

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 7 May 2014 at the Friends' Meeting House, Sandhills Road, Barnt Green

The Meeting was chaired by Mr John Jagger, Chairman of the Parish Council, and was attended by Cllrs Briggs, Davies, Elderton and Whitehand together with 7 residents of the parish. Lengthsman, Ron Rand also attended.

1. **Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed those present and thanked them for attending.

2. **Apologies**

Apologies were received from County Councillor Peter McDonald, District Councillor Richard Deeming, Parish Councillors Robert Cholmondeley, Edwin Gumbley and Charles Hotham and resident, Rachel Banner.

3. **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 8 May 2013**

The minutes were approved by those present as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

4. **Report of the Chairman of the Parish Council**

The Chairman referred to the wide range of statutory duties undertaken by the Parish Council and presented his report as summarised in appendices 1 and 2.

Residents commented as follows:

- (i) on plans to electrify the mainline rail service running through Barnt Green;
- (ii) on the need for the County Council to co-ordinate the road works associated with the reconstruction of the rail bridges and the residential development of Fiery Hill Road;
- (iii) the high quality of the Christmas lights display.

The Chairman indicated that the Parish and County Councils would shortly be finalising the new Barnt Green Circular Walk and producing the associated maps and literature.

The Chairman's report was

RECEIVED

5. **Financial Report of the Parish Council**

The Responsible Finance Officer presented draft accounts for 2013/14 (appendix 3) referring to the explanatory notes provided (appendix 4).

The Responsible Finance Officer's report was

RECEIVED

6. **Report of Elected Representatives**

No District or County Councillors were in attendance.

7. **Neighbourhood Development Plan**

Chair of the Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan Committee, Susan Whitehand, reported that the Parish Council were looking to recruit residents and other stakeholders to a number of Neighbourhood Development Working Groups and invited volunteers.

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Cllr Whitehand indicated that the Bromsgrove Plan, when agreed, would confirm the number of houses to be built in and around Bromsgrove. While the majority would probably be built close to the town centre, it was inevitable that outlying settlements would also have to bear some of the burden.

Cllr Whitehand indicated that residents and other stakeholders would be surveyed before the aims and objectives of the Neighbourhood Development Plan were finalised to ensure that, when published, it reflected the views and ambitions of the local community.

The report of the Neighbourhood Development Plan Committee was **RECEIVED**

8. **Redevelopment of rail bridges in Barnt Green**

The Chairman commented on the impact of electrification on the 3 bridges within the parish and the efforts of the Parish Council to:

- retain the appearance of the Hewell Lane and Green's Occupation bridges;
- secure lifts for the station footbridge.

The Chairman confirmed that, during the summer, Network Rail will be carrying out major engineering work on the Cross City Line between Redditch and Barnt Green. As a result, the line will close on the four Sundays in June and for eight weeks from 6 July to 31 August. During this time a replacement coach service will operate. Residents noted that from December 2014, the train service frequency will be increased from 2-trains to 3-trains per hour.

The report was **RECEIVED**

9. **Open session**

Cllr Elderton outlined the Parish Council's plans to commemorate the centenary of the outbreak of World War One and invited residents to participate in the competition and to take advantage of the *poppy seed offer*.

Residents present thanked Parish Councillors for their work on behalf of the community.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.54pm.

Chairman
20 May 2015