



Barnt Green Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Parish Office on Monday 28th May 2012 at 7.00pm

- Present:** Cllrs Mrs Rachel Banner, Mrs Doreen Hawkley, Alun Davies, John Jagger, Charles Hotham and Edwin Gumbley.
- In attendance:** Roger Westbury (Executive Officer); Paul MacLachlan (Executive Officer elect); County Cllr Peter McDonald
- Appendices:** The following documents will be appended to the signed minutes:
- the Agenda
 - an updated report from the RFO.

14/12 Appointment of Chairman

Cllr John Jagger was unanimously re-elected as Chairman for the year 2012-13 and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

- 15/12 Apologies –** Apologies had been received from Cllrs Whitehand and Astle whose reasons for absence as noted in the attendance book were accepted by the Council. Apologies had also been received from District Cllr Deeming. Cllr Astle has since resigned from the Council and a casual vacancy has been advertised.

16/12 Election of Vice-Chairman

Cllr Doreen Hawkley was unanimously re-elected as Vice Chairman for the year 2012-13..

17/12 Declarations of Interest

- The requirement to keep the Register of Interests was noted.
- No interests were declared by Parish Council Members. County Cllr McDonald advised that he is unable to comment on planning matters.

18/12 District and County Councillors Q&A Session

County Cllr McDonald updated the Council on budget cuts being imposed by Worcestershire County Council. These now totalled £70m with a further £20m reduction planned for the following year. With expenditure of £200m on education being ring fenced, these cuts mean that many projects will be cancelled.



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He also advised the Council of the death of Michael Brinton, Lord Lieutenant of the County, and said that the Labour Group on the County Council was seeking to have this post advertised rather than “handed down”.

Cllr McDonald informed the Council that St Modwen was about to submit a planning application for the first phase of house building on the Longbridge East works site in Cofton Hackett. This included only 16 per cent affordable housing whereas a figure of 35 per cent for the whole site had been agreed.

Cllr McDonald clarified the situation regarding his membership of Bromsgrove DC’s Planning Committee as his apologies had been given at the meeting held on January 9th 2012 when the Fiery Hill Road development was considered. Because he is not a member of this Committee he cannot speak on any planning applications outside of his Waseley Ward.

19/12 Code of Conduct

The Council re-confirmed the adoption of the Code of Conduct which it had originally adopted in September 2007 and agreed that in future any contact with the media would be channelled through the Chairman and/or Executive Officer. Cllr Gumbley requested that Governance be included on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting of the Parish Council

20/12 Scheme of Delegation and Members of Committees

1. The Council resolved to accept the Scheme of Delegation without amendment.
2. The Council agreed the following membership of it’s Working Groups;
 - a) Staffing – Cllrs Jagger, Hawkley and the Executive Officer;
 - b) Planning – Cllrs Whitehand, Hawkley, Banner and Gumbley;
 - c) Finance – Cllrs Jagger, Davies, Hotham and the Executive Officer;
 - d) Highways & Lighting – Cllrs Hotham and Davies;
 - e) Youth Council – the Council agreed to suspend this group for the present;
 - f) Environment (to include tree warden) – Cllrs Banner and Hawkley;
 - g) Village Watch – Cllrs Hawkley and Gumbley;
 - h) Health & Safety – Cllr Gumbley;
 - i) Communications and Events– Cllrs Hotham, Gumbley, Banner, Hawkley and the Executive Officer. Mark Astle will be co-opted to this Group;
 - j) CPRE – Cllr Whitehand;
 - k) School Governor – Cllr Hotham.

21/12 Financial Regulations



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The Council agreed to refer its Financial Regulations to the Finance Group and to ask them to report back at a future meeting.

22/11 Nominations to the Worcestershire CALC Area Meeting

It was agreed that attendance at CALC Area Meetings would be rotated among the Council.

23/12 Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 30th April 2012 were approved and were signed by the Chairman.

No Parishioners attended the meeting.

24/12 Infrastructure

Planning & Conservation

Cllr Hawkley advised the Council that she would be calling at the Planning Department office to inspect the plans for an extension to 14 Orchard Croft as the drawings on the website were practically illegible.

The Council noted that there had been no further progress on the Fiery Hill Road development.

The Council noted that the solar panels on Sandhills Farm were now in situ.

Highways & Lighting

Cllr Hawkley reported that Aqueduct Lane was in a very poor state of repair and that a local resident had reported this fact to WCC Highways. She agreed to see if there had been any further progress on this matter.

Environment

Cllr Banner advised that the hanging baskets would be delivered from the new supplier on Tuesday 29 May and would be installed by Ron Rand who would also restock the planters on this day. Cllr Banner also agreed to ascertain the cost of installing the proposed Queen's Diamond Jubilee oak trees.

Cllr Hawkley advised that she had secured a reduction on the quotation for the new play equipment for Millennium Park and the price is now £8999. Supply and Installation will take approx 6-8 weeks. She has also requested a quotation for two signs for the park pointing out that ball games are not allowed in the area and she will also be speaking to Wicksteed about the swings as the paint is peeling off them and the swings themselves vibrate.



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Cllr Hotham advised that he had replied to the Network Rail consultation paper on rail squeal.

The Council discussed the matter of communications with the Lengthsman and agreed that in future all communication should be via the Executive Officer.

25/12 **Community Safety**

Village Watch – nothing to report.

Health & Safety – nothing to report.

Communications – The Communications Group will meet shortly to discuss the future format of the Newsletter.

26/12 **Governance**

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

The Council received the report of the internal auditor and noted that the Council had been given a clean bill of health. The Annual Report has been forwarded to the external auditor appointed by the Audit Commission.

The Council resolved not to pay basic allowances to Councillors for the year 2012-13, but agreed to make an allowance of £462 available for the Chairman's use.

New cheque signatories were agreed as Cllrs Davies, Jagger, Banner and Hawkey. The Council agreed that Paul MacLachlan would replace Roger Westbury as the bank's main point of contact.

To comply with Unity Bank's mandate requirements, it was resolved that:

1. The Mandate for the operation of the bank accounts payment instructions and banking services is provided to the Bank and that amendments to the Mandate may be provided by any Committee members, Director or Trustee or any other officer of the organisation who is notified to the Bank as being authorised by the Committee to do so;
2. The Bank is entitled to rely upon the Mandate provided until it receives a later Mandate amending it;
3. The Bank will be notified in writing of any change in Committee members/Directors/Trustees of the Organisation/Internet Users;
4. The Terms and Conditions remain unchanged and in all other respects.

School Governor – nothing to report.



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WCALC/NALC – the Council noted that the next CALC Area Meeting had been scheduled for June 6th. Cllrs Jagger and Hawkley and the Executive Officer would attend.

CPRE- nothing to report.

Diamond Jubilee Mugs – Cllrs Banner and Gumbley agreed to staff a stall on Hewel Road on Saturday 2nd June to sell Diamond Jubilee mugs

Executive Officer – the Council expressed its thanks to Roger Westbury for his work over the past seven years as executive officer to the Council and wished him well in his retirement.

27/12 Urgent Decisions – none taken since last meeting.

28/12 Correspondence Received – the Council acknowledged receipt of a letter from Hagley Parish Council regarding reductions in local policing in the District.

29/12 Future Agenda Items – funding of a community police officer for the area; Governance issues; dates for future Parish Council meetings

30/12 Date and Venue of Next Meeting – Monday 25 June 2012 at 7.00pm at the Parish Office was agreed.

The meeting ended at 8.55pm.

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Chairman June 25th, 2012