



MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held at Catshill Village Hall
Thursday 30th Oct 2025, 7.00pm @

Present: Cllrs B Laniosh, (Chair) T Gillespie, S Osman, M Pagett,
J Parry, P Masters, R Pagett

In attendance: Clerk – Carol Blake, Cllr Webb, Phil Lacey, Karen Falconer

Invited: Cllr Bernard McEldowney, Cllr Helen Jones, Cllr Dunkley

Apologies

Members not present: Cllr Burgess

All minutes are draft until approved at the next meeting.

25/10-01 To receive apologies from any Member unable to attend

Cllr McEldowney and Cllr M Dunkley sent their apologies.

25/10-02 Declarations of Interest and/or Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None received.

25/10-03 Reports from Outside Bodies and District and County Councillors

3.1 Members of the Public – Jenny Smith, a resident from Stourbridge Rd, attended the meeting and highlighted the issue of on-going speeding on Stourbridge Rd.

It was agreed that Jenny will leave her email and phone details with the Clerk who will pass them on to Cllr Dunkley for him to arrange an on-site visit with Jenny to discuss the speeding issues, the request for a painted 30 mph road marker and the upkeep of the verges and the hedge on Stourbridge Road.

3.2 Worcs County Councillor for the Woodvale Division.

Cllr Dunkley sent a report to update members, as detailed below:

- The hedge on the Stourbridge Road was cut back a couple of months ago.
- The VAS sign that was to be relocated from the opposite side of the road will not function properly near the hedge because of it being solar powered, therefore he has requested it be sited inside the 30mph limited on the same side of the road as it is now.
- The VAS sign to be moved to Cobnall Road – Chased highways a couple of times this month, hopefully this will be done shortly.
- A 30mph painted sign has been requested for the Stourbridge Road at the last meeting – Need exact location where this could be positioned before request is sent.
- Permission has been granted to go ahead with the new Christmas lighting on Golden Cross Lane and Braces Lane.

3.3 Bromsgrove District Councillors for North Catshill, South Catshill and Marlbrook Wards

Cllr Webb reported that the community speed watch training took place this week and a session on how to monitor and report data. This will also be promoted on social media to try to enforce drivers to cut their speed.

Cllr Webb and Phil Lacey downloaded data from 5 out of the 7 VAS and will report on the data when all VAS data has been collected.

A resident from Barley Mow Lane contacted Cllr Laniosh and Cllr Webb regarding moving one of the VAS to Barley Mow Lane to monitor speed in that area. Cllr Webb responded to the resident, that as there are already calming measures on the road, moving the speed camera would not be feasible as it could only be relocated by the cemetery and not further down the road as there is nowhere to position it.

Cllr Webb reported that the Draft Housing development consultation has been completed, the response from this consultation is due in June 2026, after that date further consultations will take place.

A response has been sent to the Minister of Local Government regarding the proposals for the creation of Unitary Authorities in Worcestershire. A response from the Minister is due in July 2026.

Cllr Webb and Cllr Parry updated members on the Christmas lights, a quotation has been received from Ortons for new infrastructure and timers on Golden Cross Lane and Braces Lane. The quotation details the job:

- To provide a single-phase commando type power socket and associated timer switching to street lighting lampposts for use by Xmas lighting (installed by others)
- Total of 30 lampposts are to be included within the scope of works
- Every lamppost will receive a new enclosure with digital time clock and RCBO
- 17 lampposts will receive a new 16A 3 pin commando sockets, mounted at high-level
- 1 further lamppost is to have an existing commando removed and swapped to an adjacent lamppost on the opposite side of the road on Golden Cross Lane
- Each commando socket will be mounted using proprietary pole brackets and be flexed in H07F cable down to the Lucy cut-out in the base of each post
- The earthing arrangement will be checked to the posts ensuring it is adequate and that the access panel door is earthed and resolved if required
- Each lamppost will be fully tested and a certificate issued in full compliance.

Quotation = £ 10,788.66 excl VAT.

This works out at £350 per lamppost.

The company is a preferred supplier of BDC and they have already been through a procurement procedure. WCC are unable to supply us with any other company names.

For this reason other quotes could not be sourced. Cllr Dunkley has given us the go ahead, Orton can do the work before 16th November if PC agree to this. This is the cut off prior to the Christmas lights to be put up.

Last time infrastructure was put up with no cost to the PC. This time the PC would have to fund this entirely. Braces Lane has been included in the quote as next year new regulations may make it even harder and with everything done it can include Marlbrook in the festivities.

It was agreed by all to accept the quotation and work to be progressed.

3.4 Any other community representative – Phil Lacey reported on the increase of hirers using the Village Hall and the Tuesday Café which has been well received and attendance has increased since it has been set up.

Due to increases in fencing, hire of toilets, first aid attendance and generators all increasing their prices this year the Fireworks event requires extra funding of £2500 from the Parish Council, **this was agreed** by all members.

All the events up to Christmas will be bigger than previous years and are expected to be well attended as always.

25/10-04

4. To discuss co-option form received from resident. It was agreed by all members that Karen Falconer would be co-opted on to the Parish Council, and she joined the meeting. **It was agreed** that any future co-options received from residents interested in being co-opted would have to attend a minimum of two Parish Council meetings prior to being co-opted.

25/10-05

5. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 25/09/2025

5.1 It was agreed to accept the minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting held 25/09/2025. The Chairman then duly signed the minutes.

5.2 Actions

On-going Actions from May meeting:

5.2.1 Cllr Osman and Cllr Webb to meet and agree the downloading report from VAS signs -On-going

5.2.2 Investigate ongoing supply and purchase of dog waste bags – Cllr M Pagett produced a report that listed recommendations detailed below:

- Buy the dog waste bags in bulk to reduce costs if possible.
- Annual Awareness Campaign to remind residents it's their responsibility to clean up dog waste, and the bags are only for emergency use – social media is a great way to do this, along with a poster that could be created by the first school.
- Consider adding stickers to the bins and dispenser, reminding individuals to bring their own bag next time and that they should be used in emergency situations only.
- Based on research, discontinuation would be unadvised; instead, strategies to reduce dependency on the bags are recommended to hopefully reduce costs in the future.

On-Going Actions from June Meeting

5.2.3 Cllr Dunkley to ensure VAS sign is erected on Cobnall Rd – On-going

5.2.4 Cllr Dunkley will arrange for the VAS sign by Willowbrook to be moved into the 30mph zone. On-going

5.2.5 Quote for work required at the Dock Garden – Cllr Masters

On- Going Actions from July Meeting

5.2.6 All Christmas lights to be tested – Cllr R Pagett/ Cllr Osman

On- Going Actions from Sept Meeting

5.2.7 Discuss Annual Parish Meeting to be held in May 2026

Actions from this meeting

- Cllr Osman to price up approx. 2500 30 mph stickers for wheelie bins and dog waste bin stickers
- Cllr Masters to put an article on social media regarding the dog waste bags being used only when required, they are not a necessity.

25/10-06 Finance and General Purposes

6.1 The payments and receipts report to 14/10/2025 was received and noted.

The council's accounts spreadsheet 14th Oct was circulated.

An excerpt from the council's budget up to Oct had been sent along with the bank reconciliation to 14/10/2025, it is as follows:

Bank Reconciliation as at 14/10/2025			
Opening Cash Book balance		£69,516.94	
Add receipts between 1 April - 14 Oct 2025	51,990.50		
Less payments between 1 April - 14 Oct 2025	-52,385.08		
Cashbook balance at 14 Oct 2025		£69,122.36	A
Bank statements at 14 Oct 2025			
Unity Trust Bank	82,154.05		
Equals Card	8.94		
Less unpresented cheques, as list below	£13,040.63		
Bank balances at 14 Oct 2025		£69,122.36	B

6.2 Excerpt from accounts spreadsheet for Oct 2025

Oct-25	Ref	Description	Receipts	Payments Gross	Payments VAT	Payments Net
Worcestershire County Council	R3	Second half of 2023/24 precept	25,867.50			-
Unity Trust Bank	V107	Bank charge, monthly charge		6.00	-	6.00
Meadowfields Ground Maintenance	v108	Maintain shrubs at gardens Sept 25		237.60	39.60	198.00
JRB Enterprise Ltd	v109	10 Boxes of Dog waste bags		298.80	49.80	249.00
Mrs C Blake	v110	WFH Allowance		30.00		30.00
Salaries Oct 25	v111	PO Salary Oct 2025		1,059.11	-	1,059.11
Heron Press	V113	Autumn newsletter		575.00		575.00
Water Plus	v114	Water Ivy Cottage Gardens		8.26		8.26
O2	v115	office mobile		34.68	5.78	28.90
Talk Talk	v116	Office phone and broadband Sept 2025		55.95		55.95
Catshill Community Events	V117	Remainder of Fireworks Event Budget		4,000.00		4,000.00
Elan City	V118	Extended warranty 3 years for VAS		16.36	2.73	13.63
Catshill Village Hall	V119	Rental of Village Hall for 2025		2,220.00		2,220.00
Catshill Games Hub	V120	Update equipment and buffer for non-payers		3,000.00		3,000.00
Worcs CALC	V121	Cllr Laniosh training		42.00	7.00	35.00
HMRC	v122	Month 4 PAYE & NI		353.26		353.26
HMRC	v123	Month 5 PAYE & NI		441.94		441.94
HMRC	v124	Month 6 PAYE & NI		398.69		398.69
HMRC	v125	Month 7 PAYE & NI		367.87		367.87
Equals Card Top up	v126	Top up for card		70		70
Equals Debit card	v127	Amazon hard drive for laptop		41.89		41.89
		Microsoft monthly fee		8.49		8.49
		Amazon A4 Paper		5.99		5.99
			25,867.50	13,201.89	104.91	13,096.98
			51,990.50	52,385.08	2,433.37	49,951.71

6.3 Budget increase for Fireworks event to be discussed - It was agreed by all members, after a discussion on this year's increase in prices, for a payment of £2500 to be made to CVH Community Events to help with this year's event.

6.4 Draft Budget for 26/27 to be discussed Deferred until next meeting

25/10-07 Committee and Representatives Reports

7.1 Chairman's Report –

Cllr Laniosh thanked Cllr Osman for attending the CALC meeting on his behalf. Cllr Osman discussed the WCC re-organisation, there is nothing finalised, so there is nothing that can be put in place until the Parish Council knows of the decision, which will be next year and then face the options available and decide what needs to be done.

The Footpaths Group have another volunteer from Catshill and have been liaising with Redditch Ramblers to work on the North Worcs pathway.

7.2 Clerks Report and Correspondence

7.2.1 Grant request received from Catshill Baptist Church to be discussed It was agreed that a representative from Catshill Baptist Church be requested to attend the next PC meeting to discuss the grant and the scheme itself. Also to provide a breakdown of how many local residents benefitted from the scheme last year, and to consider requesting less money, it was felt that £10k, which was double the amount of last year's agreed grant funding received from the Parish Council, was too high.

7.2.2 Charge for WIFI in office to be discussed It was agreed that the Clerk will cancel this arrangement and the Village Hall will source their own provider.

7.3 Planning and Development

No report.

7.4 Training and Professional Development - Cllr M Pagett reported that CALC no longer have the appropriate insurance to present group training sessions so any future training sessions would have to take place via zoom or Teams, because of this the fee would be £15 less than quoted which was £450 plus VAT.

It was confirmed there are no maximum numbers required for a training session. Due to Cllr M Pagett leaving the Parish Council after this meeting Cllr Falconer agreed to take this item over from her and Cllr M Pagett will handover.

7.5 Communications

7.5.1 News Magazine Cllr Masters reported that the recent News Mag have all been delivered.

7.5.2 Taking photos at events – Cllr Masters updated that the Parish Council's routine photographer will no longer carry out this work on behalf of the Parish Council. For any future events permission must be sought from the organiser of the event if any photos are being taken to be shared.

7.5.3 Parish website - Cllr Masters and Cllr Laniosh will discuss this and report back to members.

A reminder that although the invoice from the current website provider only shows charges for annual web hosting and update service, the current company also provides home visits, 24-hour turnaround with queries and creation of email addresses for new councillors so the quote would need to be like for like and include the same service.

Reports from Parish Councillors

No reports.

Meeting finished at 21:10

25/10-08 Date and Time of Next Parish Council Meeting – Thursday 27th November @ 7:00pm. Catshill Village Hall