

Barnt Green Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at 80 Hewell Road, Barnt Green on Wednesday 5th October 2016 at 7.00pm

Members present: Cllrs R Cholmondeley (Chairman), C Hotham (vice-Chairman), R Briggs, E Gumbley, J Jellie

In attendance: Two potential co-optees
Two members of the public
One member of the press (The Village)
Gill Lungley (Executive Officer)

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

16/138 Apologies

Cllr S Whitehand (apology accepted)

16/139 Co-option

Two candidates had submitted valid applications for co-option.

It was agreed to co-opt Judith Jagger and Philip Perry as members of the parish council. They signed the Members' Declaration of Acceptance of Office and were invited to take part in the ensuing council meeting.

16/140 Declarations of Interest

Cllr C Hotham has a standing declaration relating to his role as a member of the District Council's planning committee, such that any participation in both the debate and subsequent vote is on the basis that the views expressed were preliminary views taking into account the information presently made available to the Parish Council. Cllr CH would reserve his final views on the application(s) until in full possession of all the relevant arguments for and against.

There were no other declarations of interest.

16/141 Consideration of dispensation requests

No dispensation requests had been submitted in advance of this meeting.

16/142 Adjournment of meeting to hear from:

a) Members of the Public:

Two members of Barnt Green Cricket Club were present to speak in support of their application for funding support of £500 towards the refurbishment of the club's all-weather practice areas. The bulk of the monies needed had been raised via the New Homes Bonus funding scheme and further amounts had been raised through fund-raising; Lickey and Blackwell PC had indicated they would grant £500.

With the agreement of the meeting, the Chairman moved to suspend the adjournment to allow agenda item 149e to be brought forward for discussion at this point: To consider the request for funding of £500 from Barnt Green Cricket Club.

It was agreed to grant funding of £500 to Barnt Green Cricket Club in order to facilitate the refurbishment of the club's all-weather practice areas.

The meeting was re-adjourned to hear from:

b) **Worcs County Councillor: Peter McDonald** had sent apologies for non-attendance.

c) **Bromsgrove District Councillor: Charles Hotham, Barnt Green & Hopwood ward** commented as follows:

1. Planning officers: there is to be a review of the powers delegated to planning officers.
2. Review of county council position: BDC will be taking a more in-depth look at the opinions put forward by WCC in relation to highways matters.
3. Parkside offices: stamp duty has been paid with WCC covering the excess costs.

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4. BDC efficiency plan: if agreed with central government the efficiency plan will provide financial certainty for the next four years, but it will require major savings.
5. New Homes Bonus: the NHB scheme is due for review by central government.

16/143 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 07/09/2016 were agreed a true record and signed by the Chairman.

16/144 Chairman's Report: Cllr R Cholmondeley

Items for report are covered in this meeting.

16/145 Updates and Decisions taken by the Executive Officer (EO) since last meeting

| | | |
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| Cala Homes Fiery Hill Road development | A copy of the bond and s278 agreement had been received (it was noted page 6 was missing from the latter and a further copy has been requested). BDC decision regarding CALA's request to allow a further 15 houses to be occupied prior to the road re-alignment is awaited. It would appear Cala have given an undertaking to not close Kendal End Rd/Bittell Rd to through traffic during December. | |
| Use of Social Media | The offer of free training in this topic is being pursued. | |
| Hanging baskets, winter planting | Where Next will replant the planters in Hewell Road and Millennium Park with winter bedding plants and remove the hanging baskets that are no longer attractive. It was noted that this year's floral display in the village had suffered due to lack of care/watering and thought would have to be given if intending to do similar next year. | |
| Street light not working | The faulty light in Green Bank has been repaired. A light in Margesson Drive has not been attended to due to wasps' nest in the column – contractor will attend when colder. | |
| Verge on Hewell Road | BDC Place Team have attended on site to good effect. | |
| Millennium Park trees | The tree surgeon had attended on 04/10/2016 to remove the dead wood from the Nuttall Oak in Millennium Park. | |
| Litter bin, Cherry Hill Drive path | Lickey Hills Society, who requested BGPC support for the bin are awaiting response to New Homes Bonus grant application | |
| Footway lighting improvements | The lighting contractor has been asked to install the wall lights outside the PC office following approval from the landlord. No progress to date regarding new lighting scheme, Hewell Road (EO to chase). Concern had been expressed about poor lighting in Sandhills Lane but agreement regarding an improvement scheme has yet to be made. | |
| Christmas Lights competition | The 5 winning children's designs, judged by CALA (sponsors), St Andrews Church (Sheri Gidney) and PC/school (Charlie Hotham) have been forwarded to Blachere to be made up following street lighting contractor's approval in relation to size, siting and suitability. The finished products will be installed as feature lights on existing columns near the school, Hewell Road. The 5 winners (all pupils at St Andrews First School) will be presented with a certificate. Arrangements for the switching-on event are to be agreed with the school's PTA. | |
| Matters carried forward | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SmartWater campaign (awaiting response from PACT meeting) - Barnt Green station (funding for lifts has been confirmed). It was noted via a resident's recent email that London Midland will provide support for passengers who have difficulty with access, this information would be included in the next parish council newsletter. - Railway footpath crossing to Cofton (footbridge funding confirmed) - On-street car parking. It was noted residents of Oakdene Drive continue to seek a solution to remove commuter parking from this cul-de-sac, and that the commuters' car park on the corner of Fiery Hill Rd/Butterwick Drive has not yet been opened for use. - Network Rail had notified residents of possible disruption (noise and rail closures) during improvement works in October and November. - Cllr EG reported on the overgrown hedge, 11 Fiery Hill Road which he hoped would be attended to with the help/advice of the Lengthsman. | |
| General correspondence received and | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LGRC Expo, 09/09/16, variety of exhibitors' flyers • Community First • Parish Housing Needs Surveys • Internet Access survey, | Regular correspondence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WorcsCALC update newsletters • BDC Weekly planning lists • Police & Crime Commissioner |

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|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| circulated to members | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WCC County Councillor update, Woodvale • Pollinator Conference 14/10/2016, @ The Hive • Shindig Showcase invitation • Community Speed Watch invite for volunteers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BARN updates • Sajd Javid MP • Councillor training dates |
| Visits / calls by residents & public | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary tent on parish fields 08/09/16 • Effect of new parking restrictions, Fiery Hill Road | |

16/146 Finance

- i. **Receipts and payments** for September are as listed on page 84; the bank reconciliation to 30/09/2016 was noted along with the quarterly comparison of budget to actual receipts and payments.
- ii. **Preparation of budget for 2017/18**
In accordance with the Scheme of Delegation, members agreed to meet informally with the Executive Officer to discuss building on the budget outline circulated for this meeting; at the same time members would review existing contracts.

16/147 Committee and Working Party reports

- a) **Bus Shelter, Park and Playing Field site visit 15/09/2016**
It was agreed to carry out all the recommended actions as put forward at the site visit, following receipt of costings, to include:
 - Bus shelter refurbishment
 - Millennium Park play area minor matters
 - Millennium Park to seek improvement plan from M Dickenson
 - Christmas tree, corner Hewell Rd / Sandhills Rd – to be removed
 - To consider installation of outdoor adult gym equipment at various sites
 - Purchase and install new notice board for entrance to Parker's Piece
 - Install new litter bin at entrance to Parker's Piece and arrange for regular emptying
 - Remove dog waste bins
 - Purchase 3 free-standing picnic tables for Parker's Piece
 - Contractor to trim all weeds, cut hedges, check culvert for obstructions, remove concrete blockages from stream and use to create footpath 'bridge' over muddy area and remove informal rope swing.
 - Consider installation of outdoor gym equipment and table tennis at Parker's Piece.
- b) **BARN (Bromsgrove and Redditch Network)** meeting with Susan Roberts, deputy Chief Executive on 03/10/2016. The notes from that meeting would be circulated in due course. It was suggested that a regular meeting with Susan Roberts and with Cheryl Welsh would be of benefit.
- c) **Village Improvements** a meeting with Cheryl Welsh, the Centres Manager, has been arranged for Wednesday 12th October with all village retailers invited to attend; the cost of refreshments to be supported by the parish council.

16/148 Events

- a) **Community Walk, 24th September**
At least 197 people took part in the event organised by Parish Paths Warden Simon Richards with help from WCC Environmental Services, parish council members and fellow PPW from Cofton Hackett. The participants were able to purchase hot food and a drink at the end of the walk, accompanied by live music and the event was deemed a success; plans will be put in place for a similar event next year.
- b) **Christmas lights switch-on.**
The PTA will be leading on this event on 2nd December. The school choir has been asked to lead the carol singing in Millennium Park prior to Father Christmas' arrival, lights switch-on and procession along Hewell Road to school.
- c) **Thank you event to community volunteers**
Plans were in hand for arranging the annual thank-you event for volunteers, 15/12/2016.

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d) **Items carried forward:**

Barnt Green fun-run; Shindig theatre.

It was hoped to arrange a post-Christmas community walk on 27/12/2016.

16/149 Environment and Community well-being

a) **New Car Park**

The 28-space car park being built next to the housing development off Fiery Hill Road (Butterwick Close etc) will be the parish council's responsibility after its first year of use. Members were asked:

i) To consider the non-provision of disabled parking spaces.

It was agreed to not make especial car parking provision space for the disabled.

ii) To consider the installation of an electric re-fuelling point.

It was agreed to not install an electric re-fuelling point.

b) **To delegate arrangements for the installation of cycle stands, Hewell Road**

It was agreed to delegate the arrangements for the installation of cycle stands in Hewell Road to the Executive Officer, working with the Chairman and vice-Chairman; funding for which had been granted via New Homes Bonus.

c) **To be aware of drain review and agree site visit to view village vegetation.**

Cllr EG had carried out a review of all the drains in the parish and submitted photographs of those needing attention to the EO for action by County Council.

Members would meet to tour the village to review sites which need attention.

The EO was to arrange a meeting with the Lengthsman to consider how best to deal with a hedge in Fiery Hill Road.

d) **To agree to facilitate the setting-up of a local Rail Users Group.**

It was agreed to facilitate the setting-up of a local Rail Users Group; Cllr RC would be appointed representative of Barnt Green parish council.

e) **To consider request from Barnt Green Cricket Club for funding of £500**

Decision to grant £500 funding was made earlier in the meeting, at minute no.142a above.

16/150 Planning

a) To note the draft minutes of the meeting held 20/09/2016

Members noted the draft minutes of the meeting held 20/09/2016

b) To note the suggestion from Hagley Parish Council for all the district's parish councils to jointly consider the siting of future housing across the district.

Members noted the suggestion from Hagley Parish Council for all the district's parish councils to jointly consider the siting of future housing across the district. Cllr SW would attend a meeting at Hagley PC on 20/10/2016 to represent Barnt Green PC.

c) To consider and comment on current notified applications as follows:

| PC Log no. / BDC App. No | Address | Proposal |
|---|--------------------------------|--|
| Log no. 047 / App ref: 16/0810 | Sandhills Green House, B48 7BT | Demolition of existing buildings and erection of replacement 1no dwelling. |
| <p>PC Comment: No major objections to the demolition of the existing building although the Parish Council recommends it is initially reviewed by Mary Worsfold, Conservation Officer. The current building may not pose any particular architectural merit however, it is understood locally that the house began as a much smaller building at the south east end where there are old cellars (as can be seen in the 'Protected Species Assessment') and then had a series of additions over a number of years. It may be that there is a much older structure embedded within the existing house. The Parish Council would also like to ascertain what is happening in relation to the swimming pool complex that was approved recently. It would seem, given the proposed slightly different location of the new house, that this will need to be relocated somewhat - if indeed it is to go ahead at all.</p> | | |

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16/151 Governance

a) To agree calendar of policy reviews

Members agreed to the calendar of policy reviews.

b) To consider establishing a working party to discuss ideas and projects for the future
Members agreed to meet informally to discuss ideas and projects for the future. The EO would arrange a meeting.

c) To note the Boundary Commission consultation on the current parliamentary constituency boundary review and consider provision of comment

Members noted the Boundary Commission consultation on the current parliamentary constituency boundary review, that it was likely the parish would be taken out of the Bromsgrove constituency and included instead in the Redditch constituency, and agreed to make no comment.

16/152 Future Meetings and Items for future agendas

Councillors were reminded of meetings to be attended including:

- Meeting with village businesses and retailers 12/10/2016
- Meeting on Emergency and Disaster management 12/10/2016 (Cllr J Jellie to attend)
- Meeting with Hagley PC and district parish councils 20/10/2016 (Cllr SW to attend)
- Meeting on 26/10/2016 at County Hall, WorcsCALC AGM and Parish Conference

No further matters were reported.

16/153 Date and Venue of Next Meeting

Wednesday 2nd November 2016 at 80 Hewell Road

This meeting ended at 9.24pm.

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Chairman

2nd November 2016

Minute ref. 16/146i

| Extract from Barnt Green Parish Council Receipts and Payments spreadsheet from 01/09/2016 to 30/09/2016 | | | | | |
|---|-----------|---|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| voucher no. | Receipts | Description | Payments Gross | Payments VAT | Payments Net |
| v101 | | grass cutting at pfield and village | 273.43 | 45.57 | 227.86 |
| v102 | | Repairs to Millennium Park equipments | 98.40 | 16.40 | 82.00 |
| v103 | | Removal of dead trees from Millennium Park | 250.00 | - | 250.00 |
| v104a | | St lighting energy, dusk to dawn | 216.19 | 36.03 | 180.16 |
| v104b | | St lighting energy, continuous | 11.98 | 0.57 | 11.41 |
| v105 | | Printing of quarterly parish council newsletter | 245.00 | - | 245.00 |
| v106a | | Garden contractors, Millennium Park grass | 112.00 | - | 112.00 |
| v106b | | Garden contractors, village verges | 56.00 | - | 56.00 |
| v107/R19 | 6.00 | Return of £135.61 re Alto card closure | - | - | - |
| v108 | | St lighting monthly maintenance | 264.00 | 44.00 | 220.00 |
| v109 | | Office rent, quarterly payment | 1,237.50 | - | 1,237.50 |
| v110 | | St lighting repairs, August/Sept | 190.74 | 31.79 | 158.95 |
| v111 | | Monthly web site management | 58.00 | - | 58.00 |
| v112 | | Stationery (paper trimmer, paper) | 44.12 | 7.35 | 36.77 |
| v113 | | office telephone and broadband | 9.50 | 1.58 | 7.92 |
| v114 | | Pension contribution, August | 150.73 | - | 150.73 |
| v115 | | Administration salary, August | 1,027.32 | - | 1,027.32 |
| v116 | | 2nd quarterly payment for PAYE/NI | 520.70 | - | 520.70 |
| v117 | | Quarterly service charge | 18.00 | - | 18.00 |
| v118/R19 | 6.59 | bank credit interest | - | - | - |
| | 12.59 | sub total for month | 4,783.61 | 183.29 | 4,600.32 |
| | 35,523.10 | total for year to date | 33,084.79 | 2,836.67 | 30,248.12 |