



MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held at Catshill Village Hall THURSDAY 31st

October 2024, 7.00pm @ 19:00

Present: Cllrs B McEldowney (Chair), B Laniosh, S Osman,
T Gillespie, P Masters, B Pagett,

In attendance: Clerk – Carol Blake

Apologies Cllr Parry and Cllr Burgess

Members not present:

24/10-01 **Chairman's welcome**

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

24/10-02 **To receive apologies from any Member unable to attend**

Cllr's Burgess and Parry sent their apologies

24/10-03 **Open Forum**

3.1 Members of the Public

Keith Orgill, a committee member for The Meadow, attended the meeting to observe proceedings.

Two members of the local Police attended the meeting, they were updated on the issue of youths on motor bikes riding on the fields by Shelley Close, the culprits have now moved on to fields by the cemetery. Mobile cameras were installed on Shelley Close which seems to have helped with the problem. The issue is on-going, and the police are looking at improving fencing around the vulnerable areas to deter the culprits.

Cllr Laniosh agreed to draft an article to raise awareness of the issue on social media as to what needs to happen if any resident wants to report an issue in the area.

3.2 Worcs County Councillor for the Woodvale Division.

No update received.

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

Cllr McEldowney updated members on the following matters that have been highlighted to him by residents recently:

A complaint about the impact that the fireworks event will have on local wildlife, "wildlife wardens" are monitoring this issue.

Lingfield Walk residents have requested to be able to remove some of the fixed bollards and replace them with a removable one to facilitate access for emergency vehicles. Cllr McEldowney contacted Richard Davidson at the Parks and Gardens Dept at BDC who said that the fixed bollards are there to prevent traveller encampments gaining access to the park. For this reason he stated that none of the fixed bollards should be removed as there are 2 other access points. Cllr McEldowney emailed the resident concerned and updated them, but they have failed to respond.

Cllr McEldowney was approached on the 20th of October at Churchill Road, whilst delivering parish magazines, by a couple who were concerned about the mental state of a local resident, living in a BDHT house. Nicola Cummings (Solicitor BDHT) has approached BDHT about this matter.

3.4 Any other community representative

Cllr Gillespie reported that the Community Events meeting due to be held in October was cancelled as it was felt that all events are well organised and do not require any further discussion.

24/10-04 Declarations of Interest

None received.

24/10-05 To re- open the meeting Parish Councillors and the Executive Officer may only speak from this point forward

24/10-06 Dispensations

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

24/10-07 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 26/09/2024. The Chairman then duly signed the minutes.

24/10-08 Chairman's Report

Cllr McEldowney reported that on 28th and 29th November over thirty fruit trees will be planted as part of the Community Orchard at Milton Road fields, any volunteers will be welcome.

Cllr McEldowney expressed his thanks to everyone in the village involved in creating the knitted poppies, which have been very well received. There will be a report on Central News regarding this next week to commemorate Remembrance Day.

Cllr McEldowney has asked whether a bus shelter can be erected on Meadow Rd outside Chads Grove School. He has been contacted by Minor Infrastructure Team at WCC who are in the process of trying to find out if a permit needs to be obtained to install it and will keep him updated on this.

8.1 Update and discussion on War Memorial – The fencing for the War Memorial is being made at the moment and it is hopeful that it will be installed by the time the Remembrance Day service takes place on Sunday 10th November.

Cllr Osman will sort out the light which is broken in time for the service too.

8.2 To discuss Grant request for Catshill Village Hall – It was agreed to grant £2500 to the Village Hall, which was requested to enable them to install a monitored alarm system and repair the kitchen door lock and the roller shutter to the main door.

24/10-09 Finance

9.1 The payments and receipts report to 16/10/2024 was received and noted.

The council’s accounts spreadsheet and half yearly budget up to Oct 2024 was circulated.

An excerpt from the council’s budget up to Oct had been sent along with the bank reconciliation to 16/10/2024, it is as follows:

Bank Reconciliation as at 16/10/2023			
Opening Cash Book balance		£105,931.00	
Add receipts between 1 April - 16 Oct 2024	31,879.75		
Less payments between 1 April - 16 Oct 2024	-45,855.92		
Cashbook balance at 16 Oct 2024		£91,954.83	A
Bank statements at 16 Oct 2024			
Unity Trust Bank	100,610.92		
Soldo account balance before closure	14.60		
Less unrepresented cheques, as list below	£8,670.69		
Bank balances at 16 Oct 2024		£91,954.83	B

9.2 Quote for Internal Audit for 24/25 The clerk reported that a quote had been received from an Internal Auditor to audit this financial year’s accounts at a cost of £200. It was agreed that another couple of quotes be sourced by the clerk to ensure value for money.

9.3 Budget Figures for 25/26 to be discussed (document sent) - Cllr Osman talked through the budget figures, which were sent to all members, for 25/26 and **it was agreed** that they would be accepted. There will be a slight increase to the precept to £51735 which equates to a yearly 40 pence increase for each Band D property in the area.

9.4 Ivy Cottage Garden work and winter flowers to be discussed – It was agreed that the winter flowers will not be purchased this year, work needs to be completed to refurb this area with a retaining brick wall which Cllr Osman will source. Cllr Osman has agreed to install a weed membrane on the site. He will draft an article which will be sent to Cllr Masters to put on social media to inform residents what is happening and the reason the winter flowers will not be installed this year as normal.

24/10-10 **Items for Discussion**

10.1 Dock Garden update – Cllr Osman agreed to remove the stones from the area and will then request quotes for the work to be carried out and will report back to this meeting.

10.2 Events Update and Discussion – The Clerk will update all on what was agreed in the January meeting as to what the Parish Council is paying for regarding future events. Cllr Osman to send details as he attended the January Events meeting.

24/10-11 **Committee and Representatives Report**

11.1 News Magazine – Cllr Masters thanked all Councillors who helped deliver the magazines, the next edition will be in the Spring.

11.2 Junior Councillors - Cllr Pagett reported that the next meeting with the Junior Councillors is booked for 13th November.

Meeting finished @ 21:00

24/09-12

**Date and time of next meeting: Full Parish Meeting 28th November
at the Village Hall @ 19:00**

Excerpt from September Spreadsheet

Sep-24		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

RECEIPTS to date 16/10/2023	Agreed budget 2023/2024	Budget summary	Actual as at 16/10/2023
Precept	50805	50,805	25,402.50
Interest	0	-	
Lengthsman reimbursement	3000	3,000	1,097.25
Donations / grants	0	-	5,380.00
Newsletter advertising	0	-	
VAT Refund	3300	3,300	
Other income	0	-	-
Capital Reserve Fund	30000	30,000	
Total receipts	87,105	87,105	31,879.75
PAYMENTS to date 16/10/2024			
Staff Costs	20,000	20,000	7,838.66
Administration	5,200	5,200	1,335.39
CALC	3,000	3,000	1,494.32
Auditor Fees	500	500	505.00
Training	500	500	-
Insurance	1,500	1,500	1,195.02
Chairman's Allowance	450	450	-
Elections / by-elections	-	-	-
Grants/Donations	10,000	10,000	8,501.46
Events	11,200	11,200	3,399.25
Communications	4,000	4,000	2,635.00
Gardens	6,000	6,000	2,260.33
War Memorial	250	250	186.78
Lengthsman	3,500	3,500	1,562.30
Environment	4,000	4,000	1,751.90
Neighbourhood Plan	250	250	-
Capital Projects	13,355	13,355	9,652.21
S.137	100	100	-
VAT	3,300	3,300	
Payments: Revenue Budget	87,105	87,105	42,317.62
VAT paid		-	3,538.30
Total payments	87,105	87,105	45,855.92