



MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held at Catshill Village Hall

THURSDAY 01st December 2022, 7.00pm

Present: Cllrs B McEldowney (Chair), K Burgess, S Osman
B Laniosh, P Baker

In attendance: Clerk – Carol Blake

Apologies – Cllr Parry, Cllr Masters

Members not present: G Blackmoor,

22/12-01 Chairman's welcome

The Chairman welcomed all present to the meeting

22/12-02 To receive apologies from any Member unable to attend

Cllr Parry and Cllr Masters sent their apologies.

22/12-03 Open Forum

3.1 Members of the Public and Junior Councillors report

Junior Councillors from Catshill Middle School attended the meeting and presented their work to the Parish Councillors thanking them for their invitation and informing them that they really enjoyed working alongside the Parish Council, they were very well received by all.

Steve Morris from Fit 4 Sport attended the meeting and is keen to work with the Parish Council in providing more projects for young people in the area, it was agreed that it was a good idea for the Parish Council to pursue this idea and work with Steve and agreed to set up a sub-committee to discuss taking forward ideas for future projects.

3.2 Worcs County Councillor for the Woodvale Division.

Cllr Webb reported that the Christmas Lights Switch on was an enormous success with over 500 people in attendance. She asked for a representative from the Parish Council to start planning for next year's event.

It was agreed that extra Christmas lights could be purchased for next year and could be erected by the Ivy Cottage Garden and more erected outside Spar shop.

Cllr Webb reported that the pedestrian crossing outside the Co-op is on-going and likely to happen soon.

Friends of the Cemetery are meeting for a service at Barley Mow Cemetery on Saturday 3rd December and at Christ Church on Saturday 10th December.

3.3 Bromsgrove District Councillors for North Catshill, South Catshill and Marlbrook Wards

Cllr Till reported that the bus shelters will not be replaced until the bus service in the area is agreed on.

3.4 Any other community representative

No update.

22/12-04 Declarations of Interest

None received

22/12-05 To re- open the meeting Parish Councillors and the Executive Officer may only speak from this point forward

22/12-06 Dispensations

No member had submitted a request for dispensation to any agenda item.

22/12-07 Approval of Minutes of previous council meeting and previous matters arising
It was agreed to accept the minutes of the previous Full Parish Council meeting held 27/10/2022. The Chairman then duly signed the minutes.

22/12-08 Chairman's Report

The Chairman updated members on the various meetings he had attended during the month.

8.1 Planning, Environment and Highways Committee – The Chairman reported that at the FPC meeting held in July the creation of a new Planning, Environment and Highways Committee was agreed on, as there are now so few Parish Councillors, that the Planning, Environmental and Highways Committees will be amalgamated to help make them quorate. It will be decided at the initial Committee meeting who will Chair the Committee. **It was agreed** that Cllr Osman will arrange the first meeting in the New Year.

8.2 Christmas Party Event – At present there are 34 guests who will attend the party, it was suggested that a pianist could be hired to play at the event rather than a DJ. A meeting will be arranged for next week to confirm all details for the event and to ensure there are adequate volunteers to help. Cllr Osman and Cllr Laniosh are available if required on the day.

8.3 Buying extra Christmas Lights for next year – **It was agreed** with Cllr Webb that extra Christmas lights will be purchased for next year's event.

8.4 Update on Bonfire Event – A record number of people attended the Bonfire event this year with an estimated £8510 raised on the gate. Ideas are taking place in reducing the queue sizes next year and people being on site earlier. The Parish Council agreed to step back from the event next year and only provide funding for the fireworks, this will be discussed at the debrief session in January.

8.5 Millennium Way Project – North Worcestershire Water Management are working in partnership with Worcestershire County Council on a project along the Millennium Way route between Stourbridge Road & Milton Road. The aims of the project are to improve the route for pedestrians & cyclists, improve biodiversity along the route, and to improve the flow of water and reduce flood risk as there have been several complaints about flooding there. The ditch from recreation area to where it joins the Battlefield Brook will be reinstated – this will provide additional habitat while also improving the flow of water from Milton Road & Shelley Close, and at the end of the ditch a shallow pond will be created to hold excess water.

It was agreed to work in partnership with NWWM and provide funding of £1500 to help with this project.

Finance

22/12-09 9.1 The payments and receipts report to 14/11/2022 was received and noted.

The council's accounts spreadsheet for November 2022 was circulated.

An excerpt from the council's accounts spreadsheet for November had been sent along with the bank reconciliation to 14/11/2022, it is as follows:

Bank Reconciliation as at 14/11/2022		
Opening Cash Book balance		£105,685.54
Add receipts between 1 April - 14 Nov 2022	53,226.00	
Less payments between 1 April - 14 Nov 2022	-49,153.14	
Cashbook balance at 14 Nov 2022		£109,758.40
Bank statements at 20 Nov 2021		
Unity Trust Bank	120,199.80	
Soldo Card	5.52	
Less unpresented cheques, as list below	£10,446.92	
Bank balances at 14 Nov 2022		£109,758.40

9.2 Update on Lengthsman vacancy and interim position – It was agreed to arrange a Finance and Staffing meeting next week to discuss advertising, interviewing and contract details for this post

22/12-10 Items for Discussion

10.1 Recruiting New Councillors report – Cllr Baker attended a presentation in October which provided ideas on how to recruit new councillors, it was thought to be an innovative idea to have a promotional video and Cllr Baker will initially contact Cllr Masters to discuss and report back in January's FPC meeting.

10.2 Project Officer update – Cllr Baker Deferred to next meeting

10.3 Discuss Budget Figures for 23/24 – Cllr Baker discussed the figures that he had provided in detail and proposed the budget for 23/24 which was unanimously agreed on.

10.4 Update on Remembrance Services – Cllr Baker reported that fewer people attended this years' service, feedback had been given which included the parade starting at Catshill Middle school, there should be a wheelchair/prams area. Cllr Baker reported that he would not be co-ordinating next years' service.

10.5 To agree solar panel upgrade for VAS sign – Cllr Osman It was agreed to defer this item to January’s FPC meeting when Cllr Osman will be able to obtain a price for the panel upgrade which can be discussed and agreed upon.

Committee and Representatives Report

22/12-11

11.1 Finance and Staffing Committee – Nothing to report

11.2 News Magazine – Cllr Masters – Nothing to report

11.3 Junior Councillors – Cllr Laniosh - Reported at point 3.1

11.4 Natural Networks Project and Footpaths Report– Cllr Osman and Cllr Laniosh held a meeting, and it was agreed to initially start on the minimal maintenance areas such as the grass verge on Golden Cross Lane and the area by Tesco to provide wildlife boxes and display boards.

Cllr Laniosh reported that two stiles and vegetation had been removed from the cemetery steps at Christ Church by the Footpaths Group. On 20th December there will be an inspection walk from Royal Oak at 10:30am and afterwards there will be a buffet lunch for the Footpaths Group in the Royal Oak which has been agreed to be taken from the Footpaths budget. Cllr Laniosh expressed his thanks to Cllr Webb for helping with funding for the equipment for the Footpaths Group.

Meeting finished @ 21:18

22/12-12

Date and time of next meeting: 26th January 2023 @ 19:00

Excerpt from November Spreadsheet

Nov-22								
Water Plus	d/d	v133	Water Ivy Cottage Gardens		6.54	6.54		
Talk Talk	d/d	v134	Office phone and broadband - Oct 2022		46.95	46.95		
O2	d/d	v135	office mobile		14.74	2.46	12.28	
Plantscape	BACS	v136	Winter planting at Ivy Cottage		504.00	84.00	420.00	
Kaos disco hire	BACS	v137	PA Speaker System Hire		60.00		60.00	
Salaries Nov 22	S/O	V138	LP salary Nov 2022		1,288.22		187.80	
Soldo	BACS	v141	Top up debit card		70.00		70.00	
Catshill Village Hall	BACS	v142	Yearly rental of office		1,567.20		1,567.20	
Soldo Card -Zoom monthly fee	Soldo	v143	Zoom monthly fee		14.39		14.39	
Soldo Card -			Land Registry search fee		24.00		24.00	
Chadsgrove Educational Trust	BACS	V144	Grant for garden project		1,500.00		1,500.00	
BJ Cooper Bequest Chadsgrove Scho	BACS	V144	Grant for laptop and wifi hub		500.00		500.00	
Catshill Baptist Church	BACS	V145	Grant for white goods scheme		5,000.00		5,000.00	
RBL Poppy Appeal	BACS	V146	Wreath for Remembrance Service		27.50		27.50	
EON	D/D	V147	Electricity at War Memorial		75.30	3.59	71.71	
					-	10,622.30	90.05	9,431.83
			Total for year to 31/03/2022		53,226.00	49,153.14	2,513.11	45,539.61