

Environment & Highways Committee

Thursday 15th September 2016, 7.30pm
Catshill Village Hall, Golden Cross Lane, Catshill

Members Present: Cllr M Shephard (Chair), M Ball, M Knight, P Masters, B McEldowney, O Sweeting

In Attendance: Clerk R Powell

1. Apologies for absence Cllr G Blackmoor
2. Declarations of Interest None
3. To consider members' written requests for dispensation None requested
4. Adjournment of meeting for Public Question Time No Members of the public were present
5. To reconvene to consider approval of minutes of meeting held 14/07/16

The minutes of the meeting 14/07/2016 were approved and signed

6. Opportunity for Members Questions

To include the suggestion regarding the placement of additional bins near the Co-op area. Members discussed the suggestion that due to increased volume of litter following the opening of the Co-op store, a request for a bin to be located at the top of Milton Road near the dog waste bin should be made. Members also discussed looking at funding from the Parish Council if this would be an issue or an approach to be made to the Co-op.

It was agreed that the Clerk should approach Bromsgrove District Council regarding the siting of a waste bin in this area.

Members took this opportunity to discuss an item regarding the play area at Shelley Close. The repair of the swing had now been completed but there had been a query from Cllr Shirley Webb as to whether any other items of equipment could be suggested to add to the area should funding be available. Members discussed the current contents including a zip wire and basketball area. It was mentioned that previous requests had been made some years ago by Parishioners for a Skate Ramp in Catshill.

It was agreed to suggest to Councillor Webb that if funding was available then a possible use could be for a skate ramp in the park area.
7. Clerk's report, to include:
 - 7.1 Erection of Bus shelter on A38 Birmingham Road**

The Clerk informed the Committee that the bus shelter was successfully erected on 4th and 5th of August as planned, without issue.
 - 7.2 Contact from WCC regarding reports of increased traffic and speed on Barley Mow Lane**

The Clerk reported that Richard Clewer (Highways) had sent an email to Sarah Corteen at West Mercia Police as he understood that the local beat officer had been contacted by some residents in Barley Mow Lane regarding the increase traffic and speed since the new Co-op opened. It was Richard's opinion that a mini PACT meeting was needed, organised by the Parish Council where local residents can raise their concerns. Richard wanted to know from Sarah how

many complaints had been received and if it is known where residents think the speeding is taking place as he didn't want to do a speed survey only to be told it was in the wrong place should the recorded speeds be low. Richard was also going to ask for a vehicle type count.

The Clerk had also emailed Richard and Sarah regarding the concerns of the resident who had attended the last Environment and Highways meeting, in relation to the same area. Cllr Blagg had also contacted the Clerk informing that further complaints had been received by herself.

Members discussed the issue of speeding in Catshill and the need for PACT meeting. It was suggested that any concerns could possibly be integrated into the usual scheduled meeting.

7.3 Contact from WCC regarding the situation in relation to zebra crossings

The Clerk had informed Cllr Blagg of the meeting with a resident regarding the speed of traffic on Barley Mow Lane and the request he had made for a zebra crossing as a possible solution. The Clerk had informed Cllr Blagg that the Parish Council had told the resident the issues with attempting to gain a crossing and Cllr Blagg had responded with a detailed email that further outlined and affirmed these issues, which had been forwarded to Cllrs for consideration.

7.4 Progress in relation to Parishioner concern regarding white lines on Cheltenham Avenue and associated development

The Clerk reported that WCC will only adopt roads once inspectors are satisfied with the quality – this includes substructure as well as surfaces. When the developer changes so does ownership of the roads to the new developer. The developer can ask for the roads to be adopted but WCC will not do so until they are in top condition. It had previously been established that the substructure of the roads in the area of Cheltenham Avenue was badly in need of substantial work. The next step would be to contact the developers and ask why they have not asked for the roads to be adopted. Cllr Blagg had forwarded some relevant correspondence to assist with this as the issue was a long standing one, originally being dealt with by the previous Clerk.

Members discussed the issue including the fact that the current owner of the roads was not the original developer and the implications in relation to funding if the roads had an unsuitable substructure. It was suggested that this would prevent the company asking for the roads to be adopted. Members discussed the need for roads to be considered in the Neighbourhood Plan, with construction being up to standard within any new developments. It was felt that at present, this situation was out of the Parish Council's remit and therefore there was nothing more that could be done by the Council.

7.5 Report of speeding on Woodrow Lane

The Clerk informed Members that a parishioner had rung the office with concerns regarding the speed of traffic on Woodrow Lane. He reported that it included the entire length of the road, with the island by Cheltenham Avenue being a particular hazard relating to this. The Clerk had informed the resident that concerns of this nature could be reported online but as he did not have access, the Clerk had reported the issue on his behalf. The Clerk also informed the resident that speed monitoring would be carried out if the area was deemed as a hot spot. Members acknowledged that speeding in the whole village was a general concern.

7.6 Progress with the removal of overhanging shrubbery into parishioner's garden at the back of the Ivy Cottage Garden area

The Clerk informed the Committee that WCC had asked if, due to how busy their departments were with cutting back hedges on the highway and around signs etc, we could ask our Lengthsman to attend the garden. The situation had been assessed and the overhanging branches and suckers that had demolished the parishioners fence could be removed, but the Lengthsman had asked if he was allowed to do so and if the rubbish needed removing. The Clerk had corresponded with WCC to ensure work carried out on WCC land and in a Parishioners garden would be covered by the Lengthsman scheme. It was deemed that as a one off this work could be covered but the Clerk had asked the Lengthsman for a rough quote as to how much over the usual payment this will take the invoice.

7.7 Update following meeting with Parish Council Litter Picker to discuss problem areas

The Clerk had met with the Litter Picker and informed her of the areas that BDC felt were patches that required support. She will continue with her normal routes but focus a little more on the areas suggested. One area that was mentioned was from the top of Woodrow lane left towards the motorway. The Litter Picker mentioned that it had previously been advised for her not to cover busy main roads due to lack of insurance so this was agreed and the Clerk will check the details in the insurance. The Litter Picker's timesheet will be altered to show weekly routes and a column added to identify hot spots of build-up of litter to allow it to be tackled more accurately. The cycle track at the bottom of Milton road is deemed to be such as issue but the record will assist.

The Litter Picker also reported a large old post that is leaning dangerously on the start of the footpath at the bottom of Milton Road and a bin that the inside has been removed from and crushed, near the basketball court on the field at the bottom of Milton Road. The Clerk would report these to the relevant people.

7.8 Update regarding correspondence in relation to land at end of Beehive Close - To include discussion as to the Committee's views in relation to this.

The Clerk had ascertained that the grassed area at the end of Beehive Close is not WCC land. It was noted that if the area was adopted by the Parish Council and made into a garden then the parking on the area would also be displaced elsewhere and this could be something to consider prior to making any decisions. Residents using the area do so because they have insufficient parking at their homes. When the Clerk had asked if WCC would be interested in adopting the area and making it into a car park the response was received that County does not want to be involved in parking anymore than it has to for safety reasons on the highways. Parking is a huge problem everywhere and WCC is not interested in setting a precedent of adopting areas to provide parking.

Members discussed parking space allocations followed by options for the piece of land in question. It was suggested that the Parish Council could write to residents and ask what they would like to see happen to the land. There was a query as to how much it would cost to adopt the land.

It was agreed that the Environment and Highways Committee would ask permission to investigate adoption of the land from the next FPC.

7.9 Concerns from Parishioner regarding Garden at Catshill Baptist Church and related actions

Cllr Shepherd reported regarding this item that Hazel Lee from the Baptist church had been approached by a parishioner regarding the condition of the garden that the Parish Council have adopted and disappointment that the plot looks neglected. She expressed a preference for the garden to be looking more attractive particularly by 11th November 2016 as it is a Remembrance Garden. Cllr Shepherd sent a very comprehensive reply informing Hazel of the issues encountered with the bed, as plants have been repeatedly pulled up and bikes have been

ridden over the area and the need for more vigorous maintenance to deal with the issue of weeds in the area. Cllr Shepherd pointed out that planting was not advised at the time of the email but could be carried out at the end of the summer and if the plants can be established then it may deter the trampling of the area. However, he warned about the garden taking up to three years to establish. The Clerk had contacted Russell Peach (Meadowfields Ground Maintenance) who had previously suggested bark for the area. When the Clerk suggested a polythene under layer he had advised that as the bark breaks down it will expose the membrane. He had recommended that a good spray and a good layer of bark will suffice, look good and suppress the weeds too. Russell was to get a price off the tree man as soon as possible.

It was suggested that there was a need to replace quite a few plants in the area with decent quality, prickly plants to deter the garden being used as a thoroughfare. It was also suggested that the direction of travel through the garden was from the Baptist Church bush garden and whether a fence along that stretch would help. The Baptist Church could be approached about this.

Cllr Shepherd requested the contact details for Russell Peach to allow communication with him regarding the new plants.

It was requested if there was a possibility of the two signs for the roads that were on and near the garden, to be moved and separated to make it clearer.

7.10 Updates on actions from Worcester County Councillor S Blagg

- Cllr Blagg had asked highways to put up signs on Golden Cross Lane to indicate elderly people crossing. This followed a request by a resident to tackle the drivers that move at speed down the road. He asked for a crossing but these are costly and require some finance from Parish or other third parties
- Cllr Blagg had received a plea from a resident in Beehive Close to resurface this heavily patched road. She had asked this be included in the work programme
- Greendale Close and Blake Road are both included on the "driving home" resurfacing project.

7.11 Update on progress with the War Memorial

The Clerk relayed a report from Andrew Bate that unfortunately, the agent that arrangements had been made with to look at the structure of the Memorial, all fell through due to him having family health issues. One other was busy on Worcester Cathedral so he could not attend. Andrew was investigating other firms to carry out the survey.

In relation to the trees, various branches have been extensively trimmed back around the Memorial. On Sunday (11/9/2016) a team of tree surgeons removed vast amounts of branches that overhung the roadway at the bridge area thus making any potential danger during Remembrance Sunday services negligible.

Following this an additional report was received that Andrew was meeting with a representative of Pullen and Sons at the Memorial on Wednesday 21/9/2016 to look over the Structure. Andrew would take notes and report his comments. Pullen and Sons noted that any comments that they make are not legally binding and that they were not liable for any costs which may be attributable to their comments. The Clerk had requested a valuation if possible due to adding the

Memorial to the insurance and Andrew would ask for a replacement costing when he met the company.

8 To note all outstanding actions from this Committee and to consider the possibility of allocation of some to Councillors to allow progression.

It was agreed to allocate outstanding actions to Councillors as follows:

- Contact with Social Club regarding the erection of Parish Council Notice Board in grounds
Cllr Mick Ball
- Ordering trees from woodland trust free tree programme
Cllr M Shephard
- Obtaining quotes for commemorative name stones in Parish Council Gardens
Cllr P Masters
- Corresponding with parishioner regarding 'walk' around village to identify problem areas for traffic speed and crossing (as per minute 16/07-4.1)
Cllr M Ball
- Consideration of further landscaping to Balance Pool area (as per minute 16/07-4.2)
Cllr M Shephard to research hardcore path and wildflowers
- Organisation of volunteer party for 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
- Evaluation of the bus shelter outside Catshill First School to establish if the peeling paint is a manufacturing fault
Cllr O Sweeting
It was agreed that the Clerk would send the contact details of the bus shelter company to Cllr Sweeting to allow for a request for the correct shade of paint
- Co-ordination of documentation for submission to the next round of Tesco Bags Grant Funding, suggested at the last meeting to be a project related to 'Route 5'.
Cllr G Blackmoor

It was agreed for Clerk to retain following outstanding actions at present:

- Quote for two new Parish Council Notice boards
- Quote for place name signs for Catshill and North Marlbrook Parish
- Letter to Bromsgrove Hotel regarding steps near Miu Miu restaurant
- Contact with WCC to establish why there is no sign for 'No horse riding' on the alleyway leading from Golden Cross Lane to Green Lane
Members discussed issues with bye laws and the need for signage. It was queried as to whether a 'Pedestrian Only' sign would need the same permissions.
- Bench at Ivy Cottage Gardens

9 As per Full Parish Council, 31/03/16, to identify lead Councillors to commence the Emergency Plan on behalf of the Council (deferred as per minute 16/07-8)

Members discussed the need for the plan and who should have responsibility of a document of this type. It was suggested that as BDC held all relevant contact details centrally, there was not

much more that the Parish Council could do to create and maintain an effective document. It was suggested that Emergency Contacts could be provided on the Parish Council's website, although there was some discussion regarding the abuse of such details.

It was agreed that Cllr Shepherd would research the document again with a view to the Parish Council possibly providing a simplified version.

10 To consider signage for Village as deferred from last Environment and Highways Committee (16/07-10.3), to include:

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

It was agreed that this was not needed in the Parish

10.2 Obtaining 'no dog fouling' signs

Members discussed adding an article to the next newsletter regarding the issue of dog fouling, with information regarding the 'free' dog waste bags provided by the Parish Council.

It was agreed that 'no dog fouling' signs were not needed.

Members requested two items to be discussed at the next Environment and Highways Committee:

- Traffic Calming
- Details of what was wanted from the commemorative stones for the Parish Council Gardens

11 Date, time and venue of the next meeting

8th December 2016; 7:30pm, Committee Room Catshill Village Hall

This meeting ended at 21.13hrs.

Agreed as a true record of the meeting held 15/09/16

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