



ENVIRONMENT & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD

7.30pm, THURSDAY 22nd JANUARY 2009

Catshill Village Hall, Golden Cross Lane

Present

Cllrs M Shephard (Chairman), A Kelly, P Masters, Mrs M Owen, G Witcomb; Mrs G Blackmoor & M Tingle arrived at ‘*’

In attendance

Clerk : Mrs G Lungley

1 Apologies

None

2 Declarations of Interest

None declared

3 Minutes of meeting held 15/12/2008

Minutes of previous meeting approved and signed.

4 Updates

- a) **Shared Notice Board, Marlbrook** – installation expected at the end of this month. Existing board to be taken away by Lickey & Blackwell PC contact.
- b) **Lengthsman** – Map had been sent to the Lengthsman, now awaiting instruction for work.
- c) **Bus Shelter, Stourbridge Road** – an estimate of the re-glazing work had been provided. BDC Street Scene would advise how best to proceed – they may prefer to carry out the work and pass on the costs to the Parish Council.
- d) **New bus shelters within the parish** – *(Cllrs Mrs Blackmoor and Cllr Tingle arrived); it was agreed to pursue the possibility of a new bus shelter (open style cantilever with elliptical roof) at the bus stop near Harris coaches. Clerk to contact WCC Highways and Public Transport departments.
- e) **Sites for dog-waste bins** –Environmental Services / Street Scene had been contacted concerning a number of sites including Cottage Lane/Cottage Farm Drive and the public right of way (Brook Path) between Church Road / Stourbridge Road – no response as yet.
- f) **Ornamental Garden, Marlbrook** – WCC contacted for site information, no response as yet.
- g) **Parish Boundary signs** – rather than one sign at each boundary point, to have one ‘Parish’ sign incorporated with the ornamental garden.
- h) **Golden Cross Lane shops car park lighting** - not yet progressed by Clerk.
- i) **Lighting at Shelley Close play area** – Clerk wrote to BDC requesting installation of lighting at the MUGA – no response to date although Community Support Officer is supportive. It is believed the County Councillor has funding to support healthy lifestyles that may be appropriate for helping the District Council to provide the lighting which will encourage the MUGA users to use the facilities for longer during the winter.

5 District Draft Core Strategy Consultation

Comments have been invited on the District Council's Draft Core Strategy. It was agreed there are concerns regarding the lack of provision to upgrade the infrastructure despite the parish being shown as an area of growth and also concerns with the tendency to assume that as the 'village' of Catshill has already been altered and enlarged then it is seen as having potential for greater growth rather than being left to consolidate and adapt to the changes gradually.

Catshill has problems with flooding which need to be addressed before any further building adds to the problem. Members agreed it would be essential to maintain the green breaks in the parish to prevent joining up with Rubery and Bromsgrove, and maintain existing green spaces. Any development on the Marshes would require the provision of a linear park following the brook.

The Draft Core Strategy promotes the regeneration of Bromsgrove Town Centre and support for the retail outlets there, but fails to support the local/suburban shopping centres in the same way. The diversity of shops in Catshill is being eroded by the proliferation of fast food outlets. Members would like to see the incorporation of a theme to protect the village environment.

6 Public Art It was agreed to consider this when the economic climate improves.

7 Road Safety in Braces Lane

When football matches are played on the recreation ground in Braces Lane, cars are parked on the side of the road and the pavement causing problems for other road users and pedestrians. It was agreed to request BDC enlarge the car park to reduce the dangers on the road.

8 War Memorial maintenance

The memorial is due to be safety checked. It has been cleaned in the past but it is believed the current growth of algae/moss is due to the overhanging trees which are the property of the pub owners (Punch Taverns). Steps would be taken to encourage reduction of the overgrowth.

9 Future Agenda items

a) No-Parking signs in Cottage Drive.

For information: Public Transport Consultation at BDC 19/02/09, 2.30pm – 4.30pm to determine potential users' requirements for a community transport scheme across the district.

10 Date and time of next meeting Thursday 19th February 2009, 7.30pm

This meeting ended at 9.00pm

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Signed, Chairman Environment & Highways Committee

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Date, 19th February 2009