**Minutes of the Neighbourhood, Planning and Environment Committee meeting held at 10.30am on Thursday 11 December 2014 in the Parish Council office at 80 Hewell Road, Barnt Green**

**Present:** Cllrs Rosemary Briggs, Robert Cholmondeley, Charles Hotham, John Jagger and Susan Whitehand (Chair).

**In attendance:** The Executive Officer

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| **20/14** | **Apologies**  There were no apologies. |
| **21/14** | **Declaration of Interest**  The requirement to keep the Register of Interests was noted.  Parish Council dispensations dated 26 November 2012 apply.  No other interests were declared by Parish Council Members.  No dispensations were sought. |
| **22/14** | **Minutes of the last Neighbourhood Planning and Environment Committee meeting**  The minutes of the meeting dated 11 September 2014 were approved and signed. |
|  | No members of the public attended the meeting. |
| **23/14** | **Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)** |
| **23/14a** | **Bromsgrove District Plan**  Cllr Whitehand reported on the sessions during which the evidence submitted by the Parish Council was discussed.  It was noted that the refusal of the application to develop the Whitford Road site had brought into question whether Bromsgrove has a 5-year housing supply.  It was unclear when the Inspector will give his verdict on the Plan as the District Council is seeking to introduce a new policy into the Plan. |
| **23/14b** | **NPD working groups**   1. **Economic Working Group**   Cllr Jagger advised that the plans drawn up to illustrate what further parking spaces might be created in the village centre had produced disappointing results. Cllrs agreed that it would be uneconomic to proceed with this line of thinking and that other options should be investigated.  It was agreed that Cllr Cholmondeley approach the chairman of Barnt Green Social Club to see whether it would be possible for shoppers, and particularly village centre employees, to use the Social Club car park.  The Executive Officer was asked to respond to the District Council’s latest proposals for the distribution of the New Homes Bonus   1. **Environment Working Group**   Cllr Briggs tabled a report (Enclosure A(i)) the contents of which were noted.   1. **Health and Wellbeing Working Group**   Cllr Hotham referred to the minutes of the Heath and Wellbeing Working Group dated 10 November 2014 (Enclosure A(ii)) and indicated that the information generated by the health and sports provision questionnaires would be considered at their next meeting on 12 January 2015.   1. **Housing Working Group**   Cllr Whitehand advised that landlords appear unsympathetic to the redevelopment of the village centre.  Cllr Hotham suggested that the Working Group approach British Waterways to see if they would consider re-designating the canal boats moored at Bittell Reservoirs as permanent dwellings.   1. **Transport Working Group**   Cllr Cholmondeley advised that the Working Group had identified a number of issues and that, in February, they would be considering how best to consult the community. |
| **24/14** | **Planning** |
| **24/14a** | **Planning consultations**  Cllrs considered the report (Enclosure B) on planning applications received and decisions taken by the District Council. The following responses were agreed:  14/0931: 6 Cherry Hill Road, Barnt Green - Permit  14/0898: 29 Blackwell Road, Barnt Green - Permit |
| **25/14** | **Environment** |
| **25/14a** | **Maintaining and improving the local environment**  Cllr Briggs reported that arrangements were in hand to coppice the trees in Parker’s Piece.  The Executive Officer was asked to:   1. arrange the removal of the hanging baskets still on show; 2. investigate whether the proposed footpath over the Hewell Lane road bridge was on the same side as the footway below the bridge; 3. investigate priority traffic signage for the Hewell Lane road bridge; 4. contact Network Rail to offer space in the next parish council newsletter and to seek information for the website to keep local residents up to date.   Cllrs considered an enquiry from a resident concerned that Network Rail proposed to close the foot crossing near Cofton Hall. It was proposed by Cllr Cholmondeley, seconded by Cllr Briggs and agreed that Network Rail be petitioned to provide safe crossing at this point on the track. |
| **26/14** | **Councillors’ reports and items for future agendas**  No councillor reports were made. No items of future business were proposed. |
| **27/14** | **Date of next meeting**  Thursday 12 February 2015 at 10.30am in the Parish Council office was agreed. |

The meeting closed at 12.40pm.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: 12 February 2015 Susan Whitehand, Chair