

Environment & Highways Committee

Thursday 14th June 2018, 7.30pm

Catshill Village Hall, Golden Cross Lane, Catshill

Members Present: Cllrs M Knight (Chair), P Masters, B McEldowney

In Attendance: Clerk R Powell

1. Apologies for absence Cllr M Ball, Cllr G Blackmoor, Cllr V Harman, Cllr M Shephard, Cllr O Sweeting

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 11/01/18

The minutes of the meeting 11/01/18 were approved and signed

6. Clerk's report, to include updates on:

6.1 Path and steps from A38 through to balance pools

There was currently a discrepancy over the ownership of the land. BDC felt it belonged to the hotel and had provided a land registration number for the same; the hotel believed it was BDC when looking at their deeds. The Assistant Clerk remained in contact and attempting to establish ownership. In the meantime, the Clerk had contacted BDC and WCC explaining the situation and requesting assistance in repairing the area. WCC would look into it but if it was not their land, permission would be needed. The Clerk felt that if both parties were denying ownership of the land then it may be possible to obtain this permission from them.

6.2 Suggested walkway through Co-op Car Park

The Assistant Clerk continued to chase a response for this, over 13 months from the original request. The Clerk had also sent an email the previous week having visited the store in person and seen the issue remained.

6.3 Change of agent for water supply

Severn Trent intended to formally exit the retail market for business customers from 1st July. Water Plus had been acting as the Parish Council's agent since April 2017 when changes meant a water retailer could be chosen. From the 1st July, Water Plus would become the Parish Council's water retailer. The Clerk had been in talks with Water Plus to establish if the business was eligible to choose a different retailer but at present this had not been confirmed. The Clerk had been informed that the area had a water meter and the Clerk would attempt to locate this so that an actual, rather than estimated, reading could be taken. Once this was complete the Clerk would ring the sales team and find out if the best deal was currently being offered.

Members took this opportunity to discuss elements of the Ivy Cottage Garden where the water supply was located.

It was requested that this area be put as a future agenda item to allow discussion of the way the raised bed is planted and ideas for designs

6.4 Publication of Emergency Plan

The Emergency Plan was now on the website with its own explanation page and a request for assistance from any parishioners who may have access to 4x4's etc. One gentleman had called regarding this but the return phone number seemed to be incorrect.

6.5 Community Speed Watch

The Clerk had been informed of the contact details for the Community Speed Watch Co-ordinator. The Clerk would find out more about the scheme from him then put an advert in the newsletter to find out if any residents were interested in being part of a team that could be trained.

6.6 'Welcome to Catshill' signs

The Clerk had sent further correspondence to Highways regarding this including a purchase order for 5 signs. No response had been received as yet.

6.7 Progress with notice board for Social Club Car Park

The Clerk explained that as a lectern style notice board had been chosen, it had been realised that to position this close enough to the pavement to be effective, it would need to clear the social club stumps. Therefore, the Clerk would be ordering slightly longer supports for the unit. Prices for this would be discussed during Agenda Item 11

6.8 Parishioner contact request for handrail on path from Redland Close to Braces Lane Playing Field

The Clerk received continued correspondence in relation to this footpath. The Lengthsman had been requested to attend to cut back the vegetation but also look at the moss that was growing underfoot. Cllr Webb had been contacted to request a handrail and had said she would get Highways to look into it.

The Clerk also informed the meeting of anonymous parishioner contact received regarding issues with the 'Old Horsecourse Estate' including lack of bins, dog poo signs and new lighting. The Clerk had walked the area and taken photos of the very few items present which supported the point. It was established that part of the area belonged to BDHT but the rest to BDC so there were actions that could be taken.

Members also noted that as you walk around this area, if you make use of the alleyways, there are no dropped kerbs at the end of each of these to allow easy access off/onto the pavement.

To note, deferred items: Contact with WCC re: signs for shopping centre, contact with WCC re: prices of repeater signs and 'suggested speed' signs, letter to residents regarding tree planting, purchase of stones for gardens, review of balance pool planted area in respect of tree locations

7. Following BDC assessment, to consider the location and purchase of Parish Council Grit bins
It was agreed this item be deferred as the document with suggestions had not been received to date from WCC
8. To agree the location and type of bulbs for planting within the Parish
Members discussed this, including the mess that was left behind when daffodils had flowered as mowing does not happen in these areas.
It was agreed that Meadow Flower seeds should be used and that the gardener be requested to plant them
It was agreed that the Clerk would request from BDC if the area near the island on Woodrow Lane could be planted in this way
9. To consider the quotes provided for fencing of the garden at the Dock

Unfortunately the Clerk had only received one quote from the three requested in time for the meeting. Members discussed this. The Clerk informed Members that a request had been made of Highways to move the signs for the roads, further forward and off the garden to allow for any type of fencing to take place.

It was agreed that the Clerk would meet with the gardener and discuss the use of sleepers in the area rather than a fence.

10. To consider a type and location for a Memorial tree/shrub in Memory of the late Cllr Callaway

It was agreed that a large pot would be purchased to sit behind the fence at the front of the Village Hall

It was agreed that the Clerk would make contact with Mrs Callaway and find out if there was a preferred shrub/ plant for this

It was agreed that a plaque would be attached to the pot and that an unveiling ceremony would be held

11. To agree the quote for a notice board to replace that on the front of the Village Hall

It was agreed to recommend to the Full Parish Council that the quote for the notice board for the front of the Village Hall with both header and logo be accepted, subject to the Clerk double checking the measurements for the area.

It was agreed that it be recommended to Full Parish Council that the slight increase in cost for the lectern notice board, to have a matching header and logo and include a rise in installation cost, be accepted.

12. To consider the need for a Parish Council organised litter pick

Cllr Ball had requested this at the last FPC but the Clerk was aware that Cllr Webb was also arranging one soon with the children from the school

It was agreed that the Parish Council would conduct a litter pick on Saturday 14th July 2018 at 11:00am, meeting at the Village Hall

The Clerk would obtain the necessary equipment

13. Date, time and venue of the next meeting

20th September 2018 at 19:30hrs in Catshill Village Hall Committee Room

This meeting ended at 21.00 hrs

Agreed as a true record of the meeting held 14th June 2018

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