



MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held at Catshill Village Hall THURSDAY 26th
September 2024, 7.00pm @ 19:00

Present: Cllrs B McEldowney (Chair), B Laniosh, S Osman,
J Parry, P Masters, B Pagett,

In attendance: Clerk – Carol Blake

Apologies Cllr Gillespie and Cllr Burgess

Members not present:

24/09-01 Chairman's welcome

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

24/09-02 To receive apologies from any Member unable to attend

Cllr's Gillespie and Burgess sent their apologies

24/09-03 Open Forum

3.1 Members of the Public

Keith Orgill, a committee member for The Meadow, attended the meeting, he expressed the Committee's concerns regarding this year's fireworks event. It was felt that the Committee had not been kept informed of the reasons behind why the Meadow is not being used for this year's event. Cllr Webb and Phil Lacey informed him that they had both contacted various Committee members at the beginning of the year to explain what would be happening this year due to last year's bonfire event being visited by Worcester Regulatory Services after a complaint was made that the event is not safe. Upon that visit Worcester Regulatory Services determined the event is not accessible to emergency vehicles, with only one main entrance and exit for over 2000 potential visitors. The events committee and parish council all discussed options, and a new venue was found which is Lingfield Park.

It was agreed that a representative from The Meadow will attend the annual Events meeting which is held in January each year, where the events budget is discussed and ideas shared for the coming year's events and their locations, this would be an ideal opportunity to discuss utilising the Meadow for smaller events.

Kim, a member of the Catshill Wildlife Group, attended the meeting to discuss ideas to improve The Dock area. She suggested working alongside Catshill in Bloom to improve the Dock area as it has become neglected and needs some work cutting back shrubs and weeds and introducing bug boxes and bat boxes.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would support this project, but a retaining wall needs to be erected before any planting work is started on this land.

Kim will join the next Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group meeting online to discuss her ideas and talk about other open spaces within Catshill and North Marlbrook that could be improved and utilised.

3.2 Worcs County Councillor for the Woodvale Division.

Cllr Webb reported that the walkway between Oak Rd and Golden Cross Lane has now been resurfaced.

The community Orchard on land by Shelley Close/ Milton Rd is in progress, 20 trees have been funded by County Council, in total a variety of 36 trees will be planted and bulbs will be planted around the bottom of the trees by pupils from the local school.

The Healthy Hubs promotion was launched early in September to help keep residents more independent and able to keep active and healthy as they grow older.

Ian Hooper is involved with Cllr Webb on sorting out the Remembrance Day service and it was agreed that Cllr Laniosh will be the lead from the Parish Council as Cllr McEldowney will be laying the wreath on behalf of the District Council.

Cllr Webb discussed the possible Ward boundary changes in Catshill that are currently being debated, there is a consultation online that anyone can comment on if they so wish.

It was agreed that the supplier, All Tech, would be contacted to give them agreement to supply the railings at the War Memorial as they provided the original ones, and they need to match the remaining ones. The Parish Council is still pursuing its insurance claim against the driver of the vehicle which crashed into the war memorial railings earlier this year.

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

Bromsgrove District Council is in the process of reviewing and replacing the Bromsgrove District Plan, which sets out where new housing, employment and other development alongside its supporting infrastructure will take place over the next 15 years or so. Between now and 2041, Bromsgrove needs to allocate enough land for 6,562 homes to meet Local Housing Need and around 28 hectares of employment land for manufacturing and warehousing, as well as identifying opportunities for office space. Three possible options for delivering the Development Strategy are being considered.

BDC already have 3,052 homes identified in current planning permissions, such as the land at Perryfields Road in Bromsgrove and on sites already identified in the adopted Local Plan that are still vacant. Therefore, additional

land for approximately 3,510 homes needs to be identified. Several options have been put forward, including potential sites for development.

The consultation with District Councillors about various options for housing allocations is not formally in the public domain. In view of the housing target for BDC being significantly increased by the new government, the Planning Department will have to come back with revised housing location options.

The Parish Council has the responsibility to ensure that the Neighbourhood Plan is taken into consideration By Bromsgrove District Council when planning decisions are being taken. Chris Fabray, the former chair of the NP Steering Group, has been in contact with the Chairman of the Parish Council and has offered to assist the Parish Council.

The new Labour Government has made a manifesto commitment to build 1.5 million new homes by 2029. The newly imposed mandatory housing targets means Bromsgrove District Council will have to build 704 houses a year – an extra 318 houses annually. This means that the Development Strategy will require to be amended as it is possible that Catshill might be required to provide a higher number of houses.

BDC has also recently had to undertake a formal response to the governments proposed reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework and other changes to the planning system. All councillors had sight of the formal BDC Planning Department’s response and were given the opportunity to have their responses included in the formal BDC response.

3.4 Any other community representative

No update.

24/09-04 Declarations of Interest

None received.

24/09-05 To re- open the meeting Parish Councillors and the Executive Officer may only speak from this point forward

24/09-06 Dispensations

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

24/09-07 Approval of Minutes of previous council meeting and previous matters arising

It was agreed to accept the minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting held 25/07/2024. The Chairman then duly signed the minutes.

24/09-08 Chairman's Report

A meeting of the Catshill Community Events Committee was held on 17th September. The Catshill churches were represented together with Chadsgrove School, the Village Hall, District and County Councillors and the Parish Council. Future events were discussed by all and ideas for any other events that could help residents were also debated.

The chatty benches have now been installed around the area and promoted in the local press.

8.1 Update and discussion on War Memorial – It was agreed that the work that needs to be completed on the War Memorial site will go ahead and paid for by the Parish Council. The clerk will update Daren Lacey and Cllr Webb to accept the quote for the replacement of the railings with the local supplier, All Tech, as they provided the previous ones.

Cllr Osman will request that a written quote is requested to register the land at the back of the War Memorial. It will be approx. £2000.

8.2 To discuss Grant request for Citizens Advice Bureau – A request for funding for the CAB had been received. **It was agreed** to fund £1000 to the charity which is the same amount as last year's grant donation.

8.3 To discuss grant request for Catshill Foodbank – A request for funding to the amount of £5000 had been received. **It was agreed** to donate this amount to this cause.

24/09-09 Finance

9.1 The payments and receipts report to 16/09/2024 was received and noted.

The council's accounts spreadsheet for Sept 2024 was circulated.

An excerpt from the council's accounts spreadsheet for March had been sent along with the bank reconciliation to 16/09/2024, it is as follows:

Bank Reconciliation as at 20/09/2024			
Opening Cash Book balance		£105,931.00	
Add receipts between 1 April - 18 Sept 2024	6,332.25		
Less payments between 1 April - 18 Sept 2024	-34,324.13		
Cashbook balance at 18 Sept 2024		£77,939.12	A
Bank statements at 18 Sept 2024			
Unity Trust Bank	79,793.13		
Soldo account	33.40		
Less unrepresented cheques, as list below	1,887.41		
Bank balances at 18 Sept 2024		£77,939.12	B

9.2 Report on External Audit 23/24 The clerk reported that the External Audit report had been received for 23/24 it had one minor comment that “less than 30 consecutive days had been given for the excise of public rights”, everything else was in order and it had been signed off by them.

9.3 Quote for Winter flowers for boxes The winter flowers for the Catshill window boxes quote is £534 including VAT for this year, this is an increase of £25.00 on last year’s price.

It was agreed to go ahead with this quote.

Items for Discussion

24/09-10 10.1 Dock Garden update – Cllr Osman has obtained one quote and will obtain another two which will be discussed in the next Full Parish Council meeting.

10.2 Flower tub by Tesco Express – **It was agreed** to go ahead and provide a flower tub by Tesco Express for the Marlbrook area.

10.3 Update and progress on Fireworks Event See point 3.1 above.

10.4 Events discussion Remembrance Day, Halloween, Christmas Party, Christmas Lights Switch On – The clerk will provide an update on the current budget for these events to all members to remind them what was agreed to in the budget.

10.4 Catshill Cemetery Update - No update, ongoing

Committee and Representatives Report

24/09-11

11.1 News Magazine – Cllr Masters is in the process of obtaining news articles and asked that all articles that need to be included in the next magazine are sent by Monday of next week so that the clerk can send them to the printers and delivery will take place in time for the next event.

11.2 Junior Councillors - Cllr Parry is awaiting a suitable date and time for the next meeting to be held at the school.

11.3 Footpaths Report – Cllr Laniosh reported that the flooding by Christchurch Cemetery steps has been resolved. The Vegetation on Stourbridge Road has also been cleared.

Councillor Laniosh voiced his concerns to Councillors Webb and McEldowney about recent communications from Worcestershire County Council. The emails indicated that Cllr Laniosh must seek approval from the council before promoting any activities related to the Footpaths Group. Both Cllr Webb and Cllr McEldowney expressed their full support for Cllr Laniosh and the Footpaths Group, commending their efforts in building connections with other parishes and footpath groups, which have proven successful. It was agreed that the group should continue operating as they currently do.

Meeting finished @ 21:35

**Date and time of next meeting: Full Parish Meeting 31st October
at the Village Hall @ 19:00**

24/09-12

Excerpt from September Spreadsheet

<u>Sep-24</u>		Description	Receipts	Payments Gross	Payments VAT	Payments Net
Talk Talk	v080	Office phone and broadband - Aug 2024		52.95		52.95
O2	v081	office mobile		18.79	3.13	15.66
Water Plus	v082	Water Ivy Cottage Gardens		8.02		8.02
Meadowfields Ground Maintenance	v083	Maintain shrubs at gardens Aug 2024		237.60	39.60	198.00
Salaries Sept 2024	v084-85	Salaries Sept 2024		879.81	-	879.81
Mrs C Blake	v086	Working from home allowance		18.00		18.00
Soldo Top up	V087	Top up on card		50.00		50.00
Bad Krispy	V088	Music for Fireworks Event		200.00		200.00
PKF Littlejohn LLP	v089	Audit fee 23/24		378.00	63.00	315.00
Chris Cooke	v090	Lengthsman July 24		174.00	29.00	145.00
			-	1,967.17	134.73	1,832.44
		Total for year to 31/03/2025	6,332.25	34,324.13	3,194.04	31,130.09