhile considering this idea, then we will put it on the agenda for a future Full Parish Council meeting.

**8.6 Project Officer Vacancy** – See point 22/05 11.3 for this update

## **22/05-09 Clerk's Update**

**9.1 To present the report from Independent Internal Auditor, Dianne Malley** – Clerk updated Councillors that the internal audit for 2021/2022 had been completed and the auditor had been pleased with her findings stating that the financial controls and reviews of records had all been sufficiently met.

**9.2 Annual External Audit – To review and approve the completed Annual Governance Statement as prepared by the Responsible Finance Officer** – Clerk requested the Chairman's signature for Section 1 of the AGAR, and it was duly signed

**9.3 Annual External Audit – To review and approve the completed Annual Accounting Statements as prepared by the Responsible Finance Officer** - Clerk requested the Chairman's signature for Section 2 of the AGAR and it was duly signed

**9.4 Summer Bedding Plants quotation – Ivy Cottage Garden**

**It was agreed** that the quote of £1185.63, which was an increase of £69.27 on last year's quote was reasonable and Clerk was requested to inform supplier to proceed.

## **22/05-10 Items for discussion**

**10.1 Natural Networks and Footpaths Update** – Cllr Laniosh updated members regarding the Natural Networks project, there are issues with specific areas and sign off from landowners which is currently delaying progress with the project.

**It was agreed** that Cllr Laniosh and Cllr Osman will meet on site and then arrange to meet up with Cllr Webb to try and proceed. Dates to be arranged.

On 31<sup>st</sup> May at 10:00am Cllr Laniosh has a meeting with footpath officers to discuss improving weigh mark posts and discuss tasks and roles to promote and improve footpaths around the area.

Cllr Laniosh stated that he is also the Parish Warden for Bournheath Parish Council and Malcolm Shepherd remains as Catshill and North Marlbrook's Footpath Warden.

**10.2 Junior Councillors Update** - Cllr Laniosh sent minutes from the Junior Councillors meeting which was held on 9<sup>th</sup> May and **it was agreed** to fund the badges for the Junior Councillors for the Jubilee Event

**10.3 Solar Lights** - Cllr Osman updated that the solar lights have now been erected.

Clerk received a request from Cllr Webb to ask if the Parish Council would fund solar lights for the cage playground area where she is requesting permission to erect a small skate park area to try and reduce the anti-social behaviour around that area.

**It was agreed** that this request would be refused as Councillors felt that lighting up the area would cause more anti-social behaviour rather than reducing it.

## **22/05-11 Committee and Representatives reports**

**11.1 Planning Committee – Cllr Gillespie** - A Planning report had been sent to all members and a committee meeting has been requested

**11.2 Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group**– No update

**11.3 Finance and Staffing Committee** – Cllr Baker updated members on the Project Officer vacancy. A candidate, Tiffany Chen, has been interviewed, has been offered the job, and has accepted and will start when she is in receipt of her visa.

Cllr Baker has met with Paul Crysell to discuss Tiffany's workplan and priorities that she will need to focus on. Paul Crysell is reviewing the workplan and as soon as he agrees to it Cllr Baker will send it out to all members for any comments if required.

**11.4 Events Committee** – The Queen's Jubilee event was discussed and volunteers for the day were agreed upon. A gazebo will be in place for the Parish Council and Cllr Laniosh agreed to manage that.

**11.5 Newsletter** – Articles for the next edition of the newsletter are being prepared, the Queens Jubilee event will be included with photographs from the event. The final date for receiving articles for inclusion in the next edition of the newsletter will be discussed and agreed upon in the next Full Parish Council meeting.

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**22-05-12 Date and time of next meeting: 30<sup>th</sup> June @ 19:00**

**Meeting Finished @ 21:24**

