

CATSHILL AND NORTH MARLBROOK PARISH COUNCIL
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD THURSDAY 26th JUNE 2008, 7.30PM
CATSHILL VILLAGE HALL, GOLDEN CROSS LANE, CATSHILL

Present : Cllrs G Witcomb (Chairman), P Masters (Vice-Chairman)
G Blackmoor (arrived #), D Carter, M Knight, A Pugh, M Shephard, M Tingle (arrived *)

In attendance : Clerk, G Lungley

08/021 Apologies

Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllr P Baker (personal), J Brown (holiday)

08/022 Declarations of Interest Cllr D Carter – member of NWWA

08/023 Adjournment of Meeting for Open Forum

Points of discussion as attached. (*# Cllrs Tingle and Blackmoor arrived)

08/024 Approval of minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held 29/05/2008 were amended to show:
min no. 08/005 : Cllr D Carter, declared interest as member of NWWA
min no. 08/007 : Environment & Highways Committee to include Cllr G Blackmoor;
min no. 08/013 : Re removal of BT payphones, add - from '**adjacent to**' this parish -; and were approved.

08/025 Chairman's Report

As attached

08/026 Questions from councillors

None put forward

08/027 Committee / Group / Representation Reports

- a) **Finance Committee:** No report
- b) **Planning Committee:** Meeting held 12/06/08 had considered the latest notifications including the application for change of use from retail to restaurant & take-away at 129/131 Golden Cross Lane and had submitted comments to the Planning Authority. Also advice received from BDC relating to temporary reduction of Planning Enforcement Officers.
- c) **Environment & Highways:** As per minutes 23/06/08, including judging of hanging baskets/containers to take place week commencing 14/07/2008 by PM, AP, GW.; the horse course balancing pools are designed to work unaided; drainage improvements have taken place in Wildmoor Lane and by the War Memorial; the Lengthsman scheme to be reviewed.
- d) **Youth Group:** No report
- e) **Personnel:** No report
- f) **Website & IT Support:** PM – many improvements to the website with e-mail situation having been sorted and the draft Parish Plan now down-loadable as PDF; the latest minutes

are to be uploaded; What's On has been updated; hanging basket competition and Fun Day publicised. PM to call a meeting re: host provider for website.

- g) **Parish Plan Group:** The draft plan had been printed and distributed at the Fun Day; follow-up sessions will be held at the Village Hall on Saturdays 20th and 27th September.
- h) **Fun Day:** The annual Fun Day was held 21/06/08; this council's stall included the draft Parish Plan, energy conservation representative & samples, sales for duck race (funds to NWWA), leaflets relating to health and safety + free give-aways in environmentally friendly bags and refreshments; members agreed it went well despite poor weather.
- i) **Worcs CALC Bromsgrove Area Committee, 04/06/08:** GW and GL attended.
- j) **Bromsgrove Parish Forum, 24/06/08:** GW and GL attended, included a presentation on 'Smartwater', a burglary deterrent. It was agreed to include this on the next agenda.

08/028 Members' Code of Conduct

It was agreed to adopt the revised (2007) Members' Code of Conduct with paragraph 12(2) which allows council members with a prejudicial interest the same rights as members of the public to speak on the subject in which they have an interest before withdrawing from the meeting.

The members who had yet to complete their form relating to the Register of Interests were reminded to do so.

08/029 Co-option of members

It was agreed to co-opt Mrs A Glendenning to the Catshill Ward.

A notice for the Marlbrook Ward notice board would invite applicants for co-option.

08/030 Committee / group structure

It was agreed as follows:

- a) retain the existing Finance and Planning Committees;
- b) convert the existing Environment & Highways, Personnel, and Appeals groups into Parish Council committees;
- c) retain the Website and IT Support Working Party, to meet when necessary and liaise regularly with the council administration;
- d) encourage the setting up of an independent Youth group, with the parish council-appointed members providing updates to the parish council when appropriate;
- e) support the establishment of an independent Parish Plans Group, with start-up funding, publicity, grant-aid etc. whilst retaining the intention to adopt the Plan on completion;
- f) consider the setting up of ad hoc working parties as and when required, with clear guidelines, for the purpose of research, or completion of a specific parish council project, working through the council administration;
- g) establish an Events Committee;
- h) review the Terms of Reference of all the above.

08/031 Councillor Training

It was agreed to take up the offer of training via Local Council Services, but at some time in September, not July. Other parish councils would be invited to attend.

08/032 Community Transport Review

BDC's review of community transport provision was completed, with preference expressed for the option of an independent body providing facilities such as dial-a-ride; strong support for public transport/community transport links between the parish and Bromsgrove railway station (or nearest railway station) and also between Catshill & North Marlbrook and Redditch Hospital.

08/033 Finance Report and bills for payment

The report, including bills for payment, was approved.

Members were notified of the new mileage rates for travelling allowances 2008/09, as advised by BDC.

08/034 Items for consideration at next meeting not already mentioned

For consideration by Parish Plan Group – to ensure the historic nature of the parish is clearly outlined, eg reference to nail-makers' cottages.

08/035 Date and time of next meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday 31st July 2008 at 7.30pm.

This meeting ended at 9.30pm

Signed..... Date.....
Chairman of Catshill & North Marlbrook Parish Council 31st July 2008

Minute no. 08/023

Notes relating to the Open Forum

Q : Is there any progress relating to the planning application for take-away/restaurant at 129-131 Golden Cross Lane?

A : Cllr Carter – Consultation period ends 23/07/08 when BDC will make decision; reasons for C&NMPC's objections were outlined.

Q : Any progress relating to the unsafe wall?

A: No further progress. A working party was suggested to clear the footpath between Stourbridge Road and Church Road.

Comment by member of the public : Fun Day well supported, good show by Parish Council, impressed with Draft Parish Plan; concern expressed regarding overheard comments about the parish council taking responsibility for The Meadow.

County Councillor Mrs Sheila Blagg (SB) (Woodvale Ward)

Highways remedial work was to :- incorporate the brook off Birmingham Road behind the Chinese takeaway, Braces Lane to be resurfaced in October including the whole of the footpath, survey to be undertaken with work to be carried out in the new Year. (*)

The PACT meeting had dealt with parking outside Tesco Express – the police are to carry out random checks. SB suggests C&NMPC consider siting planters or similar outside the shop to prevent parking on the pavement. The double-yellow lines had now been installed correctly. (#)

SB was aware of the flooding issues at the brook in Church Road; corrective work had been carried out to enlarge the size of the pipe; also problems with riparian owners not always being aware of their responsibilities.

Worcs County Council pay for 6 highways grass cuts pa, contracted to BDC and the District Housing Trust – any complaints about weedkilling/spraying should be directed to BDC/BDHT. (Members asked for the rules to be clarified regarding weedkilling/spraying.)

District Councillor Anthony Blagg (AB)(Marlbrook Ward)

Drivers of lorries to and from Marlbrook Tip are at risk of losing their license if their vehicles are overweight; the vehicles are weighed on site. Concrete tipped at the site is validly imported and broken up on site but is only imported when available. The situation is constantly monitored by all relevant agencies including the Environment Agency – the ultimate aim is to create a golf course there which will eventually require more planning permission for any related buildings.

The Regional Spatial Strategy proposes a higher housing allocation for Bromsgrove District.

The 'Roof Tax' ie funding for infrastructure to replace the current S106 situation, should be implemented next year.

Comment from C&NMPC : potential loss of affordable housing re: plans for 129/131 Golden Cross Lane – SB suggested making contact with Chair of BDC's Planning Committee to ensure it is debated at committee and to ask for a site visit.