



Environment & Highways Committee

Meeting held Thursday 2nd April 2009 7.30pm

Catshill Village Hall, Golden Cross Lane, Catshill

Members present Cllrs – M Shephard (Chair), Mrs G Blackmoor, A Kelly, P Masters
In attendance Clerk - Gill Lungley

Apologies for absence Cllr Mrs M Owen (annual leave), M Tingle (work commitments),
 Gordon Witcomb (civic duties)

Declarations of interest None declared

Public Questions Meeting adjourned to hear questions from the public; none
 present so meeting reconvened

Agenda Items

1. Clerk updates on previous matters
2. War Memorial maintenance/cleaning
3. Cottage Drive car parking
4. Planting scheme at the Ivy Gardens
5. Catshill Brook clearance
6. Items for discussion at next meeting

To
follow
up:

1. Updates

- a) **Marlbrook Notice Board** – now in use. To tidy up the ground under the notice board – Clerk to request quote from C B Mowers to dig out area and lay gravel; to check with MS before proceeding with the work. **GL**
- b) **Lengthsman work** – regarding waterways John Bailey would appreciate the Lengthsman monitoring vulnerable spots; a meeting to be arranged to ascertain the relevant sites. Members agreed to renew the Lengthsman contract with S Skeys and WCC. **GL**
- c) **Bus Shelter** – Stourbridge Road, no progress since last meeting's report (still awaiting costs via Neil Reed, BDC). MS to contact NR. **MS**
- d) **New Bus Shelter** – Meadow Road; Clerk and GW had met with WCC, Highways and Police representatives on site – there were no objections to the siting of the new shelter.
 - WCC will be asked to issue a licence (Clerk to supply required information). **GL**
 - Based on WCC's recommendations Members agreed to the style of shelter (3-bay cantilever, no sides, no seating); Clerk to find out cost of supply & installation. **GL**
- e) **Dog waste bins** – two new bins have been installed at Milton Road near Baptist Church and Cottage Lane opposite 2nd junction with Greenslade Crescent. BDC declined to install a bin on the brook-side footpath between Church Road and Stourbridge Road due to damage of a bin on that site in the past. Members would like BDC to reconsider. **GL**

- f) **Proposed Ornamental Garden A38/Braces Lane** – BDC have no objection to the proposal but would like to see plans before work starts; AK is to take photo's and measurements. A licence will be required from WCC. AK
GL
- g) **Car parking to rear of Spar, Golden Cross Lane** – it was suggested this be referred to PACT as the lighting would help to improve customer and staff safety when using their cars as the cover of darkness could be used for disreputable purposes. Clerk also to write again to landlord etc. GL
- h) **Shelley Close MUGA lighting** – BDC and District representatives have yet to respond. County Councillor Mrs S Blagg to be asked if funding can be found from other sources and Clerk to contact the Community Safety Partnership. GL
- i) **Braces Lane parking for Recreation Ground** –BDC responded stating they have no funding to improve the existing arrangements but would contact the teams using the field asking them to consider car-sharing and to take more care when parking not to cause an obstruction. Members expressed concern about the potential for early damage to the recently resurfaced pavement. Clerk to contact BDC again suggesting funding may be available from the parish council. GL
- j) **War Memorial maintenance** – the safety inspection had been carried out (S Bright & Son) with no problems reported. Members agreed to defer any cleaning for now. Punch Taverns had not responded to the request for remedial work to the overhanging trees; the Clerk was to write again, cc to the Crown Inn managers. Members are to visit the site before the next meeting to help decide what work needs to be undertaken. All
- k) **Golden Cross Lane car parking** – it was agreed to review this at the next meeting due to the number of sites where mud is spread on the pavement from cars being parked on the grass verges. AK to bring photographs of the various sites. AK
- l) **M5 junction 4 improvements** – information provided via letters from Highways Agency was adequate; motorway lighting and junction improvement works due to end May '09 with remedial resurfacing at M5 junction 4a to follow until July '09.
- m) **Parish Paths Partnership** – Clerk to find out what is available via the contractors' scheme. GL
- n) **Manhole cover repair to Milton Road footway** – Clerk had reported the shoddy workmanship repair to WCC Highways via the hub but had received no response. Adjacent cracked slabs had now been marked 'X' and it was suggested that the repair was possibly temporary.

2. War Memorial maintenance and cleaning

This item was dealt with above, item 1j.

3. Cottage Drive car parking

A resident of Cottage Drive was not in favour of 'EdgeMaster' style parking deterrents; it was suggested that the other residents be asked their preferences and members agreed to consider a questionnaire at the next committee meeting. The resident would be thanked for writing to the parish council on the subject. GL

4. Ivy Gardens planting scheme

Members had liked last year's scheme of geraniums and suggested the same mixed with tagetes, aubretia over the edge and a central plant such as ornamental thistle. GB would meet the contractor on site to discuss. GB

5. Catshill Brook clearance

It was reported that the presence of water voles in the brook to the north of Marlbrook play ground prohibited the removal of litter such as shopping trolleys, drinks bottles etc. The bottles indicated the consumption of alcohol so the police/neighbourhood wardens would be watching the site which is an 'alcohol free zone'.

6. Items for discussion at next meeting

- a) 'Muriel Davis' memorial tree
- b) Planting of daffodils in the parish

Date and time of next meeting It was agreed to meet Thursday 14th May 2009 at 7.30pm.

This meeting ended at 9.35pm

Agreed as a true record of the meeting held 02/04/2009

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Chairman, Environment & Highways Committee
Catshill and North Marlbrook Parish Council