

Environment & Highways Committee

Thursday 14th July 2016, 7.30pm

Catshill Village Hall, Golden Cross Lane, Catshill

Members Present: Cllrs G Blackmoor (Acting Chair), M Ball, G Blackmoor, P Masters, B McEldowney, O Sweeting

In Attendance: Clerk R Powell, Mr and Mrs Martin Wells, Ms Catherine Simcox, Mr and Mrs Jessop and Mr Lee Jessop

To Note: Cllr M Ball left the meeting at 20:30 hrs, Cllr P Masters left the meeting at 21:39 hrs

1. Apologies for absence Cllr M Shephard
2. Declarations of Interest None
3. To consider members' written requests for dispensation None requested
4. Adjournment of meeting for Public Question Time

4.1 Mr, Mrs Jessop and Mr Lee Jessop – The family reported difficulty trying to find somewhere safe for Lee, who is blind, to cross Barley Mow Lane following the opening of the new Co-op and the subsequent volume and speed of traffic that has developed. This issue is becoming heightened as his parents become older and he will be alone more. Mr Lee Jessop also discussed the difficulty he has in negotiating the Co-op car park using a stick. Members discussed with Mr Lee Jessop and family his request for the possibility of a crossing to be placed in vicinity. The family were informed that this had been investigated before but that funding was an issue, as was location due to the positioning of gardens and driveways and the shape of the road in the area.

It was agreed to walk the route that Mr Lee Jessop takes with him to be more aware of where the issues lie.

4.2 Mr Martin Wells – Mr Wells praised the balancing pools, stating that he felt that they had solved the flooding issues. He informed Members that there was a lot of wildlife in the areas including Wagtails and House martins. Mr Wells expressed concerns regarding the 105 trees that the Parish Council were looking to plant in the area and the fact it may limit the access for birds. His suggestion was to make it a wildlife area and possibly consult with the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust prior to moving forward.

Members informed Mr Wells that the trees would not be planted around the pools so access would not be restricted. The Clerk showed Mr Wells the area that the Parish Council are allowed to plant on and he was informed of the idea of creating a coppice. He was also informed of the content of the tree pack which is specifically designed to attract wildlife. Members discussed the possibility of creating a path in the area and adding wild flowers.

4.3 Ms Catherine Simcox – Ms Catherine Simcox attended the meeting representing the Chair of the NWWA in response to the Clerk contacting him in relation to the upcoming Tesco Bags Grant Funding. Ms Simcox presented some ideas they had for application to funding and informed the Committee of her intent to apply to County and the Co-op for different types of funding. It was emphasised that the NWWA is a Charity and needs to be promoted. Ms Simcox informed the committee of current events and projects on the Meadow, with an invitation to the Parish Council to have a stand at an upcoming event and a comment that the NWWA would welcome help in the future from the Parish Council.

Ms Simcox discussed the Annual Bonfire event with Committee Members with the suggestion of the NWWA taking over the running of it in future due to it being the largest event the Meadow hosts in the year and the need, as previously mentioned, to sustain the Charity Organisation.

It was agreed to invite someone from the NWWA to the next Bonfire meeting and look at the involvement of the Meadow.

5. To reconvene to consider approval of minutes of meeting held 10/03/16

The minutes of the meeting 10/03/2016 were approved and signed

6. Clerk's report to include progress with:

6.1 Bus shelter Golden Cross Lane

The Clerk provided feedback to Members regarding the suggested siting for the bus shelter on Golden Cross Lane that had been received from Cllr S Blagg, who had provided advice on process, and Cllr S Webb, who had provided feedback from residents. The latter included a suggestion to move the bus shelter further up the road to outside the Catshill Methodist Church. This was for various reasons including the size of the pavement in the area to allow siting and also some negative views for the original suggested site.

Members discussed the correspondence.

It was agreed not to go ahead with a replacement shelter in this area at the present time.

6.2 Bus shelter A38 outside Miu Miu restaurant

The Clerk reported that the bus shelter was now scheduled for delivery to the Bromsgrove Depot on 1st August, with an intended installation date of 4th/5th August. The job card had been completed and a discrepancy with the cantilever design queried.

6.3 Trees around War Memorial

Andrew Bucklitch, BDC Tree and landscape officer had been contacted regarding the trees around the War Memorial. He had suggested that the Cypresses at the rear are inside the gate and therefore the responsibility of whoever owned the War Memorial. The Clerk had expressed concerns that, as the Parish Council do not yet own the land, if they then made any alterations to the trees, the Crown Pub could then claim ownership and result in some confrontation. It was Andrew's view that proof of ownership would have to be provided in a case such as that and due to the fact that the Parish Council had been maintaining the site they would be in a stronger position.

Andrew also reported that in relation to the Willow trees, Worcestershire Highways were pursuing the matter and it was understood that they had recently met with the licensee and sent letters to him and Greene King requiring them to make the trees safe.

6.4 Contact with WCC regarding the build-up of silt in the brook at Church Road

The Clerk had been in contact with Fiona McIntosh, Senior Water Management Officer, who had visited the site and reported that the silt level is fine at present. As the brook widens at this point it will naturally drop silt which does need management over time but currently doesn't warrant action. However, when it does there is no definitive answer as to who owns the brook area so when it needs action it will be a case that organisations work together to decide who does what and when. There is vegetation overgrowing into the brook which the Clerk had contacted the Lengthsman to attend to. A fence was in the brook which Graham Cutler had been asked to move. Contact will be made with residents about not dumping.

6.5 Progress with ascertaining which roads are unadopted within Catshill

WCC had reported that there was no master plan of unadopted roads unfortunately.

Members took this opportunity to discuss concerns raised by a resident regarding the lack of white lines on the roads in Cheltenham Avenue and the whole of the estate this leads to. It was discussed that the process would be to contact the builders of the site and request that they apply to WCC for the roads to be adopted and therefore marked.

It was agreed for the Clerk to make contact with residents in the area to inform them of the intentions of the Parish Council to investigate this and request their support in the matter.

6.6 Update regarding the status of the War Memorial

The Clerk reported that the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport had decided to add Catshill and North Marlbrook War Memorial to the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest. The War Memorial is now Grade II Listed following the assistance of Andrew Bate in the matter. Listing helps to mark a building's significance and celebrate its special architectural and historic interest. It brings specific protection so that its special interest can be properly considered in managing its future.

Items Carried Forward: Contact with Social Club regarding erection of Parish Council Notice Board in grounds, quote to obtain two new Parish Council Notice Boards, obtaining quotes for place name signs for Catshill and North Marlbrook Parish, Letter to Bromsgrove Hotel regarding Miu Miu steps, ordering of trees from woodland trust free tree programme

7. To consider ideas for application to the next round of funding from the Tesco Bags of Help Grant, open late Summer 2016 To include the possible identification of a lead Councillor to assist the Clerk with the application.

Members discussed this and suggestions included an outdoor Gym at Braces Lane or by the Balancing Pools, name plates with planters underneath to identify the village, signs for the jubilee and Baptist Gardens and the possibility of establishing a Rambling group to take in the walks available in Catshill and appreciate the Bromsgrove Heritage.

Members also discussed 'Route 5' and the ability to enhance the small beaches, picnic areas and benches in the area and attention to be paid to the signs and lighting also.

It was agreed that Cllr G Blackmoor would look at organising and co-ordinating this on behalf of the Committee.

8. As per Full Parish Council, 31/03/16, to identify lead Councillors to commence the Emergency Plan on behalf of the Council

With the agreement of the Committee, this item was deferred to the next meeting.

9. Consideration of Parishioner Correspondence including:

9.1 Concerns regarding the location of the trees to be planted at the Balancing Pool in relation to access for birds in the area and suggestion of further planting (referred from Full Parish Council 30th June)

This had been considered under Agenda Item 4 during discussions with the Parishioner who was in attendance.

It was agreed to go ahead with the order for the trees for the area.

9.2 Request for the siting of a zebra crossing in the proximity of the Co-op due to the increased speed and traffic flow in the area (referred from Full Parish Council 30th June)

This had been considered under Agenda Item 4 during discussions with the Parishioner who was in attendance.

It was agreed to walk with Mr Lee Jessop and ascertain the concerns.

9.3 Request for a volunteer working party in relation to litter picking, clearance of the brook and pathways at the lower half of the Catshill Brook (between The Crown and the Motorway bridge)

Cllr M Ball expressed that he would be happy to lead with this project. Members discussed the request and how best to approach the situation, including approaching the Co-op to

sponsor the event, gaining volunteers through promotion in the schools and Scouts groups and advertisement in the local press and on notice boards.

10. To consider the following:

10.1 Suggested 20mph speed limit around Co-op area to encompass the entrances to schools in Catshill in relation to a decision to be made regarding contact with residents (referred from Full Parish Council 30th June)

The Clerk informed the Council of correspondence with Worcester County Cllr S Blagg in relation to the application for the 20mph speed limit. Any application would be added to a file for consideration once the pilot in Rubery has been completed and they have ascertained how effective 20mph signs are on their own. There is no date for the completion of this. In regards to the Parish Council potential application, there is a need to represent the views of the residents but in contacting them, also not raise false hopes regarding a possible new speed limit. The Parish Council currently have two letters of support from the local schools but the Co-op should also be contacted.

It was agreed to wait until the 'walk' was completed with Mr Lee Jessop (see minute 4.1) to ascertain these associated concerns prior to making contact with residents.

It was agreed to use the Parish Newsletter as a vehicle to consult residents on the matter.

10.2 Situation at Beehive Close in relation to the unadopted land at the entrance to the road (referred from Full Parish Council 30th June)

The Clerk had been approached by Graham Cutler from BDC Place Team regarding complaints from residents in relation to the land at the end of Bee Hive Close. It had been recently established that this area of land is not owned by BDC, when looking into enforcement issues relating to the moving of cars to enable the grass to be cut. This means that BDC are not insured to maintain the area and therefore it is becoming overgrown and causing resident complaints. Graham reported that BDC are not interested in adopting the area but are willing to assist the Parish Council if they did so. The Clerk spoke to Members about being careful how they proceed due to using precept to benefit only a few houses. There was suggestion that the area could be a garden to stop parking or a car park to assist parking. With regards to the latter, the Parish Council would have to maintain a car park and be responsible for issues. The Clerk reported that contact had been made with WCC to ascertain if they had any interest in adopting the land and providing a car park. As per the agreement at FPC (minute 16/06-11.8) the Clerk had contacted Cllr Helen Jones and Graham Cutler for contact details of complainants in order to send a letter explaining that the situation was being considered, but as yet had received no response. The Clerk also noted that the grass on the area had now been strimmed.

It was agreed to await response from WCC prior to further discussion of the issue.

10.3 Signage for Village as deferred from last Environment and Highways Committee (16/03-7.1), to include:

10.3.1 Location of signs such as 'no horse riding', 'no bikes' etc.

Members discussed the fact that there was no sign on the Golden Cross Lane side of the alleyway that leads to Green Lane to indicate 'no horses' as there was on the other nearby alleyway.

It was agreed that the Clerk would contact WCC regarding the sign to establish if this was something that should be in place.

10.3.2 Suggestion of the need for larger 'no litter' signs

With the agreement of the Committee this item was deferred to the next meeting.

10.3.3 Obtaining 'no dog fouling' signs

With the agreement of the Committee this item was deferred to the next meeting.

11 Date, time and venue of the next meeting

15th September 2016; 7:30pm, Committee Room Catshill Village Hall

This meeting ended at 21.44hrs.

Agreed as a true record of the
meeting held 14/07/16

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

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