



MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL  
MEETING  
Held at Catshill Village Hall THURSDAY  
27th February 2025, 7.00pm @ 19:00

**Present:** Cllrs B McEldowney (Chair), B Laniosh,  
T Gillespie, P Masters, B Pagett, S Osman, A O'Hare

**In attendance:** Clerk – Carol Blake

**Apologies** Cllr Parry

**Members not present:** Cllr Burgess

**All minutes are draft until approved at the next meeting**

**25/02-01 Chairman's welcome**

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

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

Cllr Parry sent apologies

**25/02-03 To receive and discuss any co-option requests**

Megan Pagett's co-option form was received, and Megan was unanimously voted to join the Parish Council.

**25/02-04 Open Forum**

**4.1 Members of the Public –**

Several residents including Steve and Gillian Lodder, Colin and Barbara Avern, Judith and Terence Hawley and Peter Jeffries who live either on Meadow Rd or Brookside Close attended the meeting to discuss the Planning Application request that has been sent to BDC for a separate dwelling to be built in the back garden of 21 Meadow Rd. A discussion took place regarding the major impacts on their properties if this application goes ahead. The Parish Council agreed with the residents and will be officially objecting to the planning request on behalf of the residents.

**4.2 Worcs County Councillor for the Woodvale Division.**

Cllr Webb reported that the May elections are to go ahead. Devolution is still being discussed and updates will be provided on a regular basis.

There is an open day at the Orchard on 21<sup>st</sup> May from 11:00 everybody is welcome.

**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:

- Fly tipping at Cobnall Road which was reported and has since been removed.
- A parking complaint on Woodrow Lane, a resident sent photos of a van that persistently parks on the pavement obstructing access for pedestrians.
- Braces Lane Recreation Ground – youths were seen cutting down trees and hedging which may be on private land but needs to be checked. An area of ground has also been cleared and some sort of structure is being built.  
Cllr Webb reported that youths are building a bridge over the stream to gain access to the recreation ground which is constantly being removed. It was reported to Fiona McIntosh who works for North West Water Management as they maintain the brooks.
- An anonymous letter was received stating that there were illegal businesses being run from two dwellings on Cobnall Rd the resident is also concerned about the number of illegally parked cars on the road. This has been reported.

**4.4 Any other community representative** Phil Lacey attended the meeting and reported on last year’s fireworks event and stated that all comments that had been received after the event were very positive.

There is a meeting booked for the Events Committee in March and all events for the year will be discussed and planned including a VE Day celebration which is planned for 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> May.

**25/02-05 Declarations of Interest**

None received.

**25/02-06 To re- open the meeting** Parish Councillors and the Executive Officer may only speak from this point forward

**25/02-07 Dispensations**

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

**25/02-08 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 30/01/2025. The Chairman then duly signed the minutes.

## 25/02-09 Chairmans Address

Cllr McEldowney had sent documents to Parish Councillors relating to the planning application ahead of this meeting.

The Council discussed the Planning Application for 21 Meadow Road Catshill (25/00073/PIP). Several residents from Meadow Road and Brookside Drive Catshill, attended the meeting, and made verbal representations opposing the planning application for the erection of a residential dwelling at the rear of 21 Meadow Road, Catshill.

A comprehensive discussion took place whereby the Neighbourhood Plan, which now forms part of the statutory development plan for determining planning applications in the neighbourhood area of Catshill and North Marlbrook Parish was referred to.

After much discussion, all members of the parish council present at the meeting voted to oppose this planning application. The grounds for objecting to the application are as follows:

- The proposed rear garden development would be out of character and keeping with the surrounding houses and gardens.
- The proposed dwelling will have a detrimental impact on the privacy of occupants of adjacent dwellings, especially in Brookside Drive.
- Meadow Road experiences high volumes of vehicular traffic, and 21 Meadow Road is located opposite two schools, Chadsgrove Special Education School and Catshill Middle School. There is also a Beauty Salon situated nearby. In addition to regular problems of speeding on Meadow Road, compounded by the presence of a bend in the road, near to 21 Meadow Road, and regular multiple parking on the roadway, residents of Meadow Road near to 21, have explained how difficult it currently is to access their driveways, due to the identified problems, and feel that the addition of a further dwelling will simply compound these problems.
- Loss of sunlight for nearby residents in Brookside Drive.
- The development would lead to the removal of a considerable number of trees and shrubs to the detriment of the wildlife in the area.
- Some residents have reported ongoing flooding related problems. The building of this rear garden development will almost certainly compound those flooding problems, by putting more pressure on already overwhelmed drains.

## 25/02-10 Items for Discussion

**10.1 Neighbourhood Plan** - Paul Crysell attended the meeting to discuss the Neighbourhood Plan, he stated that the current plan needs to be reviewed and should be reviewed on an annual basis as part of statutory requirements.

The Neighbourhood Plan is a very influential document and needs to be referred to by the District Council when they are looking at planning developments in the area.

The new government has a target to build 1.5 million houses over the next 5 years. To enable this to happen, the government has changed the planning laws, which will make it easier to build on the green belt. They have also changed the housing targets for Local Authorities. Bromsgrove District Council (BDC) has had its original annual house building target raised to 713 homes, an 84.7% increase on the previous target.

Paul intimated that our current Neighbourhood Plan now urgently needed to be reviewed, to take into account the recent changes in the National Planning Policy Framework, the new housing targets for BDC, and the fact that the BDC Local Development Plan was currently being reviewed.

**10.2 Dock Garden and Ivy Cottage Garden update** Cllr Osman will contact the previous parties to request a quote on having a retaining wall built at the Dock Garden and a price for replacing the timber at the Ivy Cottage Garden and installing an irrigation system

**10.3 Litter Picking update – Cllr Laniosh** updated that the timesheet from the Parish Council litter picker has been received for February and volunteers to help with future litter picking have been requested.

**10.4 Dog waste bags –** The clerk reported that the annual cost for the dog waste bags is approx. £2988.

Cllr Laniosh suggested that cheaper options should be sought, the Clerk reported that the waste bins would also need to be replaced if this was the case, they are approx. £100 each and there are 7 that the Parish Council have purchased due to residents complaining about the issue of dog waste in the areas that the bins have been placed.

**10.5 Update on insurance renewal items - Cllr Gillespie** asked for a meeting of the Finance Committee to be arranged to discuss the renewal items in more detail, Cllr Osman will book a meeting for 13<sup>th</sup> March and will chair the meeting as the Clerk is on annual leave.

**10.6 Christmas light timers update – Cllr Osman** has obtained the serial numbers from the Christmas lights that were purchased last year and the company have been informed of the issue and will send Cllr Parry a gadget to test the ones that are not working.

**10.7 BluWave Grant request** - More information was obtained and it was agreed to fund the BluWave project £500 that was requested, once BACS details have been received from BluWave.

**10.8 Anti-Social and dangerous youths on mopeds and rally/scrambler bikes**  
Mainly disturbances late afternoons and early evening, driving dangerously on roads Barley Mow, Milton Road, Byron Way and also Spencer Walk, plus driving on pathways, walkways / Millennium Way Cycle Path and across Milton Road Fields and the Play Areas. They have been reported to Police via 101 and complaints all over Facebook.

**10.9 Trashing of the cycle path suspected youths** - causing obstructions with large branches and some logs across the pathways (towards the end on the way to Stourbridge Road)

**10.10 Catshill Wildlife** - are to consider the Community Nature Conservation at Lingfield Walk

**10.11 Skylark Awareness Signposts** - Catshill Wildlife with Catshill In Bloom will be putting up signs in place around Milton Road Fields at the beginning of March.

## **25/02-11 Finance**

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

The council's accounts spreadsheet was circulated.

An excerpt from the council's budget up to 2/2/2025 had been sent along with the bank reconciliation to 02/02/2025, it is as follows:

Bank Reconciliation as at 02/02/2025			
Opening Cash Book balance		£105,931.00	
Add receipts between 1 April - 02 Feb 2025	38,284.37		
Less payments between 1 April - 02 Feb 2025	-72,187.95		
Cashbook balance at 02 Feb 2025		£72,027.42	A
Bank statements at 02 Feb 2025			
Unity Trust Bank	75,927.20		
Equals Money Card	27.75		
Less unrepresented items, as list below	3,927.53		
Bank balances at 02 Feb 2025		£72,027.42	B

**11.2 To discuss using Scribe Finance packages for 25/26 accounts** The clerk reported that she had received some information on using Scribe to help streamline the Finances of the Parish Council at an initial cost of £299 and after that at a cost of £37 per month. It was felt that the cost was too high and other quotes from other Finance packages should be sought to compare prices and advantages to the Parish Council.

**11.3 To ratify purchase of home printer** - The clerk reported that a printer has been purchased at a cost of £229.42 as the previous one broke down, this purchase was ratified by all Parish Councillors present.

### Committee and Representatives Report

25/01-12

**12.1 Footpaths Group – Cllr Laniosh** – Since the last meeting the steps at Christ Church cemetery have been cleared and wooden steps installed and Woodrow Lane has been cleared parallel to the A38.

**12.2 Junior Councillors** - Cllr Pagett reported that a meeting due to take place on 10<sup>th</sup> February was cancelled and has been rebooked for the 17<sup>th</sup> March.

**12.3 News Magazine – Cllr Masters** reminded Councillors that the next news magazine will be in March and any reports and pictures that need to be included to be sent through to himself and the Clerk. The clerk reminded all that she is on annual from 10<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> March

**Meeting finished @ 21.45**

25/02-13

**Date and time of next meeting: Full Parish Meeting 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025  
at the Village Hall @ 19:00**

## Excerpt from February Spreadsheet

<b>Feb-25</b>		<b>Description</b>	<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Payments Gross</b>	<b>Payments VAT</b>	<b>Payments Net</b>
Zurich Insurance receipt for car crash	R12	Receipt from insurance co	335.87			
JRB Enterprise Ltd	v172	Dog waste bags		325.20	54.20	271.00
Worcestershire County Council	R13	Lengthsman Refund Nov 2024	166.00			-
February Salaries	v173-174	LP Salary Feb 2025		1,063.86		1,063.86
Mrs C Blake	v175	Working from Home Allowance		24.00		24.00
EON	v176	Electricity at War Memorial		96.72	4.61	92.11
Waterplus	v177	water at Ivy Cottage Gardens		8.02		8.02
Talk Talk	v178	Office phone and broadband - Jan 2025		52.95		52.95
O2	v179	office mobile		18.79	3.13	15.66
Unity Trust Bank	v180	Monthly Bank charge		6.00	-	6.00
Shaw Loos	V181	Toilet Hire for Bonfire Event 24		960.00	160.00	800.00
Mrs C Blake	v182	Replacement of broken home printer		229.42		229.42
Equals Money Card	V183	Top up on debit card		30.00		30.00
HMRC	v184	Month 9 PAYE & NI		253.82		253.82
HMRC	v185	Month 10 PAYE & NI		254.02		254.02
HMRC	v186	Month 11 PAYE & NI		254.02		254.02
Chris Cooke	v187	Lengthsman work for Dec 2024		253.50	42.25	211.25
Chris Cooke	v188	Lengthsman work for Jan 2025		270.30	45.05	225.25
Jane Hallett	V189	Mileage and refuse sacks		9.39		9.39
			501.87	4,110.01	309.24	3,800.77
		<b>Total for year to 31/03/2025</b>	<b>38,284.37</b>	<b>72,187.95</b>	<b>5,399.15</b>	<b>66,788.80</b>