



MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held at CATSHILL VILLAGE HALL

GOLDEN CROSS LANE, CATSHILL, B61 0JZ

THURSDAY 26th MARCH 2015, 7.30pm

Present : Parish Councillors, G Witcomb – Chairman, P Baker, M Ball, J Bate, J Gray, S Haynes, B McEldowney, P Masters, M Shepheard*, O Sweeting, S Webb

In attendance: District Councillors Dr B Cooper, J Ruck
Three members of the public
Clerk - Gill Lungley

15/03-01 Chairman's welcome – the Chairman welcomed all to the meeting

15/03-02 Members' Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs F Cook - vice-Chairman, G Blackmoor
Cllr M Shepheard apologised for late arrival, and arrived after minute no. 15/03-03

15/03-03 Open Forum

- a) No members of the public wished to speak at this point in the meeting
- b) **County Councillor for Woodvale division**, Sheila Blagg, had sent apologies for non attendance and provided an update relating to matters of note including are that the County Council has set a balanced budget; the Government funding settlement had left a funding gap which WCC has bridged; Councillor allowances are frozen for the seventh year running; a council tax precept of 1.94% is being set which will offer a £4million increase of funding into the base budget; Children's Services is overspent by a considerable sum again this year; capital investment includes set-aside to develop a scheme around the A38 Bromsgrove. The savings pie chart shows the percentage funding taken from each directorate. The Adult Social Care budget has benefitted from substantial additional funds from the Public Health ring-fenced grant and the Better Care Fund.
- c) **District Councillors:**
Coun John Ruck, Marlbrook ward, commented as follows:
 - i) With regard to the planning application for the Ivy Cottage ph (application no. 15/0114, considered later in the meeting) would have no objection to the proposals.
 - ii) With regard to his workload as Civic Leader, Coun Ruck detailed his visits over the last month and some of the events yet to take place.Coun Dr Brian Cooper, Marlbrook ward, commented as follows:
 - i) The council is moving into the purdah period; elections are due on 7th May.
 - ii) Members are aware of the revised plans for the Ivy Cottage.
 - iii) Footpath between Cottage Lane - Braces Lane rec. had been cleared but remains muddy. Neither member for the District Council's Catshill ward had responded to the invitation to attend this meeting.
- d) No other community representative was present

A member of the public took the opportunity to speak about the revised planning application for the Ivy Cottage site (15/0114). As the owner of the site he was aware that the revised application had excited far less public concern and that the near neighbour was happier that the proposed extension would not exceed single storey. Additionally parking space for customers was separate from residents' parking and the layout would prevent the site being used as a 'rat-run'.

The district councillors and two members of the public left the meeting.
Cllr M Shepheard arrived.

15/03-04 The meeting was re-opened.

15/03-05 Declarations of Interest No member declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest.

15/03-06 Dispensations No member had applied for a dispensation.

15/03-07 Approval of Minutes of previous council meeting

It was agreed to accept the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 26/02/2015 and they were duly signed by the Chairman.

15/03-08 Members' Questions

(1) Cllr P Baker: Had there been any response to questions about traffic flow at M5 junction 4? In response it was agreed the Clerk would approach the Highways Agency regarding the current delays to south-bound traffic exiting M5 at junction 4.

(2) Cllr P Baker: Could he present a report on the proposed Perryfields Lane development? In response the Chairman agreed to include this item at minute no. 15/03-11c.8 below.

15/03-09 Chairman's Report No report this month.

15/03-10 Clerk's Report: Emergency Actions, Update and List of Communications

- a) Concerns raised at the last meeting regarding land off Stourbridge Road had been reported to WCC, whose response was that this land did not fall within their area of influence.
- b) National Clear Up day 21/03/2015 notified (late) as per DCLG and DEFRA
- c) Community First Neighbourhood Planning Workshop, notified late via WorcsCALC 24/03/2015
- d) Nomination forms for the Parish Council elections, 07/05/2015, now available and completed forms to be returned by 4pm 9th April.
- e) Relevant correspondence available from the Clerk: includes weekly CALC updates Mar 2015; Catshill Green Deal for Communities scheme; weekly updates from BDC Planning lists, WCC County-wide road works lists, Police & Crime Commissioner.
- f) Items carried forward: Dedication stone for Diamond Jubilee Garden, Community Speed Watch, New Homes bonus.

15/03-11 Committee and Representative Reports

11a) **Environment & Highways Committee** meeting held 05/03/2015; Cllr M Shephard.

i) **Bus Shelter** –

It was agreed to replace the bus shelter sited A38 near to Golden Cross Lane cross roads at a cost not exceeding £4,150 net. Delegated authority was granted to the Clerk to liaise with BDC and WCC, negotiate on price and arrange the purchase and installation.

ii) **Gardens** –

The previous contractor (Birmingham City Council) is to be asked to plant out the Ivy Cottage annual bed and members are aware the watering schedule is to be addressed. The shrubs near the Golden Cross Lane roadside are to be cut back so as not to obstruct sight-lines and the shrubs at the garden on A38/Barley Mow Lane are to be checked for growth/suitability.

iii) **Footpath** –

It was agreed to not contest the status quo of the permissive footpath that exists to the south of the North Bromsgrove cemetery on the grounds that to do so may see the withdrawal of this well-used facility altogether.

11b) **Planning Committee** meeting held 12/03/2015, draft minutes noted.

11c) **Any other report:-**

11c.1 Newsletter – Cllr P Masters: The Spring 2015 issue had been printed; distribution via volunteers was ongoing. The next issue would be post-election and therefore likely to include an "introduction to the councillors".

11c.2 Marlbrook Tip – Cllr B McEldowney; nothing new to report.

11c.3 NWWA (Catshill Meadow) – Cllr G Blackmoor not present.

11c.4 Catshill Village Hall - Cllr G Blackmoor not present but as members of the management committee Cllr O Sweeting confirmed the flat roof had been repaired and a new Jubilee clock was to be installed on the front of the building to replace the damaged clock.

11c.5 Police Roadshow – Cllr B McEldowney: Sgt R Field of Bromsgrove Safer Neighbourhood Team had invited parish councils to talk about the setting up of a mobile police station which would attend parishes and villages on event days eg fetes and asked to be notified of dates. He also spoke of a scheme to address school parking issues, ‘Operation Protect’ targeting cross-border criminality and anti-social behaviour and funding to support sites that may be at risk of incursion by travellers.

11c.6 Bromsgrove Area CALC – Cllr G Witcomb: members had received a presentation on Smart Water via the Community Safety Partnership.

11c.7 SLCC Conference – the Clerk reported on an informative conference that included seminars on Local Council Award Scheme, working with the media, and preparing for change.

11c.8 Proposed Perryfields development – Cllr P Baker: members agreed that without radical improvements to the local transport network, the impact of the development on the roads through and around Catshill would be difficult to accommodate. The Clerk was instructed to write to the Local Planning Authority with this council’s concerns that the proposed draft transport plan down-plays the impact on Catshill and surrounding areas.

15/03-12 Planning Consultation

12.1 The following application was considered:-

Log no.	App. No.	Address	Proposal
628	15/0114	Ivy Cottage , 30 Gibb Lane, Catshill	Proposed External Alterations, Extensions, Installation of ATM with Anti Ram Raid Bollards and Subdivision of Existing Flat to Two Units
<p>PC Comment: This revised application is seen as more acceptable than that previously approved. However, as there is no pavement alongside the north-west boundary, then pedestrians will be disadvantaged due to the current well-used footpath from the adjoining garden area being blocked off. The Parish Council asks for consideration to be given to pedestrian safety and for a pavement to be installed or accommodated along the western boundary. Support for road-safety measures here, such as a wide pavement and safer crossing for pedestrians, would be appreciated due to the close proximity of the Catshill First School and Nursery and therefore the high daily number of vulnerable pedestrians.</p> <p>Additional support to reduce ‘nuisance’ parking outside neighbouring properties would also be appreciated, ie customers are to be encouraged to use the on-site parking.</p>			

Cllr J Gray left the meeting.

12.2 Six new applications had been notified and a meeting of the Planning committee arranged for 02/04/2015.

15/03-13 Catshill War Memorial

The Terms of Reference for the War Memorial Working Party were agreed.

15/03-14 District Ward Members’ Fund / Council Tax Support Grant (CTSG)

Members noted the Clerk’s report on the CTSG (government money made available to parish councils via the Billing Authorities to make up for losses caused by the changes to the social security/benefits system) which had been circulated following confirmation by BDC that most of the fund due to this parish council had been spent by three of the four ward members without any consultation with, or comment to, the Parish Council.

15/03-15 Local Council Award Scheme

The Council’s interest in the scheme had been registered. It was suggested that progress on this would be taken up after the election and would include preparation of an Action Plan and a review of the council’s website.

15/03-16 Paper copies of agendas, minutes and reports

It was agreed to retain the status quo regarding receipt of paper copies for meetings, ie relevant documents would be provided in paper format for council and committee meetings.

15/03-17 Committee Membership

It was agreed that Cllr J Bate would join the Finance and Staffing Committee. As there are no other committee meetings before the elections on 7th May there was no need for any other appointments.

15/03-18 Financial Report

18a) 6th Bromsgrove Scout Group request for £1,400 grant to replace flooring. With the expectation that some fund-raising would be carried out by the Scout group to meet the costs –
 - **It was agreed** to provide grant funding of £1,000.

18b) External Auditor requires the Annual Return by 1st June 2015. The period for the public to exercise their right to inspect the books will run from 27th April 2015 and the independent internal auditor will carry out her audit in the meantime.

18c) Lengthsman Scheme contract. WCC are to continue the contract for 2015/16 on the same terms as for 2014/15, including total annual repayment of £2104.28.

- **It was agreed** to continue with the Lengthsman’s contract.

18d) Current Financial Status and bills for payment (below): report was circulated to members. Information relating to the financial year end, the Annual Return and Annual Governance Statement would be presented to the next parish council meeting.

15/03-19 Items for the next meeting None put forward

15/03-20 Date, time and venue of next meeting

The next Parish Council meeting is on 30th April 2015, 7.30pm at Catshill Village Hall
 NB The Annual Parish Meeting will be on 23rd April, 7pm at Catshill Village Hall.

This meeting ended at 21:32 hrs.

Signed Date.....
 Chairman of Catshill & North Marlbrook Parish Council

Minute no. 15/03-18d

Excerpt from accounts day-book to show payments and receipts for March 2015:

Date	Voucher reference no.			Details	Receipts	Gross	
	Payment	Receipt	Chq no.			Payments	VAT
Mar 15	133		online	GJH Electrical Services Ltd - Xmas lights		48.00	8.00
	134		300771	Lengthsman, Feb 2015		192.00	
	135		d/d	ee - office mobile phone, Mar 2015		21.20	3.53
	136		d/d	BT - office phone and broadband, March		39.73	6.62
	137		online	Heron Press - newsletter printing		395.00	
	138 & 139		s/o	Salaries		947.80	
	140		online	HMRC - PAYE and NI, final quarter 14/15		388.80	
	141		300772	Litter picking - expenses/salary balance		44.75	
	142		online	Administrator - salary balance		26.38	
	143		online	Petty cash (dog waste bags, printer inks)		222.14	37.02
				Subtotal for March		2325.80	55.17