

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

In attendance : Clerk - Mrs G Lungley

09/042 Apologies

Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllrs Ms J Brown (work commitments), M Shephard (annual leave)

09/043 Declarations of Interest As per registration book –

D Carter – personal interest relating to NWWA / The Meadow
A Kelly – personal interest relating to Catshill Fun Day

09/044 Adjournment of Meeting

County & District Representative Reports – Apologies were received from County Councillor Mrs S Blagg (Woodvale), District Councillors A Blagg and Dr G Lord (Marlbrook) and Ms H Jones (Catshill).

Public Question Time – notes taken of public participation are appended.

09/045 Approval of minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held 26/03/2009 were approved and signed.

09/046 Chairman's Report

The report was circulated.

09/047 Correspondence

Items received as per list previously circulated were available at the meeting including a response from Bromsgrove MP Julie Kirkbride relating to this council's concerns with the Planning Inspector's decision to allow the appeal for change of use at 129 – 131 Golden Cross Lane.

09/048 Questions from councillors None

09/049 Committee / Group / Representation Reports

a) **Environment & Highways Committee:** meeting held 02/04/2009.

It was suggested the Lengthsman liaise with John Bailey to review and monitor the local watercourses.

b) **Staffing Committee:** meeting held 07/04/2009.

It was agreed to accept the committee's recommendations to:

- Subscribe to the lone-worker protection scheme;
- Adopt the Health and Safety Policy;
- Adopt the salary review for the Clerk and Litter Picker.

c) **Planning Committee:** meeting held 16/04/2009. It was noted the advertisement boards outside CostCutters (Gibb Lane) were still in place despite BDC's refusal of planning permission.

d) **Events Committee:** meeting held 16/04/2009. The newsletter had been produced and distributed; Cllr Kelly was congratulated on his work. The next meeting of this committee would look at the arrangements for the Fun Day and for the Remembrance Day service.

e) **Youth Group:** meeting held 16/04/2009. Cllr Mrs Glendenning advised of two projects being considered – 1) provision of a skate ramp (long-term project that requires a site and funding) and 2) summer disco's for 13 – 16 year olds.

f) **Local Council Conference:** held at County Hall 27/04/2009. Cllr Witcomb had attended this conference where it was suggested parish councils should prepare for the possibility of unitary status; two such conferences are to be held each year.

09/050 Bromsgrove District Parish Charter

It was agreed members would review the existing Charter document (an agreement between WCC, various district councils not including BDC, most of Worcestershire's parish councils and WorcsCALC) and compare with the proposal from Bromsgrove District Council. This would then be discussed at the next parish council meeting.

09/051 Bromsgrove Town Centre car parking charges

Media reports had implied BDC would be charging a parking fee for any car that is driven onto its car parks, even if only to pick up a shopper or other pedestrian. Despite comments from Mike Bell, Head of Street Scene and Community at BDC, members were of the opinion that this is damaging to town centre business, with local residents preferring to shop instead at nearby towns.

09/052 Annual Parish Meeting

One issue that had been put forward at this meeting held 23/04/2009 related to the speed of traffic along A38 Birmingham Road through Marlbrook; County Councillor Mrs Blagg had undertaken to liaise.

09/053 Finance Report and bills for payment

The report as circulated, including bills for payment, was noted.
The audit for the financial year ending 31/03/2009 was to take place from 30/06/2009.

09/054 Items for consideration at next meeting not already mentioned + information

- o IT and website update.
- o Committee membership – all members are asked to consider which committees they are prepared to serve on.

09/055 Date and time of next meeting

The Annual Parish Council Meeting is to take place on Thursday 28th May 2009 at 7.30pm.

This meeting ended at 8.45pm

Signed..... Date.....
Chairman of Catshill & North Marlbrook Parish Council 28th May 2009

Appendix

Minute no. 09/044 – Adjournment for Public Question Time

Eight members of the public were in attendance, six of whom had concerns relating to flooding of houses in Green Lane; comments included

- the fact that the storm drains by the allotments are sabotaged,
- that flooding has worsened since new houses were built in the vicinity
- that there is no time to install boards into the drainage channel during bad weather.

CLlr Witcomb undertook to speak to the relevant officer.