

**Present :** Parish Councillors, G Witcomb – Chairman, F Cook – vice-Chairman, P Baker, M Ball, J Bate, G Blackmoor, J Gray, B McEldowney, P Masters, S Webb

**In attendance:** County Councillor S Blagg; District Councillors Dr B Cooper, H Jones  
Clerk - Gill Lungley

**15/02-01 Chairman's welcome** – the Chairman welcomed all to the meeting

**15/02-02 Members' Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllrs S Haynes, M Shephard, O Sweeting

**15/02-03 Open Forum**

- a) No members of the public were present
- b) **County Councillor for Woodvale division**, Sheila Blagg, had provided an update relating to matters of note including Worcestershire Viewpoint Citizen Panel; Care Act; Hospital Admissions crisis Nov – Dec 2014; Kiddivouchers; ACRE; Local Authority Position Statement – School Organisation (reference to 3-tier arrangement).

**Sheila Blagg** commented as follows:

- i) With reference to parking concerns in Beehive Close, the grassed corner is Crown property and therefore outside of county or district responsibility.
- ii) With reference to WCC adoption of the Horse Course estate, it would be helpful if the parish council could also lobby the developer to move forward with this.
- c) **District Councillor for Catshill ward**, Helen Jones, commented as follows:
  - i) Work is due to start on the Flood Alleviation Scheme (Green Lane/Sedgefield Walk). Coun Jones would like the sandbag shed to remain on site for at least a year to provide back-up support in the event of any problems.
  - ii) A new planning application is to be submitted for the Ivy Cottage ph site to allow a convenience store.
  - iii) A new Mucky-Pup campaign will take place in Catshill, to include stencilling on the footpaths to raise awareness of the problem of dog-mess. The bins are to be changed at Catshill Meadow and stickers will be placed on all bins stating any bin can be used to dispose of dog-mess.

**District Councillor for Marlbrook ward**, Brian Cooper, commented as follows:

- iv) The footpath between Cottage Lane and the Braces Lane rec was overgrown. (This was discussed by members and Cllr M Shephard undertook to review the site to see if this was something the Lengthsman could be asked to tackle.)
- District Councillor for Marlbrook, John Ruck** had sent apologies for non-attendance; there had been no communication from District Councillor for Catshill ward, James Brogan.
- d) No other community representative was present

**15/02-04** The meeting was re-opened.

**15/02-05 Declarations of Interest**

No member declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest.

**15/02-06 Dispensations**

No member had applied for a dispensation.

**15/02-07 Approval of Minutes of previous council meeting**

It was agreed to accept the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 29/01/2015 and they were duly signed by the Chairman.

#### 15/02-08 Members' Questions

Cllr P Baker: Could we write to the Highways Agency with the suggestion that it may help improve traffic flow around the Lydiate Ash traffic island (junction 4, M5) if the traffic lights are switched off.

#### 15/02-09 Chairman's Report

The report was circulated and referred to Catshill Middle School's invitation to the Chairman and Clerk for the unveiling of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary quilt, for which the parish council had contributed a grant of £300 last year. The chairman had also attended the Mercia Regiment march through Bromsgrove town centre on 23/02/15 for which there had been a good turnout.

#### 15/02-10 Clerk's Report: Emergency Actions, Update and List of Communications

- a) **Green Lane** flood storage area: the footpath diversion has been agreed and work is to start 03/03/2015. The future of the sandbag shed would be considered at the next meeting.
- b) **Beehive Close** Parking and pavement problems – a member of the Safer Neighbourhood Team has been invited to attend a parish council meeting to talk about this issue
- c) **Catshill Middle School** 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – textile project; Quilt unveiled by Cllr G Witcomb on 09/02/2015.
- d) **Parish Council warding arrangements** The Boundary Commission confirm there was an error in drafting the number of parish councillors to represent each ward for Woodrow and Barley Meadow; this can be changed only by way of a Community Governance Review.
- e) **Bromsgrove DC Street Theatre in Catshill** will take place on 3<sup>rd</sup> August at Catshill Meadow
- f) **Pedestrian Access** across fields to south of North Bromsgrove cemetery; the new handrail and access has been installed.
- g) **Police and Community Forum** meeting at Bromsgrove Council House on 9<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm.
- h) **Annual Parish Meeting** - to note this will be on 23<sup>rd</sup> April at Catshill Village Hall, 7.30pm

Relevant correspondence available from the Clerk: includes weekly CALC updates Feb 2015; Safer Neighbourhoods Team for Bromsgrove North and Rural update for January with questionnaire; weekly updates from BDC Planning lists, WCC County-wide road works lists, Police & Crime Commissioner; notification from district resident of council funding possibilities; BDC initiative Walking for Weight-loss\*; WCC Statement of Community Involvement (planning); Neighbourhood Planning update no. 14

Carried forward: dedication stone for Diamond Jubilee garden; Community Speed Watch; New Homes bonus.

\*Concern was noted that the wording on the poster for Walking for Weight-loss was misleading.

#### 15/02-11 Committee and Representative Reports

11a) **Finance & Staffing Committee** meeting 05/02/2015; draft minutes circulated to members.

Following delegation from the parish council the committee had approved the provision of grant funding of £1000 to the Catshill Village Hall plan to install a canopy over the side entrance, subject to input from County Councillor (£999) and District Councillor J Ruck (£500); if for any reason these respective amounts are not met then the Parish Council will commit a maximum grant of £1,500

11b) **Planning Committee** meeting 05/02/2015; draft minutes circulated to members. It was noted that since discussion of planning application 14/1009 (log no. 624), development of land to the rear of 99 Wildmoor Lane, the application had been withdrawn.

11c) **Any other report:-**

**11c.1 Newsletter** – Cllr P Masters reported the Spring 2015 edition was in process of being put together and would include information on the Mucky Pup campaign, availability of dog waste bags and the forthcoming elections.

**11c.2 Marlbrook Tip** – Cllr B McEldowney reported on the appointment of a consultant and the request to the District Council’s Chief Executive for a calculation of the costs to date. Details of the committee meeting would be available on the BDC website.

**15/02-12 Planning Consultation**

**12.1** The following application was considered:-

Log no.	App. No.	dress	Proposal
625	15/0085	(Old) Catshill Library 83 Barley Mow Lane	Change of use from D1 (library) to A2 (financial and professional services)
Comment: The Parish Council does not object to this change of use and is not aware of any complaints from neighbours or nearby residents. There are concerns that all parking will be on the roadside but the previous use as a library was similarly constrained - to reduce the parking concerns it should be noted there is a regular bus route close to the site and the parish council would approve of a cycle-to-work scheme here.			

**12.2** Two new applications had been notified and it was agreed these would be considered by a meeting of the Planning committee before the end of the consultation period.

**15/02-13 Catshill War Memorial**

**It was agreed** to establish a Working Party, consisting of Cllrs P Baker, M Ball, G Blackmoor and P Masters, to liaise with the Royal British Legion to renovate the Catshill War Memorial.

**15/02-14 District Ward Members’ Fund**

Members discussed the possibility of applying for funding via the District Ward Members’ Fund; each has £1,155 to put towards a scheme that fits the specified criteria, appendix 1. Suggestions put forward include:

- Improving bus shelters;
- Easing of parking for school "drop offs", maybe contributing to the Social Club car park resurfacing, or as incentive to use part of car park adjacent to The Crown Inn.
- Improve Parking facilities in Catshill Village centre.
- Contribute to footpath lighting and improvement of bridge surface off Green Lane.
- Installation of footpath light between Stourbridge Road/Church Road
- Hedgerow cutting on main roads
- Welcome to Catshill signs
- Improvement to the hand-rail at the flight of steps between A38 and Lingfield Walk.

**It was agreed** to seek funding for the bus shelter improvements.

**15/02-15 Local Council Award Scheme**

**It was agreed** to register an interest in the scheme via National Association of Local Councils.

**15/02-16 Delivery of agenda and meeting summons to members**

The law has been amended to allow for the electronic delivery of the summons to parish council meetings; the notification period remains the same, ie three clear days notice in advance of the meeting. Members agreed to advise the Clerk of their individual preference.

**15/02-17 Paper copy of draft minutes**

The Clerk issues a copy of relevant draft minutes with each agenda for parish council and committee meetings, even though a copy of the minutes has previously been issued, to support members who may have mislaid their previous copy. It is being proposed that only one copy is provided per member. This was amended to the proposal to not issue any paper copies at all and would be considered at the next parish council meeting.

**15/02-18 Committee Membership**

**It was agreed** that the newly co-opted members would advise the Clerk of which committee they would like to join.

