



MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held at CATSHILL VILLAGE HALL

GOLDEN CROSS LANE, CATSHILL, B61 0JZ

Thursday 31st January 2019, 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs O Sweeting (Chair), B McEldowney (Vice Chair), P Baker, M Ball, G Blackmoor, T Gillespie, V Harman, M Knight, P Masters, M Shephard, C Stark, N Ward

In attendance: Clerk – R Powell

19/01-01

Chairman's welcome

The Chairman welcomed all present to the meeting
Cllr G Blackmoor took this opportunity to express her thanks for the Council's support during her absence. Members gave Cllr Blackmoor a round of applause.

19/01-02

Members' Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from County/District Councillor S Webb, District Councillor B Cooper and Cllr J Bate

19/01-03

Open Forum

3.1 Members of the Public

No Members of the Public were present

3.2 Worcs County Councillor for the Woodvale Division (report circulated)

District Councillor S Webb has sent her apologies. Her report had been circulated (see attached)

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

District Councillor B Cooper had sent his apologies for the meeting.

3.4 Any other community representative

No community representatives were present.

19/01-04

The meeting was closed for Open-Forum and re-opened.

19/01-05

Declarations of Interest

No member stated any declarable interest.

19/01-06

Dispensations

No requests for dispensation had been received. Dispensations were in place for Cllrs Sweeting and Bate in relation to the Village Hall and Cllr Harman in relation to Catshill Social Club

19/01-07

Approval of Minutes of previous council meeting

It was agreed to accept the minutes of the Full Parish Council meeting held 29/11/18 and these were duly signed by the Chairman

19/01-08

Members' Questions

None received

19/01-09

Chairman's Report

Cllr Sweeting provided a report that congratulated Cllr Ward and his team for the efforts in relation to the Christmas Meal and Christmas lights event; expressed disappointment at the recent Catshill Conservative Survey that omitted any reference to the Parish Council or Village Hall involvement in key events and with reference to the overlap with Neighbourhood Plan questionnaires; thanks to Cllr Baker for attending the budget meeting at County Hall and the subsequent report and to Cllr Baker and McEldowney for their attendance at the Library meeting; reference to the upcoming elections and the need to inform the Clerk their wish to stand in order to allow provision of forms.

19/01-10 Clerk's Report: Emergency Actions, Update and List of Communications

10.1 Parishioner Correspondence – To inform Members of the correspondence received during the last month.

The Clerk had received communications regarding the pathway at the bottom of Milton Road through to the garden centre being thick with mud, assistance requested with bin collections, reports via Facebook of the concern of a football club regarding the dog mess on the Meadow, concerns from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group regarding the recent Catshill Conservative survey's overlap with their work, request for assistance with a planning application, been copied in on correspondence with the planning department regarding concerns about the progress in relation to Willow Brook Garden Centres works and two thank you notes from attendees at the Christmas Meal Event.

All had been dealt with accordingly.

10.2 Meeting with Age UK Bromsgrove 17/12/18

The Clerk had met with a representative from Age UK before Christmas regarding their Talk, Tea and Tech project. The Clerk from Belbroughton and Fairfield was also in attendance, with Cllr Sweeting attending towards the end of the meeting. Discussion involved the funding issues faced by Bromsgrove Age UK, what was currently already being carried out in the Parish in relation to elderly/isolated people and the Parish Council's upcoming initiative to provide seed funding to groups with ideas to tackle these issues. It was felt there was a lot already being done in the Parish and a strong network in place. The Clerk had suggested that the new Talk, Tea and Tech sessions may be beneficial to the M&C Friendship group and, following the meeting, had put the lady in touch with the Chair of this group. This had provided a positive outcome.

10.3 Elections and training

The Clerk had signed herself up to two training courses to cover Elections as this was her first election period. One was to be hosted by Worcestershire CALC and led by the electoral services officers and the other was a webinar by SLCC.

Relevant correspondence available from the Clerk: includes weekly CALC updates December 2018/January 2019; weekly updates from BDC Planning lists, WCC road works lists and reports, Neighbourhood Watch Alerts, NRSWA, Worcestershire Voices, Wellbeing in Partnership Newsletter, Bromsgrove Advertiser, Healthwatch Worcestershire bulletin, Act on Energy updates, PCC Newsletter and budget consultation, Information about the natural networks programme, Information about digital classes in Bromsgrove and Redditch, Age UK Bromsgrove befriending service information

19/01-11 Committee and Representatives Reports

Background papers available

11.1 Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group – 16/01/19 (Cllr B McEldowney)

To include ratification of the amended Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group Terms of Reference as recommended by the group (document circulated)

Cllr McEldowney reported on the meeting that included a summary and update on the Call for Sites exercise and that the next stage of the plan was the six week consultation period to include workshops. The draft Neighbourhood Plan was being compiled.

It was agreed to accept the Terms of Reference as recommended by the group.

11.2 Planning Committee – 17/01/19 (Cllr T Gillespie)

To include reference to applications considered using delegated powers during December

Cllr Gillespie provided a report of the meeting as attached.

Members engaged in a discussion regarding Planning Applications that weren't being adhered to and any relevant responsibility relating to this.

11.3 Environment and Highways Committee – 24/01/19 (Cllr M Knight)

Cllr Knight reported on a meeting that included discussion of an issue with the supply of Lengthsman equipment from WCC, designs of the Parish Council gardens, 30mph wheelie bin sticker distribution to key areas on main roads, ideas for planters to be added under the

'Welcome to Catshill' signs, the need for a gate at the Baptist Church garden and a site for the new Christmas Tree each year.

11.4 Any other report from Parish Council representatives including those for:

- **Christmas Light Switch on and Christmas Meal Event – 01/12/18 and 21/12/18 (Cllr N Ward)**

Cllr Ward reported on both events which had been a success. The light switch on had been attended by approximately 100 people and Bromsgrove District Council Chairman who had assisted with the light switch on. The Christmas Meal had been attended by over 40 guests including a lot of new people. The event had received a donation from two Members of the public – one to aid with the payment of the singers and raffle prizes and another that assisted with additional raffle prizes and purchase of crackers for the table. Both were to be thanked. Using outside caterers had been a positive move that alleviated some of the risks of the event. The table decorations were raffled off and proceeds were donated to the Village Hall.

Thanks were given to all those who had assisted with the events.

- **Village Hall Management Committee (Cllr Bate)**

In the absence of Cllr Bate, Cllr Sweeting reported that the Village Hall was progressing well and had taken on the Catshill Growing Initiative. A committee had been formed that included representatives from the Village Hall, the District Council, the Parish Council and BARN.

Funding had been applied for from the Lottery up to £11000.

Lots of work was now needed on the Village Hall including decorating, tarmacking and repair of fences that were, despite numerous letters, being pushed down by neighbouring properties overgrown foliage. The Village Hall would be applying to the Parish Council for a grant towards the work needed.

- **Bromsgrove CALC – 12/12/18 (Cllr O Sweeting)**

Cllr Sweeting reported that there had been a couple of speakers in relation to Neighbourhood Watch and then discussions around Neighbourhood Development Plan issues and the lack of activity as far as BDC is concerned. There are supposed to be representatives to report on developments sent to CALC and this isn't happening but is being investigated. The number of Councils attending CALC has dropped dramatically in the last 3 years. CALC is a beneficial resource for Clerks. Cllr Sweeting reported that a new Executive Officer will be appointed in April.

- **Catshill Growing Meeting – 07/01/19 (Cllr O Sweeting)**

Cllr O Sweeting had reported on this under the Village Hall Management Committee section

- **Worcester County Council Budget Engagement Meeting – 23/01/19 (Cllr P Baker)**

Cllr Baker had provided a report (see attached)

- **Internal Financial Audit – 28/01/19 (Cllr T Gillespie or Cllr J Bate)**

Cllr Gillespie reported that the meeting took about an hour and had gone well. Of the random bills and receipts that had been selected all those that Cllr Gillespie had chosen were perfect; some of those that Cllr Bate chose had issues. The Clerk had since rectified all these. Cllr Gillespie reported that the work that had been carried out was excellent.

- **News Magazine – (Cllr P Masters)**

It was discussed that the News Magazine needed to be distributed in March before Purdah. Cllr Masters requested all articles to be with the Clerk as soon as possible.

- **Marlbrook Tip Working Party**

The meeting had been called for by local residents as there had been activity and Cllr McEldowney had provided notes of the meeting (see attached)

19/01-12 Finance

12.1 To receive the payments and receipts report of the Responsible Finance Officer and to approve bills for payment; spreadsheet for December and January circulated

The current financial situation, including comparison of budget to actual income and expenditure to date, was noted. The payment schedule for December and January, as below, was approved.

It was agreed that the Clerk would look into the cost of dog bags at different companies.

12.2 To note the submission of the VAT claim for the Council for 2018

It was noted that a VAT claim had been made for the value of £3302.87 for February to December 2018

12.3 To note the submission of Precept requirements to BDC and the final Band D calculations using the Council tax base figure provide

The Council tax base figure this year was £2355.80 meaning that from a precept of £50596, a Band D calculation is £221.48 for 2019-20. This is an increase of £1.91 per Band D household. The Council tax base had decreased from last year and there was again, no DCLG support grant available.

12.4 To consider and agree the offer of Internal Audit Services from Mrs Diane Malley for either a yearly or three yearly contract (document circulated)

The Clerk informed the Council that in the interests of transparency, the Council should consider changing the Internal Auditor at intervals, however, it was acknowledged that this was a busy year and would not be advantageous to carry out the exercise this year.

It was agreed to accept the offer of a 1 year Internal Audit Service from Mrs Diane Malley at the cost of £180.

19/01-13 To consider and nominate a Councillor to attend Bromsgrove CALC meetings on behalf of the Council

It was agreed that Cllrs Harman and Blackmoor would be the representatives of Catshill and North Marlbrook Parish Council.

19/01-14 To consider the Council's position and agree a submission in relation to the Worcester County Council Library Public Consultation

Available: <https://www.snapsurveys.com/wh/s.asp?k=153968529047>

Closing date for submissions has been amended to 28/02/19

Cllr Baker had provided a report (see attached)

It was suggested that someone should speak to the school and library so there was more information and once all this was collated a report could be written. Contacting other Parish Council's was discussed, along with working with other agencies.

It was agreed to delegate this Agenda Item to the Finance and Staffing Committee.

19/01-15 To appoint a lead Councillor to respond to the following:
Worcestershire Minerals Local Plan: Fourth Stage Consultation and Mineral Site Allocations Development Plan Document: Proposed Site Selection Methodology
Closing date Friday 8th January 2019

It was agreed that Cllr O Sweeting would lead on these consultations.

19/01-16 Items for the next meeting

Members were requested to inform the Clerk of any items for the next meeting

19/01-17 Date and time of next meetings:

- Finance and Staffing Committee – 14/02/19 (7:30pm)
 - Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group – 13/02/19 (7:00pm)
 - Planning Committee – 21/02/19 (7:00pm)
 - Full Parish Council Meeting – 28/02/19 (7:30pm)
- * All meetings at Catshill Village Hall

This meeting ended at 21:28 hrs

Signed Date.....
Chairman of Catshill & North Marlbrook Parish Council

Minute no. 19/01-3.2 County Councillor Webb’s report – January 2019
Catshill South

Happy New Year to you all, and many thanks for your continued support.

Christmas Light switch was a wonderful afternoon, thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. Thank you to all volunteers for their invaluable help. I will be in touch with the Events committee to start planning this year’s asap. A date of 30th November has been suggested.

Catshill Growing / In Bloom project plans are now coming together under Catshill Village Hall and volunteers. We have the schools committed along with the local Scouts to help with planting and maintenance. The last planter by the Spar will be completed within the next few weeks. The children at Chadsgrove have worked really hard and enjoyed the planting.

I am continuing speed monitoring around my division with the local Safer Neighbourhood Team. Enforcement will continue on Stourbridge Road Catshill and Fairfield and will start on Golden Cross Lane in the Spring.

You may have noticed the ‘Parking Buddies’ I have funded from divisional funding for the three first schools in my division. I have had excellent feedback from parents, highlighting the need to be respectful and safe when parking near schools.



A stakeholder meeting will take place in Bromsgrove Library 4th February at 9am to discuss the future of Catshill Library. WCC are consulting with the public regarding remodelling the services provided, looking at ways to generate income in some libraries which will help keep services as they are now.

Investments into the County

Worcestershire County Council is proposing to invest millions of pounds into tackling congestion, improving town centres and upgrading railway stations across the county. The capital investments have been announced as part of the Council's proposed Budget for the next financial year.

Proposals include £2.5m for town centre improvements in Evesham, Redditch, Stourport and Worcester. It is proposed that the Council's programme to relieve congestion will be extended with an additional £5 million to be spent over the next 3 years.

Other proposed capital investments include £4m to build a new footbridge across the River Severn in north Worcester and to refurbish Sabrina Bridge in the city to support walking and cycling. An additional £5m is to be invested into the upgrading of railway stations.

Councillor Simon Geraghty, the Leader of Worcestershire County Council, said:

"These capital investments are essential for us to continue to support Worcestershire's growing economy. By investing into the county's infrastructure we will help to attract more businesses and build more homes which will help us to grow the Council's income."

"The Budget that we are proposing will invest £26 million in these schemes over the next three years while at the same time providing significant revenue investments into adult social care and into improving the lives of the county's children and young people. We plan to spend an additional £23 million pounds next year on social care in Worcestershire as demand for these services grows."

"We have also listened to the feedback during the Budget consultation process. So we are deleting proposed savings attributed to highways and our countryside service. We are reducing the savings proposals for libraries and the archives service as well as proposing a new Communities Fund to help enable the changes the need to happen."

The Council's Budget:

The County Council's revenue funding is due to go up by more than £6 million pounds in the next financial year. However the pace of growth in income is not keeping up with the increase in demand for social care. A set of saving proposals were announced last month including the redesign of the Council and a review of all commercial contracts.

Since then Council's across Worcestershire have been told that they can expect to receive an additional £4.9 million to help to reduce future demand in social care following a successful bid to the government for a one year 75% Business Rates pilot. The pilot means that more money from business rates gathered in Worcestershire next year will remain in the county.

It is proposed that Council Tax will be increased by 3.99% with 2.99% to support the general budget and 1% ring fenced for Adult Social Care.

The increase is the equivalent to 93p per week extra on a Band D property.

If the final budget proposals are approved by Councillors next month, Council Tax rates in Worcestershire would continue to be amongst the lowest in the country for county councils.

Next week we mark the second annual Celebrating Social Workers Week here at the County Council. Social workers and social care staff from both adults and children's services are invited to attend workshops and events taking place throughout the week.

Working in partnership with Worcestershire Wildlife Trust, we have successfully bid for £1.3million to run the Natural Networks programme which will help to improve the environment. The scheme is aimed at organisations such as parish councils, small and medium businesses, not for profit organisations and statutory bodies. To find out more go to www.worcestershire.gov.uk/naturalnetworks

Well done to all those involved in the 2018 Summer Reading Challenge delivered in our libraries. The figures were published this week and show it was a big success. The number of children and young people who completed the challenge in Worcestershire was 2,959, which is 74.2% of those who signed up - the highest percentage in the West Midlands.

The Council is now offering people who need domiciliary care but who pay for their care, access to our brokerage service to help find a provider. This service will help people to make informed choices about different options with different providers to meet their care needs and help put those arrangements in place. To access this service people need to contact the Access Centre on **01905 768053**.

We've been ranked one of the best councils in the country for the time it takes us to repair potholes. New figures released by the RAC Foundation show that it takes our Highways Team up to one hour to fix potholes across the county.

WORCESTERSHIRE County Council is delighted to be sponsoring the Worcestershire Education Awards for the third year running. The awards were officially launched at the University Arena on Thursday, January 17. The county council is once again proud to be sponsoring the category Teacher/Lecturer of the Year. Nominations are now being sought by schools, teachers, pupils and members of the public for a teacher or lecturer who is a worthy winner in 2019.

Minute no. 19/01-11.2

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT FEBRUARY 2018

In January there were 2 planning applications.

One was a new application in Golden Cross Lane for an extension. It was a straightforward application, which the Committee supported.

The second application was a retrospective application, which we first saw in November after the November Planning Meeting.

We had not realised that it was a retrospective application and, as there was no meeting in December and we had not received any objections, we agreed that it should be dealt with under delegated powers.

Once our decision had been posted on the BDC website, the neighbours contacted the Committee and explained that the original planning consent had been ignored. There were major discrepancies from the original application, which disadvantaged the local residents, mainly a privacy issue and the overwhelming aspect of the structure now built, which loomed over the next house. The original proposal had been acceptable to the neighbours but what had been built did not correspond with the plans submitted and the plans submitted were not true to the actual building.

We wrote to BDC and withdrew our support for the new retrospective application citing our reasons for withdrawal.

The decisions of the BDC for applications in previous months corresponded with those of the Parish Planning Committee.

Minute No. 19/01-11.4

Report on attendance at the Worcestershire County Council (WCC) Budget Engagement Meeting

Wednesday 23rd January 2019 at County Hall, Worcester

26 attendees that including approximately 15 parish councillors and 6 representatives from voluntary organisations some of whom deliver services for the Council.

The presentation was made by Michael Hudson, Chief Financial officer with Cllr Lucy Hodgson, cabinet member with responsibility for Communities.

The WCC budget is £324m this year rising to £330m next year. Of which 71% is currently spent on social care rising to 74%.

10 years ago 50% of the budget came from the precept, this is now 84% and is expected to rise to 100% in 2020 i.e. there will be no Revenue Support Grant (RSG).

The precept rise is capped at 3% though an extra 1% can be raised for adult social care. The rise has been set at 3.99% for next year.

As well as RSG and the precept, other grants make up WCC's budget and some initiatives and bids have raised an additional £5m.

However this still leaves the Council with needing to find £27m of savings.

There will be some voluntary redundancies, a review is being made of the Council structure but most services will have their budgets cut. For councils austerity has not ended, quoted by both speakers.

Investments made will reap benefits in future years particularly with infrastructure and reducing demands on social care such as improved road networks fuelling an increase in businesses and reducing social isolation.

At questions, one speaker suggested that with all Worcestershire Councils under Conservative control and all the County's MPs Conservative, they were not doing enough to lobby Government. The response was that lobbying was taking place and this has resulted in a review of the formula used to determine how much RSG councils received. There was a heavy bias to deprivation that favoured urban areas. The formula is being reviewed but may be delayed because of resources being taken up by Brexit and if the formula is changed then it just means the cake is being cut into different pieces if there is no overall increase in RSG available.

I asked if too many services were being outsourced or privatised and if taken then back in house would save money on the profits made by private companies and reduce the need for contract managers. The answer received was that all options were being looked at to save money and increase efficiency.

For parish councils, it was stated that the lengthsmen's scheme was being looked at with a view to expansion to carry out more functions currently being done by WCC.

Conclusion

The meeting ended 40 minutes early when there were no more questions. There were no hand outs and no copies of the slides available. I had the feeling that they were going through the motions of a consultation as only one officer and one councillor were present. The presentation was useful and gave an overview of the difficulties WCC face.

However an organisation like WCC is large and complex and finances are even more complex so getting a good grip in short presentation is virtually impossible.

From a parish councils point of view the only mentions were the lengthsmen's scheme and an oblique reference to community libraries some of which were supported by the local council.

Phil Baker

Minute No. 19/01-11.4

MEETING OF THE MARLBROOK TIP WORKING PARTY

10AM FRIDAY 25/01/19 BDC PARKSIDE

Update from the Environment Agency (EA):

They have recently undertaken a survey of the site and shared the results with the site owner, Liberty Construction. The cost of conducting the survey has been recovered by the EA from Liberty Construction. The owner of Liberty Construction has been interviewed under caution by the EA.

EA have undertaken a Cost/Risk analysis:

- 1). Apply for planning permission for the materials to be brought on site for the Panels Engineers work to be carried out.
2. Decommission the reservoir, which would mean the site would not be under the legal obligations for the work to be done. This was ruled out as the cost would be in the region of £1-2 million to re-build the broken culvert, which runs underneath the reservoir.
3. Do nothing; the site is safe at the moment. They have also being carrying out work during the Summer. A site visit was made on 18 December 2018 with a Geotech Engineer and the Environment Agency's Panel Engineer, who confirms the site, is safe for now, but they are still waiting for a full report from them.

The recent waste that has been deposited on the site is suitable and in compliance with the Waste Management licence issued by the EA

Chair asked if there were any questions for the EA:

Site owner licenced by EA to import 68,000 tons of 'restoration soil' onto the site.

EA have confirmed that they are not formally checking all lorry loads delivering to the site. They do not have the available resources to undertake that work.

They are very much relying on the information supplied to them by Liberty Construction in relation to quantities of soil being imported into the site.

Explained how the Waste Transfer Notes work. Every lorry entering should hand over a transfer note stating, where they have come from and the material to be deposited. This note is then signed and accepted by Liberty who are required to keep these and submit them every three months. A return is due shortly.

Inspection reports completed by Liberty Construction are available for inspection by the EA.

EA have undertaken unannounced visits to the site and are satisfied that the materials being delivered are in compliance with the licence, which they have issued to Liberty Construction.

A new inspection is due in 6 – 8 weeks.

Liberty Construction is required to complete 'Importation of Waste' returns at regular intervals.

Liberty Construction actually completes the returns themselves, so the EA relies on them to be honest in relation to the contents of the returns

One of the local councillors in attendance suggested that all lorries delivering to the site should be inspected by the EA and that Liberty Construction should pay for the cost of those inspections.

EA have estimated that it would take between 3500 to 4000 lorry journeys to deliver the authorised 68,000 tons of 'restoration soil to the site.

Planning Update – Ruth Bamford:

She said that the importation of the restoration soil required planning permission. To date, Liberty Construction has not applied for planning permission to deliver the materials that they are currently delivering to the site.

Liberty believed they already had planning permission for the current importation

Planning Permission would give the BDC Planning Department more control over what materials are being delivered to the site.

With Planning permission granted they could impose a monitoring regime for lorries delivering materials to the site.

Planning Department has recently served a 'Planning Contravention Notice' on Liberty Construction, which is a request asking for what's is going on and why.

Planning Department has this week served a 'Temporary Stop Notice' on Liberty Construction. (9am Friday 25th January 2019) and it will last for 28 days

Only one stop notice can be issued, and because of legal restrictions, Ruth cannot tell us what will happen after that has expired.

Liberty Construction will now be in contravention of the 'Temporary Stop Notice' if they continue to deliver materials to the site.

The Planning Department cannot discuss in public what possible future legal action they might take against Liberty Construction.

Questions to Ruth Bamford and EA:

District Councillor Charles Hotham asked the EA if they were able to revoke the Waste Management licence issued to Liberty Construction, due to them having not sought planning permission to deposit the restoration soil at the site.

EA said that the non-compliance with other legislation does not automatically affect the legality of the Waste Management licence.

EA were asked if they had checked with Liberty Construction that they had pursued planning permission to deliver the soil to the site and they were informed that permission had been granted.

I asked the EA if Liberty Construction had wrongly claimed to be granted Planning permission when they were being interviewed under caution, and that if that was the case, was the EA was giving consideration to taking legal action against them for that misrepresentation. EA said they could not discuss that in public.

I asked Ruth if it was known where the restoration soil was coming from, suggesting that it would be useful to know the source of the soil to ensure that it was not coming from a contaminated site.

She said that this was something that could be required if planning permission had been granted.

Ruth was asked a number of other planning related questions and said she was unable to answer many of them because she wanted to ensure that the Planning Department was in a legally tight position in relation to any possible future legal action they might pursue against Liberty Construction.

Ruth said that it was still possible for Liberty Construction to seek retrospective planning permission to cover the soil that had already been delivered to the site.

Worcester Regulatory Services

They did not attend but sent a statement.

They are sampling the soil stockpiled for chemical analysis. Results are not in yet. Requested that WRS attend the next meeting

Bernard McEldowney

25th January 2019

Minute No. 19/01-12.1 Excerpt from accounts day book to show payments and receipts for December 2018 and January 2019

Date	Payment Voucher no.	Receipt Voucher no.	Chq No	Details	Receipts	Payments	VAT Paid
Dec-18	V144		online	JRB Enterprise Ltd - dog bags x 10 boxes (Sep 18)		259.2	43.2
	V145		online	JRB Enterprise Ltd - dog bags x 10 boxes (Oct 18)		259.2	43.2
	V146		online	JRB Enterprise Ltd - dog bags x 10 boxes (Dec 18)		259.2	43.2
	V147		online	Heron Press Uk - Autum Newsmagazine printing (3100 copies)		445	
	V148		online	ClIr N Ward - Screwfix; Electricity box for lights		24.99	4.16
	V149		online	ClIr P Baker - Cement for Tommy installation; Plaque, pot and plant for ClIr Callaways memorial		83.34	6
	V150		Pocket	Smartwheelie.co.uk - 30mph wheelie bin stickers		250	
	V151		online	Worcestershire CALC - Training		20	
	V152		online	Jenny's Kitchen (Wall Heath) Limited - Catering for Chri		864	144
	V153		d/d	02 - Parish Council Mobiles x 2		38.4	6.4
	V154		d/d	Talk Talk - Office phone and broadband		56.35	
	V155-175		online and s/o	Salaries		1200.3	
	V158		online	HMRC - PAYE submission quarter 3		288.55	
				sub-total	59,955.15	48,698.47	2,667.46

	Payment	Receipt					
Date	Voucher	Voucher	Chq No	Details	Receipts	Payments	VAT Paid
	no.	no.					
Jan-19	V159		online	Parish Online by GeoXphere Ltd (Annual payment for mapping service)		126	
	V160		300937	Bromsgrove and Redditch Citizens Advice Bureau - Grant (Minute No. 18/11-12.2)		500	
	V161		online	Lengthsman December 2018		200	
	V162		d/d	Worcestershire Telecare Ltd - Loneworker service		35.1	5.85
	V163		online	Bullivant Media Limited - Lengthsman Advert in paper and online in Bromsgrove and Redditch Standard		540	90
	V164		d/d	Waterplus- Water supply at Ivy Cottage Garden		11.61	
	V165		d/d	Talk Talk - Office Phone and Broadband		45.75	
	V166		d/d	02 - Parish Mobiles x 2		38.4	6.4
	V167		online	Invoice for Christmas Meal Entertainment contribution		90	
	V168		online	CLLr Expenses - Drinks for Christmas Meal Event		132.98	
	V169		online	Litter Picker expenses		15.75	
	V170-173		s/o and online	Salaries		1303.2	
	V173		d/d	Unity Trust Bank - Service Charge		18	
		R13		Worcestershire County Council - Funding for tree maintenance at War Memorial	1000		
				sub-total	60,955.15	51,755.26	2,769.71

Bank Reconciliation and budget comparison as at 30/01/19					
Finances at start of year	56,699.08			Bank a/c as at 30/01/19	68,710.84
Add receipts	60,955.15			Pocket Account	£16.77
		117,654.23			
Less payments		51,755.26		Less unrepresented cheques	2,828.64
		65,898.97			65,898.97
					0.00
RECEIPTS	Budget 2018/19	actual to date			
Precept	46,266	46,266		u/p cheques	
DCLG CTSG	-			V160	500.00
Interest	300			V161	200.00
Lengthsman*	2,104	1,597		V162	35.10
Donations/other/grants	500	10,854		V163	540.00
Newsletter advertising	270	180		V164	11.61
VAT refund	2,000	2,058		V167	90.00
Reserve Fund	9,500			V168	132.98
	60,940.00	60,955.15		V169	15.75
				V170	157.00
PAYMENTS				V171	895.91
Staff Costs	21,000	13,554		V172	250.29
Administration inc office	4,300	4,023			2,828.64
CALC inc travel expenses	1,100	1,096			
Audit	500	470			
Training	1,500	260			
Insurance	900	1,041			
Members expenses	400	400			
Elections	1,500	-			
Grants : NWWA, Scouts, etc	2,000	3,106			
Events - Fun Day/R Sunday	3,500	4,643			
Communications - newsletters	1,540	1,512			
Gardens (includes water)	2,300	2,409			
War Memorial (includes electricity)	1,000	196			
Lengthsman	3,000	2,522	budget/precept (intended expenditure)	20,422.92	
Environment eg maintenance	3,600	2,398	Specific reserve (capital expenditure)	13,605.19	
Neighbourhood Plan	1,000	5,297	Emergency Reserve (fixed capital - 75% of Precept)	34,699.50	
Capital Projects *	11,700	5,994	Discretionary Reserve	-	
Section 137	100	63		68,727.61	
VAT paid		2,770	unrepresented cheques	2,828.64	
			balance	65,898.97	
Total	60,940.00	51,755.26			

*Lengthsman, actual WCC refund amount allocated for year to 03/2019 is £2104.00
S137 limit is £7.86 x total no. of electors 5,223 = £41052.78

Minute No. 19/01-14

The Future of Catshill Library

Background

Catshill Library used to be located in the small former Methodist chapel on Barley Mow Lane. However this location was thought by Worcestershire County Council (WCC) to be too expensive and after looking at various options it was closed about eight years ago and the building sold.

The library was moved into the former youth centre at Catshill Middle School and the management changed so that the facility was run mainly by volunteers.

The move has been neither popular nor effective. Numbers attending are less than before, the location is not as obvious, parking can be difficult and older people have said that they are uncomfortable using the facility when youngsters are around. In addition the external of the building is quite untidy and not particularly welcoming.

As well as lending books, the library has two PCs, lends audio books and DVDs and is used for meetings and other groups. The computers are useful for people particularly youngsters who do not have one at home.

WCC have decided that the County library service needs to find £800,000 of savings and a number of measures have been proposed.

For Catshill, the proposal is to change from being community supported to community managed. WCC will provide the library services but the 'community' will need to provide the volunteer staff and the cost of the rent at £2,000 p.a. Although not explicitly stated, if a solution is not found then closure is a probability.

All libraries in the County will be affected by these cuts with a number under threat of closure so Catshill is not alone.

Next steps

WCC held a consultation drop in meeting at the library on 4th January when senior WCC staff and Lucy Hodgson, cabinet member for Communities (that includes libraries) outlined the proposals and took questions. About 15 library users and volunteers attended

There is a follow meeting at Bromsgrove Library on 4th February when the proposals can be discussed in more detail.

The difficulty we have is two-fold. Firstly the library is heavily underused and is a tough case to defend. The facility in Bromsgrove is only two miles away so a viable alternative exists for most but not all users.

I am unsure about increasing the use of volunteers but that may work.

However, finding the annual rent will be difficult. The only option I can see is that the Parish Council makes the payment. That though would divert resources away from other areas and I am worried that it would be a dangerous precedent in making up shortfalls of other councils because they have chosen to reduce funding of a particular service.

The library could be moved into another building in the Parish at a lower or even zero rent but suitable premises do not look to be available. However that is one area that needs to be looked at.

Secondly, we need to make the point that Catshill Library has already made its contribution to savings by moving premises and using volunteer staff and now we are being asked to make a further contribution.

For those of us attending the meeting on 4th February it will be useful to have some guidance and a steer from the Parish Council as to what it may or may not be prepared to do and how it sees the situation.

Phil Baker

25th January 2019