



# Barnt Green Parish Council

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Parish Council Office on Monday 30 April 2012 at 7.00pm

**Present:** Cllrs. John Jagger (chairman), Mrs Rachel Banner, Mrs Doreen Hawkley, Mr Edwin Gumbley, Mr Charles Hotham and Mr Alun Davies

**In attendance:** Roger Westbury (executive officer); Paul MacLachlan (executive officer elect)

**Appendices:** The following documents will be appended to the signed minutes:

- a. The agenda
- b. Chairman's Report
- c. Planning Applications Report
- d. Environment Group Report
- e. RFO Report
- f. Receipts & Payments Account for year ended 31.3.12
- g. Bank reconciliation statement for year ended 31.3.12
- h. An updated Asset Register
- i. An updated Risk Review Log
- j. a report on correspondence received.

**01/12 Apologies** – County Cllr Peter McDonald; District Cllrs Stuart Dudley and Richard Deeming and Cllr Susan Whitehand whose reasons for absence as recorded in the attendance book were approved by the Council. The Council wished Cllr Whitehand a speedy recovery from her knee operation. In the absence of an apology from Cllr Astle the Chairman agreed to contact him to ascertain whether he wished to continue as a Councillor.

**02/12 Declarations of Interest**

- (a) The requirement to keep the Register of Interests was noted.
- (b) No interests were declared by Members.

**03/12 Minutes of the Last Meeting** held on 26th March 2012 were approved as a true record and were signed by the Chairman.

*No Parishioners attended the meeting.*

**04/12 Chairman's Report**

The Council received a report from the Chairman, a copy of which will be appended to these minutes.



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## **05/12 District and County Councillors' Question & Answer Session**

No District or County Councillors were able to attend the meeting. However County Cllr McDonald had sent an email advising that WCC Highways officers were examining the feasibility of installing a traffic priority system on Hewell Lane, and that the revised parking arrangements on Fiery Hill Road were now permanent. District Cllr Deeming had met with the Chairman prior to the meeting and advised him that there was no further news on the Fiery Hill Road development. He reported that Banner Homes had still to sign a Section 106 agreement with the District Council and were awaiting the next draft of the BDC Core Strategy, expected in May, and the District Council's statement on its affordable housing policy.

## **06/12 Infrastructure**

### **Planning & Conservation**

An updated report on planning applications received and decisions made by the District Council's Planning Committee was received by the Council.

The Council agreed that the Chairman should write to the recently formed Barnt Green Area Residents Association stating the Parish Council's desire to work closely with them, while ensuring that both bodies retained their independent status.

The executive officer advised the Council that the District Council had not yet fixed dates for the proposed training on the National Planning Policy Framework. Those Councillors who had attended reported that the meeting with Ruth Bamford on Neighbourhood Plans had been constructive and mutually beneficial. The EO was asked to ascertain whether there were any Parish Councils who had made significant progress in developing a Neighbourhood Plan that the Council could get in touch with. The Council agreed that the way forward was to establish a Working Group representing all of the interests in the village which could gather information and begin drafting a Plan. Cllr Hotham reported that he had carried out some initial investigation into sources of funding for Neighbourhood Plans and would liaise with Cllr Whitehand on her return.

### **Highways & Lighting**

Cllr Banner reported that she and the Chairman had met with County Cllr McDonald to discuss what could be done to alleviate the blind corner by the railway bridge on Hewell Lane. She advised the Council that Cllr McDonald did not feel that double yellow lines would help, but that some form of traffic priority would be feasible. He undertook to discuss this with WCC Highways Department. The Council discussed a request from a resident for a disabled parking bay on Hewell Road close to the Barnt Green Pharmacy. The Council agreed that the best solution would be to give up the bay outside Tony's Handyman and establish a new bay outside the first house after the Happy Valley takeaway.



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The Council considered a request from WCC Street Lighting Department to participate in a trial involving part night or full night switch off of street lights in the village in order to reduce energy costs. The Council resolved that in view of the high volume of vehicle and pedestrian movement in the village it was not willing to take part for reasons of safety. The EO was asked to communicate this decision to the appropriate Department.

### **Environment**

The Council received a written report from Cllr Banner, a copy of which will be appended to these minutes. The Council agreed that wicker hanging baskets for the 2012 season should be sourced from Where Next and that Neil Hosking should be asked to see whether the goal posts on Parker's Piece could be moved and the worn area re-seeded.

The Council agreed to the purchase of three English Local Oak trees to be planted on Parker's Piece to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. It also agreed to monitor the height of hedges on the Fiery Hill Road development, and to the planting of additional bulbs on the Twatling Road triangle and on Kendal End Road in the autumn.

The EO was asked to obtain a quotation for a sign indicating that Ball Games were Not Allowed in Millennium Park.

Cllr Hawkley tabled a schematic of a scheme to provide additional play equipment in Millennium Park for slightly older children. The Council agreed to the immediate purchase of a "Glade" climbing frame from Wicksteed Leisure provided the quoted price of £9500 could be reduced to £9000. Any further investment in equipment for the Park would be dependent on the receipt of 106 monies associated with the Fiery Hill Road development.

The Council noted that the problem of rail squeal had returned and agreed that this must be eradicated before the Barnt Green-Redditch line was upgraded and the number of trains using this section of line was increased.

### **07/12 Community Safety**

#### **Village Watch**

Cllr Hawkley had attended a recent Neighbourhood Watch meeting and reported that more co-ordinators were needed. It was agreed that closer communications with the Neighbourhood Watch team should be encouraged and that they should be offered space in a future Newsletter.

#### **Health & Safety**

The EO reported that safety inspections of the Park and Playing Field had been carried out in March. Copies of the inspection reports had been forwarded to Cllrs Jagger and Gumbley. Cllr Hawkley requested a copy of the reports so that



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she could assess what work was needed on play equipment. The Chairman commented that the peeling paint on the swings should be repaired under warranty by the suppliers.

### **Communication**

The Council agreed to set up a working group to look at ways of developing the newsletter and to investigate more cost effective methods of distribution. The group would consist of Cllrs Banner, Gumbley, Hotham and Hawkey and the new executive officer Paul MacLachlan. The Council recorded its thanks to the outgoing EO on the work he had done in taking the Newsletter to its current format.

### **08/12 Governance**

#### **Finance and Risk**

The RFO circulated an updated report, a copy of which is appended to these minutes. Payments were approved.

The Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31 March 2012 was approved by the Council.

The Annual Return and Annual Governance Statement for the year ended 31 March 2012 were approved by the Council. The Council noted that the external auditor had appointed June 18 as the date on or after which interested parties may exercise their rights to inspect the accounts.

The bank reconciliation statement for the period ended 31 March 2012 was received by the Council.

An updated Asset Register and Risk Review Log were approved by the Council. Copies of all of the above documents will be appended to these minutes.

#### **Administration**

The Council noted that it could not adopt the General Power of Competence (GPC) until the new EO had obtained his CiLCA qualification as this now included a new Section 7 on GPC.

The Council officially welcomed Paul MacLachlan to the post of executive officer. Paul will take up the post on June 1<sup>st</sup> 2012.

The Council recorded its agreement with the proposal to reduce the number of Councillors on Bromsgrove District Council from 39 to 31.

The Council expressed its support for the proposal from Cllr Whitehand to revive the Three Parishes Meetings. The Council felt that these meetings could be beneficial in drafting Neighbourhood Plans

#### **Youth Council and School Governor**

Cllr Hotham expressed interest in becoming the Council's representative on the governing body of St Andrew's School. (Since confirmed by Cllr Hotham).



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**WCALC/NALC** – the next Bromsgrove Area Meeting of Worcs CALC will take place on June 6<sup>th</sup>. Cllrs Jagger and Hawkley agreed to attend accompanied by the new EO.

**CPRE** – nothing to report.

**09/12 Fiery Hill Road Development**

Already covered under Chairman's report.

**10/12 Correspondence Received** – the Chairman had been advised that the collection in memory of Bill Oakley had raised £1300 and that those contributing had expressed a wish to purchase a bench to be installed on Hewell Road. The EO was asked to provide details of the benches previously purchased by the Council to the collecting group.

**11/12 Urgent Decisions** – none taken since last meeting

**12/12 Future Agenda Items** – no suggestions

**13/12 Date and Venue of Next Meeting** – Monday 28th May 2012 at 7.00pm at the Parish Office was agreed. This would be the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council. The Council was reminded that the Annual Parish Meeting would be held at the Friends Meeting House on May 9<sup>th</sup>. All Councillors were urged to attend.

The meeting ended at 9.25pm.

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Chairman                      May 28th, 2012