

## CATSHILL AND NORTH MARLBROOK PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of Council Meeting held at the Village Hall on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2008 at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Cllrs G. Witcomb(Chair), P. Baker, Mrs G. E. Blackmoor, Mrs A. Glendenning, P. Masters, A. Pugh, M. Knight, M. Tingle.

#### 132/07 District Council Update

- a. Cllr Mrs. H. Jones the District councillor sent her apologies.
- b. Cllr Sheila Blagg updated the Parish Council Meeting on activities from the County Council:
  1. Bromsgrove is to have a new police station. It will be similar to the Leominster police station. The site has yet to be confirmed, although two possible sites have been identified. One would be a multifunctional site with the fire service and PCT. There is a need to spend in current financial year, so a decision is required soon. There are, currently, no custody facilities at Bromsgrove and this means that officers have to take suspects to either Kidderminster or Redditch. This travelling takes officers away from Bromsgrove and reduces the time tackling crime. The new site will provide this facility and many more.
  2. The Chadwich Quarry application has been refused. The Wildmoor application has also been refused by recommendation from the planning officers.
  3. Bromsgrove schools PFI has been a success with both buildings open on time.
  4. Meadow Road flooding issue has been recognised by the county council. It has been made a priority two item, which indicates that work to rectify the situation may be started soon.
  5. Tesco express traffic problems:
    - There has been a court order put forward to paint white lines to change traffic
    - There has been opposition on extending the double yellow lines.
    - Since there was no way to get common ground with the residents, the county council have consulted with the police and taken their advice.
    - Yellow lines have been extended into Cottage Lane.
    - Police don't agree to a crossing, nor did they like the idea of a roundabout.
    - The bus stop has been moved to the other side of Braces Lane.
  6. Traffic speed and nuisance is the number one problem for the police.
  7. Cllr Blagg requested that any problem gullies are identified to her.
- c. Cllr Anthony Blagg reported from the Bromsgrove District Council and North Marlbrook:
  1. Marlbrook Tip Monitoring Committee:
    1. Work is expected to be completed within 12 – 13 months.
    2. At certain times the lorries have been stopped, and complaints about lorries still received by the owners. It is therefore evident that not every lorry goes to Marlbrook tip.
    3. Some residents worried that the lorries are over laden, this is not true. Lorries are weighed. There are regular checks by District Council and environment agency.
    4. There is no limit on number of lorries per day, reducing the number of lorries per day extends the timescale of the project. The lack of a limit on the number of lorries helps to get the job done as quick as possible.
    5. If any resident believes that the Marlbrook Tip is contravening any regulations or agreements, they need to provide concrete evidence.
    6. The culvert is to be changed to ease the flow of water, and reduce the risk of flooding in Marlbrook. After the work is completed the flow of water into Catshill will need to be monitored.
  2. The HPU is to be restructured again to make it more effective. The highways department at County Hall have a much smaller budget than normal because of last summer's flooding. No extra funding has been forthcoming from the central government.
- d. Cllr Roger Smith reported back from District Council and Catshill:
  1. The cycle way between Stourbridge Road and Milton Road is owned jointly by BDC and WCC. This has been resurfaced. Cllr Smith is to put forward a recommendation to the District Council to make cycle way a public right of way under their control.
  2. A number of car parks have had charges raised. BDC agreed it was not economically viable to commence charging at Golden Cross Lane car park.
  3. The application for the affordable housing at Hinton Fields has been rejected.
  4. The Blue Cross are looking to expand their site. Plans are available at the site and the public are invited to go and have a look at the plans on display.

5. Secretary for state for communities looking at changing regulations on how the public are engaged into the decision making process. The website address to find out more: [www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk)
6. Cllr Pugh asked if there was a protocol to address the cabinet. Currently being discussed needs to be put in the formal plan. Diary of discussions will be posted on the website.
7. Cllr Pugh also asked if there was a policy regarding replies, either via email, writing or telephone calls. Cllr Smith will find one and feedback to the PCM. Targets for the performance of the hub are set. The targets are quite stringent. Figures for performance of the hub are also generated.

133/07 There was no participation from the public.

**The Chairman thanked all the Councillors for their comments and news.**

**The Parish Council Meeting commenced at 8.20 p.m.**

134/07 Apologies

- a. Apologies were received from Cllr. M. Shephard and D. Carter whose reasons for absence shown in the attendance book, were approved.

135/07 Declarations of Interest

- a. These were noted in the attendance book.

136/07 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2007

- a. The minutes of the meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2007 were accepted as a true record and were signed by the Chairman.

137/07 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2008

- a. The minutes of the meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2008 were accepted as a true record and were signed by the Chairman.

138/07 Chairman's Report

- a. The chairman's report was accepted.

139/07 Finance

- a. The Responsible Finance Officer's report was agreed. The following payments and reimbursements were agreed:

<b>Payee</b>	<b>Net</b>	<b>VAT</b>	<b>Gross</b>
Staples Photocopying	16.68	2.92	19.60
Cllr Witcomb Travelling expenses (2 trips to County Hall)	22.15		22.15
Clerks salary February 2008	313.38		
Litter Picker salary February 2008	127.20		
Orange Phone February 2008	21.17	2.83	24.00

- b. Donations policy wording has been modified. The document has been agreed and adopted by the council.
- c. Cllr Mrs A. Glendenning volunteered her services whilst the Parish council is without a clerk

140/07 Youth Initiative

- a. Cllr Pugh is going to hold a meeting with groups of young people to canvass their opinions on activities they would like in the Parish .
- b. Guides are to re-start meetings within the village
- c. Cubs however may have to close, due to a lack of leader.
- d. School has got the national cycling talent scouts running training for 8 weeks. This team has the top coaches from Manchester.

141/07 Environment & Highways Group

- a. Cllr Baker has requested a schedule of road works to be completed in Catshill and North Marlbrook. The budget has been set and each area manager has to make a case and bid for funding of individual works. Cllr Baker is to write to the head of Environmental Services at County Hall to support the case for resurfacing part of Golden Cross Lane and Woodrow Lane. A copy of this letter will be forwarded to Mike Walton of the HPU and Cllr. Sheila Blagg.
- b. Golden Cross Lane pavements need to be improved. Cllr Baker will send a letter requesting action to Jon Fraser.
- c. The wall at 288 Stourbridge Road is being progressed by the property management company.
- d. Church yard in Catshill to be referred to the next Environment & Highways Group meeting.

142/07 Planning Committee

- a. The minutes were accepted. The meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> February needs to be amended Ms J. Brown was not in attendance but P Masters was.
- b. The report on the decisions of the District Council was noted.

- 143/07 Personnel committee.
- a. Notes of meetings of 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> February 2008 were read out.
  - b. A job advertisement was discussed. It was agreed to place the advert in the advertiser at a cost of approximately £600. Cllr Baker will progress
  - c. Job specification to be created, by combining clerks and RFO specification.
- 144/07 Website
- a. There have been more updates.
  - b. SMIS has agreed to effect some changes on the navigation, and the removal of cutenews on the competitions page.
  - c. SMIS has also volunteered to demonstrate another way of displaying the minutes.
- 145/07 Parish Plans
- a. Mrs. Jill Bate contacted the Chairman of the Parish Council about the loan of £1000 from DEFRA. The chairman will contact DEFRA to ensure that the current plans are still within the remit of the grant.
- 146/07 Parish Council Progression
- a. The office tenancy agreement is currently with the solicitors. Although the solicitors have advised that the office should be held under licence to let, and not an office tenancy agreement. The licence would provide the Parish Council or the Village Hall Trustees a twelve month notice period. All papers have been signed for the solicitors to proceed with the work. The solicitors are awaiting the trustees confirmation that work can commence.
  - b. Cllr. Witcomb is to contact Pat Edwards to arrange training for the council.
- 147/07 Feedback
- a. There was none to report.
- 148/07 Correspondence Received.
- a. The list was noted.
  - b. Cllr Witcomb also stated that he had received a letter from North West Ward Association regarding the Meadow Fun Day.
- 149/07 Future agenda items
- a. The following items will be placed on the agenda for the April 2008 meeting.
    - 1. Meadow Fun Day
- 150/07 Date and Venue of the next Council Meetings
- a. The next Council meeting will be held at the Village Hall, Catshill at 7:30 p.m. on: -Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2008.

The meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.

Chairman :

Date: