



MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING
Held at Catshill Village Hall THURSDAY
30th January 2025, 7.00pm @ 19:00

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

In attendance: Clerk – Carol Blake

Apologies Cllr Osman

Members not present: Cllr Burgess

All minutes are draft until approved at the next meeting

25/01-01 Chairman's welcome

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

25/01-02 To receive apologies from any Member unable to attend

Cllr Osman sent his apologies

25/01-03 To receive and discuss any co-option requests

Adam O'Hare's co-option form was received, and Adam was unanimously voted to join the Parish Council.

25/01-04 Open Forum

4.1 Members of the Public - Two members from The Meadows Committee and one member of the public were in attendance to observe the meeting.

4.2 Worcs County Councillor for the Woodvale Division.

No report received.

4.3 Bromsgrove District Councillors for North Catshill, South Catshill and Marlbrook Wards – Cllr McEldowney reported that he has received some complaints regarding the following issues:

- The poor state of the house and on-going building work at 14 Wildmoor Lane have been raised, the plastic and wooden fencing surrounding the front of the house had blown down in the gales obstructing the footpath for pedestrians. Cllr McEldowney will be contacting Worcestershire Regulatory Services who have taken ownership of this issue to raise concerns of the danger to pedestrians.
- A wall at 286 and 286A Stourbridge Rd collapsed in the storms and was reported and is currently being rebuilt
- Speed issues on Wildmoor Lane and Cobnall Road and vans parking on the junction making visibility impossible for drivers and pedestrians.

Cllr McEldowney updated members on the possible creation of a unitary council. The government want to create one super Unitary Council that will combine the work of WCC and the 6 District Councils. No final decisions have been made yet, part of the Local Government reforms envisage Parish Councils taking on more powers if this does happen.

4.4 Any other community representative

25/01-05 Declarations of Interest

None received.

25/01-06 To re- open the meeting Parish Councillors and the Executive Officer may only speak from this point forward

25/01-07 Dispensations

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

25/01-08 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 28/11/2024. The Chairman then duly signed the minutes.

25/01-09 Chairmans Address

The Chairman reported that Councillor Webb is progressing the possible installation of a community garden at Bracken Grove which was discussed many years ago. The young people from the games hub and scouts will be involved in the project when funding is secured.

Concerns have been raised about road safety on Meadow Rd and Gibb Lane, a speed watch campaign is currently being set up to gauge speed limits. Cllr Webb contacted the county highways team requesting a 20-mph speed restriction, at the time the assessment was done she was informed that it was not necessary particularly during school drop off and pick up times.

A resident raised an issue that due to a lot of leaves and debris on the footpath from the Miu Miu up to the hotel entrance it is very slippery, there is a concern that if somebody slips, they could end up in the road causing serious injury as the road is so busy. This has been reported and will be dealt with by the Highways team.

An online Neighbourhood Plan meeting was held this week to discuss reviewing the current online neighbourhood plan.

It was agreed to invite Paul Crysell to the February meeting for a discussion to highlight issues and the way forward. Paul has planning expertise and is aware of current legislation and regulations that the Parish Council may need to adopt and be mindful of.

The chairman mentioned that he had attended a meeting that discussed the use of Artificial Intelligence which the Parish Council will need to be mindful about using in the future to help with some processes. Several Parish Councillors use AI in their current full-time roles and would be able to help with any training in the future.

25/01-10 Items for Discussion

10.1 BluWave Grant request - More information will be requested by the Clerk as to whether, if the BluWave project does not obtain the full costing of the project which is £32271, whether the Parish Council will be refunded their grant funding cost if agreed to.

10.2 Dock Garden and Ivy Cottage Garden update It was deemed that the 3 quotes obtained for the Ivy Cottage Garden work were too high for residents to be approving of.

This item will be discussed further in next month's meeting as Cllr Osman was not in attendance at this meeting.

10.3 Litter Picking - The Clerk will remind the Parish Council litter picker to send her timesheet before payment is made to her.

Cllr Laniosh has asked for volunteers to help with regular litter picks in the area and is awaiting any responses.

10.4 Update on War Memorial and Insurance Renewal – The Clerk reported that the Parish Council's insurance has refunded an amount of £335.87. The Clerk will contact West Mercia Police to request details of the driver's insurance company so that a claim can be pursued for the full cost of the damage to the War Memorial area which amounts to over £5000.

Cllr Gillespie was provided with the insurance renewal details and will review them and respond to the Clerk as to what items need to be included or removed for this year's insurance to be deemed appropriate.

9.5 Christmas lights timers – **It was agreed** that the Clerk would contact Cllr Webb to confirm whether the new timers required will be funded by Worcestershire County Council.

9.6 Government Community Match Funded Defibrillator Scheme – No update as Cllr Parry had left the meeting.

25/01-11 Finance

11.1 The payments and receipts report to 02/01/2025 was received and noted.

The council’s accounts spreadsheet was circulated.

An excerpt from the council’s budget up to January had been sent along with the bank reconciliation to 02/01/2025, it is as follows:

Bank Reconciliation as at 02/01/2025			
Opening Cash Book balance		£105,931.00	
Add receipts between 1 April - 02 Jan 2025	37,782.50		
Less payments between 1 April - 02 Jan 2025	-68,077.94		
Cashbook balance at 02 Jan 2025		£75,635.56	A
Bank statements at 18 Jan 2024			
Unity Trust Bank	77,450.07		
Equals Money Card	27.75		
Less unrepresented items, as list below	1,842.26		
Bank balances at 02 Jan 2025		£75,635.56	B

11.2 To discuss quote from Plantscape for Summer Planters - It was agreed to accept the quote from Plantscape for the Summer plants under the Catshill sign boxes.

11.3 To review Asset Register - It was agreed to accept the Asset register as a true and fair assessment of the Parish Council’s current assets.

11.4 To review Risk Assessment policy - It was agreed to accept the risk assessment policy as a fair assessment of the current risks to the Parish Council.

11.5 To review Financial Regulations policy - It was agreed to accept the financial regulations policy as a true and fair assessment of the Parish Council’s regulations.

11.6 To review Internal Financial Controls - It was agreed to accept the Internal Financial controls as a true and fair assessment of the controls followed by the Parish Council.

25/01-12 Committee and Representatives Report

12.1 Footpaths Group – Cllr Laniosh – Since the last meeting a kissing gate has been installed at Monarchs Way, Crown Hill Meadow has been cleared and the steps at Christ Church cemetery are due to be cleared and wooden steps installed.

12.2 Junior Councillors - Cllr Pagett reported that a meeting has been arranged with Catshill First School for 10th February to discuss a rota with the children to plant bulbs and water them in the warmer weather.

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

Meeting finished @ 20.45

25/01-13

**Date and time of next meeting: Full Parish Meeting 27th February 2025
at the Village Hall @ 19:00**

Excerpt from January Spreadsheet

Jan-25			Description	Receipts	Payments Gross	Payments VAT	Payments Net
Equals Card Microsoft monthly fee	Equals	v157	Monthly fee		7.99		7.99
Amazon Stamps			Stamps		19.98		19.98
CC Cleaner for laptop			CC Cleaner for laptop		14.28		14.28
Equals Card Top up	BACS	v158	Top up Dec 24		30.00		30.00
Phil Lacey	BACS	V159	Biscuits for Christmas meal event		381.75		381.75
Cllr Brett Laniosh	BACS	V160	Footpath work party group refreshments		80.00		80.00
O2	d/d	v161	office mobile		18.79	3.13	15.66
JRB Enterprise Ltd	BACS	v162	Dog waste bags		325.20	54.20	271.00
Water Plus	d/d	v163	Water Ivy Cottage Gardens		7.77		7.77
VAT Refund HMRC		r10	VAT Refund HMRC	5,300.25			
Worcestershire County Council		R11	Lengthsman Refund Oct 2024	131.00			-
Dave Webb	BACS	V164	Newsletters 2024		150.00		150.00
Talk Talk	d/d	v165	Office phone and broadband - Dec 2024		52.95		52.95
Unity Trust Bank	d/d	v166	Monthly Bank charge		6.00	-	6.00
Salaries	S/O	V167-169	Jan-25		1,087.86		1,087.86
KOS	D/D	V170	Standard warranty and standard copy charge		33.60	5.60	28.00
Chris Cooke	BACS	V171	Lengthsman Nov 24		199.20	33.20	166.00
				5,431.25	2,373.12	96.13	2,276.99
			Total for year to 31/03/2025	37,782.50	68,077.94	5,089.91	62,988.03