



# Barnt Green Parish Council

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Parish Office on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2012 at 7.00pm

**Present:** Cllrs Rachel Banner, Edwin Gumbley, Doreen Hawkley, Charles Hotham, John Jagger, and Susan Whitehand.

**In attendance:** Paul MacLachlan (Executive Officer); County Cllr Peter McDonald

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

- the Agenda;
- the updated planning application report;
- the report of the Communications Group meeting dated 19 June 2012;
- the RFO report.

**31/12 Apologies** – Cllr Alun Davies' apologies were accepted by the Council and the reason for absence noted in the attendance book.  
Apologies were also received from District Cllr Richard Deeming.

**32/12 Declarations of Interest**  
(a) The requirement to keep the Register of Interests was noted.  
(b) No interests were declared by Parish Council Members.

**33/12 Minutes of the last meeting**  
The minutes of the meeting dated 28 May 2012 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

No Parishioners attended the meeting

**34/12 Chairman's Report**  
The Chairman commented on the favourable response of the vast majority of residents to the Jubilee mugs and thanked councillors for distributing them. The Chairman thanked Cllrs Banner and Hawkley for their work in arranging the hanging baskets and planters and welcomed the Executive Officer to his first meeting in post.



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**35/12 District Councillors' and County Councillor's question and answer session**  
County Cllr McDonald expressed concern about the likely adverse implications of a possible sharing of Worcestershire County Council services with Herefordshire and Shropshire and explained why all Labour members had resigned from the District Council Planning Committee.

**36/12 Neighbourhood Plan**  
Cllrs confirmed their intention to create a Neighbourhood Plan, the boundary for which will be the Parish Council boundary.  
It was agreed that a public meeting should be held in September. The date of the meeting will be agreed at the July meeting and publicised in the next Parish Council magazine.  
It was further agreed that an early approach should be made to the Barnt Green Residents' Association regarding their involvement in the development of the Neighbourhood Plan.

**37/12 Infrastructure**

**(a) Planning and Conservation**

The appended report on planning applications and decisions made by the District Council's Planning Committee was received and the attitudes expressed by the Parish Council Planning Group approved.  
It was agreed that a Parish Council meeting be sought with Banner Homes on Friday 6 July at 4.00pm following a separate meeting between Banner Homes and the Residents' Association.

**(b) Highways and lighting**

It was noted that the street light by the former Guide hut was inoperative and should be reported.  
It was agreed that further contact be made with the County Council regarding the relocation of the disabled parking bay.

**(c) Environment**

Cllrs agreed that:

- (i) a site visit be arranged with to consider trimming the beech hedge near the Millennium Park;
- (ii) three English oaks be purchased at a cost of £29 (plus VAT and delivery) and an appropriate plaque noting that the trees were planted in the Queen's Diamond Jubilee year be erected;



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- (iii) Cllrs Banner and Hawkley should judge the hanging baskets maintained by traders in the village;
- (iv) a sign be displayed acknowledging that planters had been filled by 'Where Next?';
- (v) further contact be made with Wicksteed to ascertain the installation date of the new play equipment for the Millennium Park;
- (vi) two 'No ball games' signs for the Millennium Park should be sourced at an upper cost of £50 each;
- (vii) quotations be obtained for the painting of the swings in the Millennium Park. Cllrs agreed that quotations should be circulated by email and the work commissioned on the approval of a majority of councillors;
- (viii) the advice of the Lengthsman be sought regarding the weeds within the gutters outside the Post Office.

### **38/12 Community and Safety**

**(a) Village Watch** - Nothing to report.

**(b) Health and Safety** - Nothing to report.

**(c) Communications**

Cllrs considered the appended report of the Communications Group meeting dated Tuesday 19 June and accepted the recommendations of the Group regarding forthcoming issues of the Parish Council Newsletter.

Cllrs reported on the distribution of Jubilee mugs and agreed that a mug should be given to each pupil leaving St Andrew's school in July 2012 and each Parish Council employee and contractor.

Cllrs further agreed that enquiries be made of the Scouts and Guides group within the village to ascertain the number of young people involved.

### **39/12 Governance**

**(a) Finance**

Cllrs considered the appended report of the Responsible Finance Officer and approved the payments.

**(b) Casual vacancy**

Cllrs were advised that parishioners had not called for an election and that the Parish Council were free to advertise the vacancy. Cllrs agreed to interview applicants and, if more than one applicant, to appoint by a majority vote of parish councillors.



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### **(c) New Standards Regime and Code of Conduct**

Cllrs considered the Worcestershire CALC model code of conduct and the form for the registration of members' pecuniary interests and agreed to:

- (i) adopt the Worcestershire model code of conduct with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2012;
- (ii) delegate to the clerk the ability to make any changes needed to standing orders to allow the Council to comply with procedural changes resulting from adopting the new code;
- (iii) complete the form registering their interests so that the Executive Officer can forward them for registration with the District Council before 28 July 2012.

### **(a) Governance**

It was agreed that communications on important issues should be circulated to all councillors.

### **(e) School governor** - Nothing to report.

### **(f) Worcestershire Association of Local Councils**

Cllrs received an oral report on the meeting dated Wednesday 6 June 2012.

### **(g) National Association of Local Councils** - Nothing to report.

### **(h) Council for the Protection of Rural England**

Cllrs considered correspondence from the Chairman of the Bromsgrove and Wyre Forest Group, Dr Peter King, seeking expressions of interest for the formation of a consortium to oppose proposed housing targets. It was requested that better and further particulars be obtained.

### **(i) Dates of Parish Council meetings**

It was agreed that this item be carried forward to the next meeting.

### **40/12 Administration**

Cllrs agreed that:

- (i) a new Parish Council laptop be purchased at a cost up to £500;
- (ii) appropriate Microsoft and anti-virus software be purchased;
- (iii) the Executive Officer make the purchases and obtain reimbursement from the Parish Council.

### **41/12 Correspondence received**

Cllrs noted the following correspondence:

