

Barnt Green Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting

held at 80 Hewell Road, Barnt Green on Wednesday 25 June 2014 at 7.00pm

Present: Councillors (Cllrs) Rosemary Briggs, Robert Cholmondeley, Alun Davies, Kaye Elderton, Edwin Gumbley, Charles Hotham, John Jagger (Chair) and Susan Whitehand.

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, Planning and Environment Committee dated 12 June 2014
 - C: report of the Responsible Finance Officer.

23/14 **Apologies**

The apologies of County Councillor Peter McDonald were received.

24/14 **Declarations 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.

25/14 **Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council meeting dated 21 May 2014 were approved and signed by the Chair. The minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Parish Council dated 21 May 2014 were approved and signed by the Chair.

No members of the public attended the meeting

26/14 **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman thanked Councillors for their work since the last meeting. Referring to business decided at prior meetings:

- Cllr Elderton was asked to advise the Council if opportunities for dementia training become available;
- Ron Rand has advised that he will not be continuing as the Parish Council Lengthsman. The Executive Officer was asked to arrange a meeting with the District Council to explore their *Place* initiative and to seek an interim appointment to cover the Lengthsman's duties pending a permanent appointment;
- Councillors suggested amendments to a draft letter to accompany invoices 1401 and 1402;
- Cllr Gumbley and Simon Richards have agreed the format for the Community Walk Day on 27 September;

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- Councillors were asked to participate in a working party to erect walk signage on 23 July;
- Network Rail will begin work to address the rail squeal in the week commencing 28 June;
- Banners Gate has replied to the Parish Council's letter regarding the discrepancy in the plans approved by the District Council and Department of Transport. The Executive Officer was asked to accept their offer of a meeting.

27/14 District Councillors' and County Councillor's Question and Answer Session No County or District Councillors attended the meeting.

28/14 Planning

- (i) Cllrs considered the report (Enclosure A) on planning applications received and decisions taken by the District Council.

The following response was decided:

Application 14/0465: 45 Bittell Road, Barnt Green Permit

The Parish Council noted the Planning Authority's refusal of prior approval for the demolition and reconstruction of the existing footbridge at Barnt Green Railway Station. It was proposed by Cllr Cholmondeley, seconded by Cllr Davies and agreed that the Parish Council write to:

- (a) Michael Gradwell of Network Rail indicating our support for the decision;;
 - (b) Sajid Javid, MP, advising him of the decision and asking him to follow-up his communication with Network Rail and, if necessary, to lobby the Department of Transport for additional funding.
- (ii) The draft minutes of the Neighbourhood, Planning and Environment Committee dated 12 June 2014 (Enclosure B) were received.
- (iii) Cllrs noted the Neighbourhood Planning network event to be held on 8 July.
- (iv) The Executive Officer was asked to review the County Council's consultation, Statement of Community Involvement (Update), and to bring recommendations to the next meeting.
- (v) Cllrs Jagger, Hotham and Whitehand indicated an intention to attend the District Council's New Homes Bonus Forum on 15 July. It was proposed by Cllr Whitehand, seconded by Cllr Hotham and agreed that:
- (a) the Executive Officer investigate whether a Parish Council nominee can participate in the New Homes Bonus Working Group;
 - (b) if this is possible, that Cllrs Jagger and Hotham be authorised to decide the Parish Council's nominee.

29/14 Community

Cllr Elderton reported on the outcome of the Parish Council's WW1 Centenary Competition.

19/14 Finance

- (i) It was agreed that the report of the Responsible Finance Officer for June 2014 (Enclosure C) be received and that any outstanding payments be made.

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20/14 Decisions taken under delegated powers since the last meeting

No decisions were made.

21/14 Councillors' reports and items for future agendas

Cllr Whitehand reported on business conducted at the Bromsgrove Area meeting of the Worcestershire County Association of Local Councils (CALC) dated 11 June 2014 commenting particularly:

- on the District Council's *Place* initiative;
- on the decision of the District Council to review its decision regarding the Parish Council Support Grant;
- on work being undertaken to update the *Joint Protocol for the management of unauthorised encampments of gypsies and travellers on Local Authority land in Worcestershire* and the request that this should include guidance for Parish Councils;
- that the CALC subscription may need to increase significantly in 2015.

Cllr Briggs reported on her attendance at a recent finance training day organised by CALC. It was proposed by Cllr Jagger, seconded by Cllr Hotham and agreed that Cllr Briggs be a member of the Resources Committee.

Cllr Gumbley requested that the Parish Council consider their interaction with residents at a future meeting.

22/14 Date and Venue of Next Meeting

7.00pm on Wednesday 23 July 2014 at the Parish Office was agreed.

The meeting ended at 8.38pm.

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Chairman

23 July 2014