



MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING
Held at Catshill Village Hall THURSDAY
28th November 2024, 7.00pm @

Present: Cllrs B McEldowney, B Laniosh (Chair),
T Gillespie, P Masters, B Pagett, J Parry

In attendance: Clerk – Carol Blake

Apologies Cllr Osman and Cllr Burgess

Members not present:

All minutes are draft until approved at the next meeting

24/11-01 Vice- Chairman's welcome

The Vice Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

24/11-02 To receive apologies from any Member unable to attend

Cllr Osman and Cllr Burgess sent their apologies

24/11-03 Open Forum

3.1 Members of the Public - Two members of the public attended. Kim Routley and Adam O'Hare, members of the Wildlife Group in Catshill and other wildlife initiative spaces in the area attended the meeting. The Lingfield Walk project was discussed and Kim said that she would be prepared to lead on the project and drive it forward on behalf of the Parish Council. This was agreed to but communication between both parties needs to be adhered to.

3.2 Worcs County Councillor for the Woodvale Division.

Cllr Webb sent a report in her absence which stated that whilst it was disappointing having to cancel the Christmas Lights switch on, Phil Love put together a virtual switch on which people enjoyed watching. The village hall looks beautiful inside and out, all credit to Phil and his team of volunteers.

Christmas lights – Cannot be ordered as WCC are currently putting a policy together on what can be attached to streetlamps. The infrastructures all need new timers, Cllr Webb is trying to get them replaced asap.

Mintec security – For any event of 200 and above, security is now required, this is following the Manchester Arena bombing a few years ago. A new law will come into force next year.

Fireworks – The Scouts and all volunteers worked hard, it worked well at the new location, only one resident complained. A feedback letter is currently being compiled to deliver to the residents of Lingfield Walk.

A couple of changes may be made to next year's event, and this will be explained in the letter.

Dog fouling complaints – The scouts will be working on putting up more dispensers around the village in the New Year. Cllr Parry and Cllr Pagett had a conversation with the school council, and they suggested posters designed by the children, they need to be mindful as to where they are placed, as permission needs to be sought to use the lampposts. Cllr Webb has also asked the Council to place more of their posters around the village asap.

Orchard planting will start on Thursday 12th December on the fields, if anyone is interested in helping it will start from 9am. Mulching and bulb planting will take place on the 13th and the schools will be helping.

3.3 Bromsgrove District Councillors for North Catshill, South Catshill and Marlbrook Wards Cllr McEldowney suggested raising the profile of certain residents in the area who deserve recognition of their work in the community and award them for their work. This could be included in the next Magazine to gauge reaction if it is felt to be a good initiative and not classed as divisive.

Cllr McEldowney asked Cllr Laniosh to organise a meeting with the Footpaths Group to thank them for their work throughout the year. This will take place at the Royal Oak as a gesture of their hard work and commitment.

Cllr McEldowney expressed his thanks to Cllr Masters and Phil Love and the other organisers for the virtual Christmas lights switch on event.

3.4 Any other community representative

24/11-04 Declarations of Interest

None received.

24/11-05 To re- open the meeting Parish Councillors and the Executive Officer may only speak from this point forward

24/11-06 Dispensations

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

24/11-07 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 31/10/2024. The Vice Chairman then duly signed the minutes.

24/10-08 Items for Discussion

8.1 Dock Garden update Cllr Osman is arranging quotes for the work which will take place in the Springtime.

8.2 Ivy Cottage Garden update – Cllr Osman is arranging quotes and will install a weed membrane at the site.

8.3 Lingfield Nature Walk See point 3.1 above.

8.4 Solar lights Oak Rd One of the solar light sensors was changed on 20th November and the Lengthsman has been asked to cut back the foliage around the middle light.

8.5 Update on War Memorial - Cllr Masters will contact Daren Lacey for an update and suggest to him to arrange cutting back the privet hedge around the memorial which will tidy up the area and showcase the original railings.

8.6 Christmas lights Cllr Parry has spoken to Hannah at MK Illuminations who was her contact for purchasing the lights last year. Cllr Parry informed her that one light was not working, Hannah is speaking to her team to work out the best plan. She will send a new part to try and if that does not work, she will arrange for it to be returned for testing.

Cllr Pagett reported that the children from the local school love the lights, and many had attended last year's Switch On. They would like to see more green/red lights, a Santa light, Santa on a Sleigh with reindeer, star shapes, lights around trees, blue string of lights draping like snow and tinsel around a lamppost. Cllr Webb suggested linking up with Phil Lacey and feedback the suggestions to him of more green and red lights plus a Santa light etc. If Phil does not have any of those specific lights the Parish Council would be happy to cover the cost of purchasing those additional lights.

8.7 Insurance renewal (document sent) It was suggested that the current War Memorial insurance of £75k is questioned to establish if this is deemed to be adequately covered. The Clerk will sort this out and feedback.

The Chatty Benches also need to be added to the insurance policy to ensure they are covered.

8.8 Government Community Match Funded Defibrillator Scheme - Cllr

Laniosh produced a map of defibrillators in the area which was passed around the members. Cllr Parry agreed to have a walk on Stourbridge Rd to establish if a defib is located near The Plough public house as this would be an ideal location for one to be fitted if not.

8.9 Dog Fouling Issues There have been complaints about dog fouling issues on Oak Rd and Barley Mow Lane. See point 3.2 and 10.2

24/11-09 Finance

9.1 The payments and receipts report to 12/11/2024 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 12/11/2024, it is as follows:

| Bank Reconciliation as at 12/11/2024 | | | |
|---|------------|-------------|---|
| Opening Cash Book balance | | £105,931.00 | |
| Add receipts between 1 April - 12 Nov 2024 | 32,014.50 | | |
| Less payments between 1 April - 12 Nov 2024 | -57,749.85 | | |
| Cashbook balance at 12 Nov 2024 | | £80,195.65 | A |
| Bank statements at 12 Nov 2024 | | | |
| Unity Trust Bank | 87,735.7 | | |
| Equals Money Card | 70.00 | | |
| Less unpresented cheques, as list below | £7,610.13 | | |
| Bank balances at 12 Nov 2024 | | £80,195.65 | B |

9.2 Quote for Internal Audit for 24/25 - It was agreed that Maxine Warr would be asked to carry out this financial year's internal audit at a cost of £200 after other quotes had been sourced and were all higher charges.

24/11-10 Committee and Representatives Report

10.1 Footpaths Group – Cllr Laniosh - November meeting of the group was cancelled due to bad weather. Since then Millenium Way by Little Barnsley

Farm has been cleared. A blocked path has been reported. Footpaths Group will meet again on 17th December in the Royal Oak.

10.2 Junior Councillors - Cllr Pagett reported that the children discussed the dog poo issues in the area, they agreed to design a poster to be distributed in the area and uploaded onto social media to highlight the issues that this problem can cause.

Cllr Pagett and Cllr Parry will refurbish and paint the planters outside the Schools. A timetable will be set up with the schools so that new flowers that will be planted for the Spring will be watered on a regular basis.

It was agreed that Kim and Adam, from the Catshill Wildlife Group will be guest speakers at the next meeting to be held in March 2025.

10.3 News Magazine – Cllr Masters reminded Councillors that the next news magazine will be in the Spring and any pictures that need to be included to be sent through to himself and the Clerk.

Cllr McEldowney was thanked for delivering the bulk of the news magazines in Oct/Nov.

Meeting finished @ 20.28

24/11-11

Date and time of next meeting: Full Parish Meeting 30th January 2025 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 |