

Barnt Green Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting

held at 80 Hewell Road, Barnt Green on Wednesday 17 September 2014 at 7.00pm

Present: Councillors (Cllrs) Rosemary Briggs, Robert Cholmondeley, Kaye Elderton, Edwin Gumbley, and John Jagger (Chair).

In attendance: Paul MacLachlan (Executive Officer)

The following documents will be appended to the signed minutes:

- the Agenda;
- the following enclosures:
 - A: report of planning applications received and decisions taken under delegated powers;
 - B: draft minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee dated 11 September 2014
 - C: report on responses from estate agents regarding Barnt Green addresses
 - D: report of the Responsible Finance Officer;
 - E: report on recent legislative changes.

45/14 Apologies

The apologies of Parish Councillors Hotham and Whitehand were received and accepted.

The apologies of District Councillor Deeming and County Councillor McDonald were received.

46/14 Declarations of Interest

The requirement to keep the Register of Interests was noted.

Parish Council dispensations dated 26 November 2012 apply.

No interests were declared.

No dispensations were sought.

47/14 Minutes of the last meeting

Approval of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting dated 23 July 2014 was deferred to the next meeting pending clarification of a point of fact.

No members of the public attended the meeting

48/14 Chairman's Report

The Chairman thanked Councillors for their work over the summer. Arising from the report the Executive Officer was asked to:

- (a) arrange for a note to be placed on the website advising residents how to request emergency sandbags from the District Council;
- (b) liaise with Cllr Briggs regarding the purchase of spring bulbs from the available environment budget.

49/14 District Councillors' and County Councillor's Question and Answer Session

No District or County Councillors attended the meeting.

50/14 Decisions taken since last meeting

Issue	Reinvestment of £25,000 bond maturing on 27 August 2014
Decision	To reinvest £25,000 at 0.7% for 6 months

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Delegated by	Parish Council on 23 July 2014		
Reason	To avoid unnecessary delay in investment of funds		
Decision date	27 August 2014	Cllr interests	None

Issue	Participation in Cycle-2-Work Scheme		
Decision	To participate in Halfords scheme		
Delegated by	Parish Council on 23 July 2014		
Reason	It is a leading UK scheme, complies with legislation and offers a wide range of bikes. Bike available at discount.		
Decision date	3 August 2014	Cllr interests	None

51/14 Neighbourhood, Planning and Environment

- (i) Cllrs considered the report (Enclosure A) on planning applications received and decisions taken by the District Council.
Cllrs were disappointed that the District Council had not consulted the parish council on the further plans submitted by Network Rail for the rail station footbridge. Cllrs further noted the absence of any plans on the District Council's planning website. Cllrs asked the Executive Officer to take photographs of the rail bridges in the parish before work commences in order to preserve a record and to ensure that, where intended, the bridges are appropriately restored.
- (ii) The minutes of the Neighbourhood, Planning and Environment Committee meeting dated 11 September were received. The following decisions arose from the report:
- (a) Economy Working Group**
It was proposed by Cllr Gumbley, seconded by Cllr Briggs and agreed that a sum of up to £500 be paid for professional drawings illustrating the Economy Working Group's village centre parking proposals.
- (b) Parish Lengthsman**
It was proposed by Cllr Elderton, seconded by Cllr Briggs and agreed that:
- Bromsgrove District Council be appointed as the Parish Council's Lengthsman with effect from 1 October 2014;
 - Neil Hosking be considered for any work falling outside of the Lengthsman contract.

52/14 Community

- (i) **2014 Community Walk Day (27 September 2014)**
Cllr Gumbley reported on Community Walk preparations. Walk leaders will be Simon Richards, Cllrs Gumbley and Hotham and Amanda Hill. Cllr Davies offered to assist as a walk backmarker if he is available. Cllr Jagger offered to act as the central point of contact and to register participants. The Chairman thanked Cllr Gumbley for his work.
- (ii) **Parish Welcome Pack**
The Executive Officer reported on an approach from St Andrew's Church regarding the production of a parish welcome pack. It was proposed by Cllr Gumbley, seconded by Cllr Briggs and agreed that the Parish Council work jointly with the church to produce a welcome pack for residents new to the parish.
- (iii) **Responses from estate agents regarding Barnt Green addresses**
Cllrs noted the estate agents' responses (Enclosure C) regarding inclusion of *Barnt Green* in advertised addresses of houses located outside the parish. It was a majority view that no further action be taken.

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(iv) **Replacement of existing planters on Hewell Road.**

Cllrs considered the replacement of the current planters located on Hewell Road. It was proposed by Cllr Elderton, seconded by Cllr Gumbley and agreed that:

- (a) the Neighbourhood, Planning, Environment Committee identify appropriate planters for deployment across the parish;
- (b) an appropriate sum be included in the 2014/15 budget so the planters can be purchased in April 2015 in time for planting in May 2015.

53/14 Finance

- (i) It was agreed that the reports of the Responsible Finance Officer for August and September 2014 (Enclosure D) be received and that any outstanding payments be made.
- (ii) Cllrs noted that invoices 1401 and 1402 were significantly overdue for payment and that invoice 1403 was also overdue. It was proposed by Cllr Davies, seconded by Cllr Gumbley and agreed that if no payment or settlement is reached by the date of the next parish council meeting that the matter be referred to the small claims court.
- (iii) Cllrs considered the office lease options available to the parish council. It was proposed by Cllr Davies, seconded by Cllr Briggs and agreed that Cllrs Jagger and Cholmondeley discuss lease terms with the landlord of the offices at 80 Hewell Road.

54/14 Governance

Cllrs considered the implications of recent changes to the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014.

It was proposed by Cllr Cholmondeley, seconded by Cllr Elderton and agreed that paragraph 3(l) of the Parish Council's standing orders be deleted and replaced with the words 'Deleted following the implementation of Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014'.

It was proposed by Cllr Davies, seconded by Cllr Briggs and agreed that the guidance on publication of delegated decisions set out in Enclosure E be adopted.

55/14 Councillors' reports and items for future agendas

Cllr Jagger reported on the Bromsgrove County Association of Local Councils (CALC) meeting dated 10 September commenting particularly on reports regarding loan sharks, the Bromsgrove Plan and a likely increase in CALC fees.

Cllrs noted the date of the meeting with Cala Homes (9 October) and the Parish Conference (29 October).

44/14 Date and Venue of Next Meeting

It was noted that the scheduled date of the next meeting (Wednesday 29 October 2014) would clash with the date of the Worcestershire Parish Conference. Accordingly, 7.00pm on Monday 27 October 2014 at the Parish Office was agreed.

The meeting ended at 9.09pm.

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Chairman

27 October 2014