

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING FOR CATSHILL AND NORTH MARLBROOK**  
**THURSDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> APRIL 2015, 7.00PM**  
**CATSHILL VILLAGE HALL, GOLDEN CROSS LANE, CATSHILL**

**Chairman's welcome** The Parish Council Chairman Cllr Gordon Witcomb welcomed all to the meeting.

**Present** As per attendance register inc. parish councillors Jill Bate, Frank Cook, Bernard McEldowney, Paul Masters, Malcolm Shephard, Owen Sweeting, Shirley Webb, Bromsgrove District ward member (Marlbrook) Coun John Ruck  
Worcestershire County ward member (Woodvale) Sheila Blagg  
Members of the public including Andrew Bate (CVH), Alan Kelly (RBL), Jayne Kings (RBL), Ian Prust (NWWA)

**In attendance** Gill Lungley, Clerk to the Parish Council

**Apologies** Apologies had been received from parish councillors Phil Baker, M Ball, Steve Haynes, District Councillor Brian Cooper, Pat Hackett (Christ Church), Vicky Stock (Blackwell Community Band)

**Minutes of previous Parish Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held 17<sup>th</sup> April 2014 were approved and signed.

**Chairman's Annual Report**

- This had been a fairly quiet year with several vacancies filled and the council now at full capacity;
- We have replaced the bus shelter in Gibb Lane which was then knocked down and replaced again.
- We are aware of concerns about parking in Golden Cross Lane, Catshill with fines being handed out to people using the Spar car park but not the shop.
- We are hopeful the flood alleviation scheme (balancing ponds off Sedgefield Close) will have cured the threat of any future flooding problems to residences in Green Lane. In the meantime there is a burst pipe near the play area off Lingfield Walk which Severn Trent Water are looking into.

**Reports from elected community representatives**

- **County Councillor Sheila Blagg** (Woodvale division), spoke of the provision of free parking along the front of Toby Inn (A38) to relieve problems of displaced parking in side roads due to car sharing. Various local groups had benefited via the Divisional Fund, including contributions to the canopy at Catshill Village Hall, a screen for Catshill WI, Catshill Brownies, Bromsgrove Scout Group, Catshill Football Club, Rendezvous Club Christmas meal and Catshill Methodist coffee shop. Further afield funds had been granted to the youth club, Bromsgrove Choral Society, care-home funding, the Blue Cross operating theatre, Artrix access for disabled visitors.
- **District Councillor John Ruck** (Marlbrook Ward), spoke of an interesting year as the civic head, attending at least 86 different functions during the year and encouraging better relations. Some funding has been granted to the Catshill Village Hall to help with the new canopy. Coun Ruck is to retire on 8<sup>th</sup> May and looks forward to a garden party at Buckingham Palace. The last ten years have been enjoyable and he has been able to sort out most things. Cllr Witcomb wished Coun Ruck well on his retirement.

## Reports from Community Groups

- **M & C Club** (Alan Kelly) – This facility was started by the parish council about six years ago as a friendship club on a Monday afternoon and now has regular attendance of 45 – 50 members. Meetings cover a range of talks from practical advice on healthy living to rearing alpacas and there are 4 – 5 coach trips during the year.
- **Royal British Legion** (Alan Kelly) – general membership has declined but the local branch (Lickey) has a new treasurer in Jayne Kings. The annual Poppy Awards are to be held this Saturday evening.
- **North West Ward Association/Catshill Meadow** (Ian Prust) – there have been some administration difficulties due to the death last year of Don Prust (Chairman) and the current illness of the treasurer. Committee members have discussed a Fun Day event but due to thin resources this will be in the format of Street Theatre on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> August, facilitated via Bromsgrove DC. Last year's Street Theatre event was well supported by the community. The new pavilion is now in situ, costing £86,000 it was funded via Sports England, Veolia and West Mercia Police and is available for community use.  
Two youth football teams use the field and there will be car-boot fund raising during the year. There are plans to sell refreshments from the pavilion on Sundays between 12 and 3pm and the management team is working with Worcestershire Wildlife Trust to enhance that part of Battlefield Brook that runs through the site. The management team recently met for their AGM and is now looking forward and may possibly apply for New Homes Bonus funding. The Parish Council is to be asked for help to assist with weed control.
- **Catshill Village Hall** (Owen Sweeting) – the committee is working well at the moment and a variety of projects has been completed including a new kitchen roof and the new canopy at the entrance to the rear/side door; the car park is now weed-free and the walls have been stripped of the ivy. The main roof needs attention and funding is to be sourced. Most funds are generated via functions, such as the Victory in Europe Day event to be held on 8<sup>th</sup> May. The hall is well used by a variety of groups and the management committee has a website with all contact and event information on it.
- **Jayne Kings** – thanked all for their help and support on flooding issues and asked for the shed that contains sandbags to stay in situ for another 12 months, whilst the alleviation scheme beds in.

There being no other business the Chairman thanked all present for attending and closed the meeting. The meeting closed at 19:45hrs.

Signed .....

Chairman, Parish Meeting  
Catshill and North Marlbrook

Date.....