

Present : Cllrs G Witcomb (Chairman), P Masters (Vice-Chairman), P Baker,
Mrs G Blackmoor, Ms J Brown, D Carter, Mrs A Glendenning, A Kelly, M Knight,
Mrs M Owen, A Pugh, M Tingle (arrived *)

In attendance : County Councillor Mrs S Blagg, District Councillor A Blagg
County Highways Liaison Officer M Walton
Apologies for non-attendance from District Councillor Mrs H Jones
Clerk: Mrs G Lungley

08/053 Apologies

Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllr M Shephard (work commitments)

08/054 Declarations of Interest Cllr D Carter – member of NWWA

08/055 Adjournment of Meeting for Open Forum

Points of discussion as attached.

08/056 Approval of minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held 31/07/2008 were approved and signed.

08/057 Chairman's Report As attached

08/058 Correspondence

Items received as per list circulated at meeting

08/059 Questions from councillors

1. Why is the target date of completion of Parish Plan 2011?
This would tie in with BDC's expected start date for dealing with new Plans.
2. Why do posters advertising the Day of Kindness on 10th October also state there will be clean-up of Catshill on 11th October, implying that the parish is litter-strewn and untidy?

08/060 Committee / Group / Representation Reports

- a) **Finance Committee:** Cllr G Witcomb - Meeting held 11/09/2008; the unqualified Audit result and comments were brought to the notice of the Council and via the committee's minutes.
- b) **Planning Committee:** Cllr D Carter - Meetings held 21/08/08, 11/09/08 and 25/09/08 had considered the latest notifications including the application for affordable homes on land off Dale Close which was again objected to on the grounds of Green Belt, poor emergency access and non-compliance with the Local Plan.

*Cllr M Tingle joined the meeting.

- c) **Environment & Highways:** As per minutes of meeting held 15/09/08, including the appointment of a Lengthsman, WCC funding for which is capped at £2,000pa.
- d) **Youth Group:** Cllr Mrs A Glendenning gave a verbal report on the meeting held 14/08/08 – work in progress.
- e) **Personnel:** Cllr P Baker is drafting two policies relating to absence and health & safety; Cllr P Baker is also drafting further policies for the council.
- f) **Website & IT Support:** Cllr P Masters – website continues to be developed showing the latest events and downloadable minutes; to meet to discuss how to proceed regarding SMIS
- g) **Parish Plan Group:** Cllr Ms J Brown – interesting Parish Plan open day on 20/09/2008 with about 12 people engaged on the subject; the second open day is on 27th September.
- h) **Events Committee:** Nothing to report yet, to meet 27/09/2008, 11.00am.

08/061 Committee Appointments

It was agreed to appoint as follows:

Environment & Highways – to include Cllrs A Kelly and Mrs M Owen to replace M Knight

Planning – to include Cllr A Kelly

Finance – to include Cllr Mrs M Owen

08/062 Response to BDC Consultation on Local Neighbourhood Partnerships

It was agreed to delegate a response to a working party and Clerk to meet on 29/09/2008, 7pm.

Local Government Act 1972, s111

08/063 Purchase of Local Council Administration

It was agreed to purchase the 7th edition of Charles Arnold-Baker's Local Council Administration.

Local Government Act 1972, s111

08/064 Councillor Training

It was agreed to set the date of the next training session for 23/10/2008, doors open from 6.30pm with the training to start at 7pm.

08/065 Finance Report and bills for payment

The report as circulated, including bills for payment, was approved.

08/066 Items for consideration at next meeting not already mentioned + information

Cllr P Baker – meeting 9th October 2008, preparations for the Remembrance Day Ceremony.

Cllr D Carter – application for road closure would need to be submitted within next few days.

08/067 Date and time of next meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday 30th October 2008 at 7.30pm.

This meeting ended at 9.10pm

Signed.....

Chairman of Catshill & North Marlbrook Parish Council

Date.....

30th October 2008

Notes relating to the Open Forum

County Councillor Mrs Sheila Blagg (SB) (Woodvale Ward) introduced **Mr Mike Walton**, County Highways Liaison Engineer (Bromsgrove) Community and Response Unit who announced the highways works that are to be carried out, such as footway resurfacing in Braces Lane, Woodrow Lane including re-kerbing, Golden Cross Lane by the shops and the main carriageways and footways within the village to be done this financial year. The drainage situation is ongoing, with investigations being carried out into the flash floods and the culvert problem in Church Road.

Various questions were asked of Mr Walton who responded, including:

- All the footway surfacing will be full surfacing;
- Hopefully the full length (ie A38 – Golden Cross Lane) of Woodrow Lane will be resurfaced, but at least Golden Cross Lane – Cobnall Lane.
- There are different budgets for carriageways and footways.
- Golden Cross Lane carriageway will be done probably January, but possibly not the footway.
- One problem with imposing a one-way system (Church Road) is that it would increase the speed of vehicles; a request should be put in writing to the Highways department, including the reasons and to reinforce the feelings expressed at the PACT meeting.
- The strips of grass alongside Woodrow Lane are to be removed and resurfaced; parking on these strips will not be encouraged, but also probably not stopped.

Mr Walton was thanked for his presentation.

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

- Tesco Express – Central Networks would prefer kerbs to be installed rather than planters. Double yellow lines in Linehouse Lane have been turned down by Traffic Management.
- Braces Lane is currently being resurfaced, the footway is to be done later.

District Councillor Anthony Blagg (AB)

- Marlbrook Tip – during the recent rains the county's work held up but private gardens in Middle House Drive and Old Birmingham Road had flooded, but it seems that Marlbrook Lane is now able to cope.
- Marlbrook Tip – meetings are open to residents and parish council representatives (next meeting to be held on Wednesday 22nd October).
- Town Centre regeneration – much interest in the questionnaire; the consultation is valid as nothing is yet decided. The changes will take place over seven years, with High Street refurbishment taking place earlier (the shops will stay open) and the toilets are to be renovated at the end of November.

Carl Knowles (CK), Akela Catshill Cubs

The Scouts have traditionally held an annual bonfire and fireworks event but this did not happen last year due to lack of help and also a lot of effort for little return, but it was missed by the community. CK would be approaching other community groups for assistance including the Parish Council – requiring in the region of £2000. This would be put to the Events Committee which is to meet 27/09/2008 at 11.15am.

Don Prust – asked about clearance of the footpath between Stourbridge Road and Church Road.