

Present : Cllrs G Witcomb (Chairman), P Baker, Mrs G Blackmoor, A Kelly, M Knight, P Masters, Mrs M Millward, Mrs M Owen, M Shephard

In attendance : Clerk - Mrs G Lungley

Prior to the start of the meeting Joe Turner, Principal Planning Officer from Bromsgrove District Council (BDC) gave a presentation on his work which covers Planning Enforcement and Development Control. This proved interesting and members were keen to take up the offer of training to establish the boundaries of the planning function ie what can / cannot be done and what matters are serious /trivial, in the light of the recent changes to planning regulations.

JT was thanked for his attendance and he left the meeting.

09/130 Apologies

Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllrs J Brown, A Glendenning (health issues); D Carter, M Tingle (work commitments)

09/131 Declarations of Interest

As per attendance book – Cllr M Knight declared a personal interest regarding min. no. 141 (whether agendas are to be sent via e-mail or by post)

09/132 Open Forum

The meeting was adjourned for Open Forum, comments as appended.
A written report had been received from WCC Cllr Mrs S Blagg who was unable to attend.

09/133 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 29/10/09 were approved and signed.

09/134 Chairman's Report

The report was circulated; the Chairman also spoke about his recent attendance at the 2nd Parish Councils' conference at County Hall and their emphasis on partnership working and parish plans. There had also been an enthusiastic presentation on funding sources and how to make successful applications. The Chairman also spoke about his attendance at the WorcsCALC AGM and their promotion of parish partnerships and parish plans.

09/135 Communications received

The list of miscellaneous communications was circulated. Additional items included:

- e-mail from Sgt. Nick Husbands is moving on from position as Bromsgrove North Sgt;
- Consultation on BDC draft policy 'Sports and Leisure – Service and Facilities Access for Trans-people' – to be forwarded to all members via e-mail;
- Members may request a copy of the Register of Electors;
- Agreement with WCC relating to the proposed bus shelter, Meadow Road

09/136 Councillors' Questions None put forward.

09/137 Reports from Committees etc.

- a) **Planning Committee:** meeting held 12/11/2009
- b) **Events Committee:** meeting held 12/11/2009

Judging of the annual Christmas lights competition would take place on 21/12/2009. The C and M Club was proving popular amid hopes it was to continue unaided.

- c) **Youth Committee:** meeting held 12/11/2009
- d) **Finance Committee:** meeting held 19/11/2009

It was agreed to set the precept for the financial year 2010-2011 at £21,327 and Bromsgrove District Council would be requested to collect this on the Parish Council's behalf.

It was agreed to establish the budget for the financial year 2010- 2011 which would involve the transfer of £11,523 from reserves.

- e) **Staffing Committee** – meeting held 19/11/2009.

It was agreed to accept the Statement of Aims and Objectives as prepared by Cllr P Baker.

It was agreed to approve the comments to be submitted to BDC regarding the District Parish Councils' Charter.

- f) **Parish Plan** - comments from the Open Days held in September 2008 were circulated for review; this is to be covered at the next meeting of the Parish Council
- g) **IT and Website:** the website is to be brought up to date regarding committee minutes etc. and the What's On section. Also to review the pages available via WCC and BDC websites.

09/138 Parish Councillors' Allowances

It was agreed to retain the status quo.

09/139 North West Ward Association Management Committee

A parish council representative is required on the management committee to the Meadow Playing Field; **decision deferred.**

09/140 Catshill Village Hall Management Committee

It was agreed to arrange to meet with the Village Hall management committee to discuss its future.

09/141 Agenda distribution policy

It was agreed to retain the current system for sending out the agenda to all parish council meetings, ie paper copies to be sent to all members three clear days in advance of the date of the meeting.

It was suggested the Clerk may benefit from a more efficient printer/photocopier.

09/142 Finance report

The latest finance update was circulated and the bill payments as advised by the Clerk were accepted and signed.

09/143 Date and time of next meeting

The next Parish Council meeting is to take place on Thursday 28th January 2010 at 7.30pm.

This meeting ended at 9.15pm

Signed..... Date.....
Chairman of Catshill & North Marlbrook Parish Council 28th January 2010

Appendix

Minute no. 09/132 – Adjournment for Public Question Time

County Councillor Mrs S Blagg : in addition to the written report had provided the following information-

- Golden Cross Lane lighting – npower were to continue with the replacement scheme
- Stourbridge Road pavement – the section to the west of Stourbridge Road between the cemetery and opposite Brookside Drive was narrow anyway but would benefit from being sided-back. Clerk to notify parish Lengthsman.

Dr G Lord, District Councillor for Marlbrook Ward /Leader to Worcestershire County Council: spoke of the 'Scissors of Doom' and the widening gap between expenditure and income leading to the necessity to impose a 15% cut in county council spending over the next three years. WCC was to follow the BOLD programme (Better Outcomes, Leaner Delivery) and were to impose a 2½% increase on next year's council tax with 0% projected for the following year along with 0% pay increases. Other savings were to be found via WETT (Worcestershire Enhanced Two Tier working) providing shared services leading to less duplication.

District Councillor A Blagg (Marlbrook Ward): a similar process is being undertaken at Bromsgrove DC with a closer working relationship with Redditch Borough Council in back-office support and the setting up of joint services.

A question was asked relating to the re-surfacing of Milton Road.

Mr Don Prust : expressed concerns relating to the wall alongside the footpath between Church Road and Stourbridge Road (PRoW 525).

DRAFT