

# Environment & Highways Committee

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2017, 7.30pm  
Catshill Village Hall, Golden Cross Lane, Catshill

**Members Present:** Cllrs M Shephard (Chair), G Blackmoor (Vice Chair), M Ball, P Masters, O Sweeting

**In Attendance:** Clerk R Powell

1. Apologies for absence Cllr B McEldowney and Cllr N Ward
2. Declarations of Interest None
3. To consider members' written requests for dispensation None requested
4. Adjournment of meeting for Public Question Time

Cllr Blackmoor made some queries on behalf of residents who had approached her since the last meeting. These included queries regarding Catshill in Bloom and whether this meant the Parish Council events were not taking place. Cllr Blackmoor was informed that it would all go under the same umbrella and be put into a portfolio. Another query related to signage in Catshill with a resident concern about lorries using his road to turn around due to lack of clarity. Cllr Blackmoor was informed that signage would be considered as part of the Neighbourhood Plan. A final query had been in relation to the gates onto the Meadow being shut and the reason behind it. Cllr Blackmoor was informed that this was due to the reports of Travellers in the area and groups that were being moved on from current sitings that would be looking for new places to stop.

A request had been made that Members consider the disruption being caused by Virgin media within the Parish and how long the works were proceeding. Members discussed the situation. It was thought that the disruption was to be expected due to the nature of the works.

**It was agreed** that the Clerk would check the sheet that had been distributed at the Full Parish Council by Virgin Media to see if the length of time was detailed and if not, then WCC would be asked.

**It was agreed** that this item should be kept on the Agenda for future meetings in order for the Council to monitor the process including the repair work that was carried out afterwards

5. To reconvene to consider approval of minutes of meeting held 15/06/17

The minutes of the meeting 15/06/17 were approved and signed

6. Clerk's report, to include:

#### **6.1 Removal of tree root at Baptist Church Garden**

Meadowfields Ground Maintenance were asked to provide a quote for the re-grading of the area and also for the potential need to remove the tree root in the future. However,

Cllr Sweeting met with Russell onsite and the decision was made, due to the availability of the tree surgeon, to have this root removed now. This has been done under delegated powers, with the Clerk, for a quoted cost of £100. Russell had also quoted £100 to take some soil off the bank between the wall and old stump and £130 for the planting of approximately 20 low growing spreading shrubs. Some fresh bark on the area would cost around £35.

Members were happy with the way the garden looked with the root removed. The amount of plants needed was also discussed. It was suggested that a low growing Cotoneaster may be the best plant for this area.

**It was agreed** to proceed with the regrading and planting

## **6.2 Information in relation to Velo Birmingham**

The Clerk informed Members that the Velo Birmingham bike ride had been advertised on Facebook, the website and the Parish Council Notice boards. Although not directly affecting Catshill there will be roads closed around the area that residents may need to be aware of.

## **6.3 Letter to residents regarding tree planting**

This letter had now been written and was with Cllr Shephard for approval ahead of being distributed to affected Parishioners

## **6.4 Correspondence with Co-op in relation to suggested pathway**

The Assistant Clerk continued to chase this, via email, letter and telephone.

Unfortunately, the specified people were not being very responsive although an email had been received that same day which may assist with progression.

## **6.5 Reports to BDC**

Following a resident concern about the garages on Springs Avenue, the Clerk had asked who owned them and if anything could be done within the area. BDC were already working on the issue and would be in touch when any relevant progress had been made.

Following the Parish Walk a request for a bin to be put on A38 near the Parish Council gardens for dog waste had been made due to the significant amount of bagged waste that had been noted there.

Following residents request a new bin had been located on Green lane, this one being a different design that would hopefully not be vandalised. This was however, the final time it would be replaced. Cllr Jones was awaiting a response from Leisure regarding the bin on the play area that was reportedly vandalised and dangerous.

## **6.6 Reports to WCC**

The overgrown hedges on the A38 had been reported and a four week order had been raised to make the area safe.

The Lengthsman had reported that silt had gone through the cover into the drain where the culvert goes under the road at Wildmoor Lane. Fiona McIntosh, Senior Water Management officer, had been out to site but it was not felt that it was an immediate cause for concern as the water was still flowing, however, it had still been passed to WCC as they are responsible for the culvert as it passes under the road.

The Lengthsman had reported the drains in Cowslip Close needed cleaning as he couldn't gain access as they couldn't be opened. This is not WCC area as it is not yet adopted. The Clerk had been advised, however, that there are ongoing discussions

about adopting the area at present and some of the issues may be linked to the water there and potentially the locked drains. Highways would look into cleaning the drains.

#### **6.7 Resident request for double yellow lines on Milton Road**

A resident had reported a car parked on double yellows causing a degree of obstruction. The Clerk had explained that the police can no longer react to photos as they could be doctored – they have to actually see the issue. The Clerk did however report it to Safer Neighbourhood Team and Cllr Shirley Webb. A traffic warden was contacted by SNT and Cllr Webb also said she would ask them to make more regular visits.

In addition, the resident had asked for the double yellow lines to be extended in the area to outside the flats and Cllr Webb had asked Highways to look at this

#### **6.8 Tarmac under notice board on Old Birmingham Road**

The Clerk was awaiting a response from Highways regarding the permission for this, so the item was deferred.

7. To receive an update on the progress of the Emergency Plan and agree, if needed, a way forward (Cllr M Shephard)

Cllr Shephard projected a copy of the draft Emergency Plan progress to date. He informed Members of the significance of each section and discussions around content were had.

**It was agreed** that the Clerk would circulate the document to allow other Councillors the opportunity to add any thoughts and ideas.

**It was agreed** that the Clerk would ask at the Full Parish Council if all Members of the Council were happy to be part of the Emergency Committee and whether home addresses could be divulged if this was deemed appropriate.

8. To receive feedback from the footpath walk undertaken on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2017 (Cllr M Shephard)

Cllr M Shephard noted that a full written report would be made to the Full Parish Council. It was noted that the footpath walked was typical of those within the parish. Sometimes it was indistinct as hedges, styles etc had been removed. It was a worthwhile walk that had raised some issues to be dealt with.

9. To consider a resident/business owner request to install sign posts on the main roads through the Parish to make commuters aware of the shopping centre.

Members discussed the request and noted that it was understood that there was a need to encourage trade to local shops.

**It was agreed** that the Clerk would contact WCC regarding the siting of a sign on the main trunk roads through the Parish (A38 and Stourbridge Road) to direct people towards the shopping centre. The Clerk would also request that the large sign at the junction at the top of Golden Cross Lane be replaced with a smaller one, consistent with the others.

10. To agree the purchase of new place name signs for Catshill and North Marlbrook (example picture circulated). To include a review of the suggested positioning of the signs and the possibility of additions in the Marlbrook area and the idea of placing planters underneath.

Members discussed this item, looking at the example and possible locations.

**It was agreed** that the Clerk would obtain a full quote for the sign with 'in the Parish of Catshill and North Marlbrook' underneath, and take it to the Full Parish Council.

In relation to the planters, **it was agreed** to review this at a later date, with the possibility of looking at sponsors.

11. To discuss the creation of the suggested Balance Pool path following the Clerk's report (document circulated)

**It was agreed** that due to costings, this project would no longer be pursued

**It was agreed** that the Clerk would approach the new owners of the Bromsgrove Hotel regarding the steps, handrail and path that was on their property at the top of this Balance Pool area, with a view to tidying the area.

12. To discuss the implementation of different road and speed signage within the vicinity of the schools.

The Clerk reported that she had contacted a graphic designer for a quote for the production of speed signs being held by the figure of a child.

Members discussed the difference between actual speed signs and 'recommended' speed signs and the benefits.

**It was agreed** that the Clerk would contact Highways for a quote in relation to the addition of repeater signs or 'recommended' speed signs in key areas in the Parish.

**It was agreed** that the Clerk would request the Vehicle Activated Signs in the Parish to be cleaned

13. Date, time and venue of the next meeting

11<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at 19:30hrs in Catshill Village Hall Committee Room

This meeting ended at 21.12 hrs.

Agreed as a true record of the meeting held 7<sup>th</sup> September 2017

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