

Environment & Highways Committee

Thursday 10th September 2015, 7.30pm
Catshill Village Hall, Golden Cross Lane, Catshill

Members Present: Cllrs M Shephard (Chair), G Blackmoor, B McEldowney, P Masters, S Webb, O Sweeting (Ex Officio)

In Attendance: Cllr M Knight, Clerk R Powell

1. Apologies for absence Cllr M Ball
2. Declarations of Interest None
3. To consider members' written requests for dispensation None requested
4. Adjournment of meeting for Public Question Time Not required
5. To reconvene to consider approval of minutes of meeting held 11/06/2015

The minutes of the meeting 11/06/2015 were approved and signed

6. 2016/17 Budget Plan

Budget requirement agreed as below:

Payments	Budget 15/16	Actual to date	Budget 16/17
Gardens (include water)	£3200	£743	£3200
War Memorial (includes electric)	£200	£125	£300
Lengthsman	£2400	£975	£2400
Environment eg: maintenance	£1200	£446	£1200 *

*To include renovation of bus shelter A38 towards Lydiate Ash

Discussions included instructions to the Clerk to investigate if cleaning bus shelters can come under the remit of the Lengthsman. In addition, it was agreed that organisation of the commemorative name stone for the Jubilee Garden be deferred and organised in conjunction with one for the new Baptist Church Garden and this be reflected in the budget.

7. Clerk's report

7.1 Reminder of the plans for the Balancing Pool – Communication had been made with Jackie Boreham (Parks and Green Spaces Recreation Manager for Bromsgrove) in July who suggested that Andy Bucklitch and the Place team who manage the area should also be involved. This was to discuss the tree planting on the Balancing Pool, in relation to its effect on wildflower areas and water management. However, as the trees did not need to be planted until Nov-Feb/March it was decided the meeting should be pushed back until September

so further contact is now due. The trees are to be obtained from the Woodland Trust Free Tree Programme. Successful applicants for autumn 2015 packs will be notified by the end of September 2015, with deliveries scheduled for the week of 2-6 November.

It was noted that further trees are being grown at Councillors houses and therefore an earlier meeting may be beneficial.

7.2 Baptist Church Garden, progress report – The contract has been signed and returned this week to Inderpal Singh (solicitor at Anthony Collins Solicitors LLP). He will then return a copy of the licence signed by the Church and the Baptist Union Corporation. A meeting with Russell Peach (Meadowfields Ground Maintenance), Cllr M Shepherd and Cllr O Sweeting is being arranged onsite to discuss the next step.

It was agreed that the Clerk organise both this and the Balance Pool Meeting for 22/09/15. Cllrs G Blackmoor, P Masters and S Webb are also interested in attending if possible.

7.3 Ivy Cottage – correspondence regarding pavement and fencing – The developer's partner had been in contact with the Clerk to inform of the intention to erect a fence along the boundary of the car park at the site of the new Co-op to prevent people walking through the spaces allocated for the two flats being built above. She voiced concern that as the block paved path will then lead to a dead end, the fence will become damaged/vandalised and wanted to inform the Parish Council to this end. In addition she felt Worcester Highways should be involved as the pavement that this will force the public to use disappears around the edge of the car park. The Clerk provided photographic evidence of the site in question. Members discussed the situation and **it was agreed** that the Clerk contact the developer and voice concerns regarding the reduced visibility the erection of the fence would cause, requesting the proposed height of the fence. In addition the Clerk should contact the Planning Department and re-iterate the concerns raised by the Parish Council in the comments regarding the original application. Cllr S Webb agreed to contact Worcester County Council with a request to Highways to level out the pavement and pursue the situation further. The Clerk would forward a copy of the photographic evidence for Cllr S Webb's use.

Cllr M Knight left the meeting at 8.20pm

7.4 New Homes Bonus Grant Response – The New Homes Bonus Grant Panel are recommending to the Cabinet that Catshill receive £3,500. The cabinet will meet on 7th October to discuss this and contact will be made shortly after with the decision.

7.5 Correspondence relating to the extended deadline of the Worcestershire Green Deal Communities Scheme - It was noted that residents now have until March 2016 to sign up with install September 2016.

7.6 Parishioner contact regarding the erection of an additional bus shelter – A

request has been made for the consideration of a bus shelter being erected opposite Catshill First School as per minute 15/07-11.4.

Members discussed the possibility and concluded that there were reservations about the site therefore no final decision could be made. Further discussions were had regarding the use of anti-graffiti shelters to alleviate further maintenance costs but were inconclusive. It was requested by the Chair that Councillors investigate current usage of bus shelters and consider where they may be needed. It was also suggested that an upcoming newsletter feature an article regarding bus shelters and in particular a request that parishioners suggest where might be the best site for additional shelters. This can then be analysed by the committee at a future meeting. It was agreed that the Clerk would correspond with the parishioner to this end.

In addition the Clerk noted actions from previous meetings Minutes:

15/06 – 7a. It is unclear as to whether the handrail has been erected to the footpath between A38 and Lingfield walk. Cllr M Shephard agreed to investigate further.

15/06 - 7f. The cemetery development. A request for plans for the new layout has been requested from Guy Revans (Head of Environmental Services at Bromsgrove). However at the time he stated that there was a new team within the department that deals with this and he would give them time to settle before requesting them. No further correspondence has been made.

15/06 - 7g. Parish place name signs: Members would like to replace the name plate on Stourbridge Road, renew and re-site on bridge wall the Wildmoor Lane sign, with new sites including Stourbridge Road M5 end, both ends A38. These first five would be installed in phases. The Clerk has sought advice as to how to progress with this and has been signposted to John Farrell, Clerk at Belbroughton Parish Council for assistance with this matter.

8. To note correspondence regarding Sandy Lane Quarry, draft minded to decision and scheduled drop in session.

Further developments in the situation with Sandy Lane Quarry were noted. The link to the decision notice had been circulated by the Clerk via email. The drop in session was to be held Thursday 10th September 2015 at Fairfield Village Hall between 15:30pm and 20:00pm in order to provide more insight into the permit process and answer any questions. The Clerk had posted relevant literature on the Parish Notice Boards.

9. To note the Legal Topic Note 56: The Provision of Play and Sports Equipment on Village Greens

It was noted that the above correspondence had been received and circulated to Members via email and post. The document re-iterates appropriate uses of Village Greens.

10. Items for future meetings

Consideration of a crossing to be installed near the Catshill First School, Gibb Lane

11. Date, time and venue of the next meeting

3rd December 2015, 7:30pm, Catshill Village Hall Committee Room

This meeting ended at 21:10.

Agreed as a true record of the
meeting held 10/09/2015

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Chairman, Environment & Highways Committee
Catshill and North Marlbrook Parish Council

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