



Barnt Green Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Parish Office on Monday 26 November 2012 at 7.00pm

Present: Councillors (Cllrs) Rachel Banner, Alun Davies, Edwin Gumbley, Doreen Hawkley, John Jagger (Chair) and Susan Whitehand.

In attendance: Paul MacLachlan (Executive Officer), County Councillor Peter McDonald and District Councillor Richard Deeming.

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

- a. the Agenda;
- b. the planning application report;
- c. the RFO report for October 2012;
- d. the report of income and expenditure to 30 September 2012;
- e. the bank reconciliation to 30 September 2012.

83/12 Apologies

The apologies of Cllr Charles Hotham were received and accepted.

84/12 Declarations of Interest

The requirement to keep the Register of Interests was noted. Subject to the outcome of agenda item 85/12, no interests were declared by Parish Council Members.

85/12 Applications for dispensation

(a) Parish Council budget and precept

On receipt of applications for dispensation from all councillors it was agreed that all councillors should be permitted to participate in discussion about, and vote on decisions relating to, the parish council budget and precept.

It was further agreed that the dispensation will apply until the date of the next ordinary parish council election in May 2015.

(b) Neighbourhood Plan

On receipt of an application for dispensation from Cllr Charles Hotham it was agreed that he should be permitted to participate in discussion about, and vote on decisions relating to, the Barnt Green Neighbourhood Plan.

It was further agreed that the dispensation will apply until the date of the next ordinary parish council election in May 2015.



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86/12 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting dated 29 October 2012 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

No Parishioners attended the meeting

87/12 Chairman's Report

The Chair commented on a successful drop-in consultation with residents regarding the Barnt Green Neighbourhood Plan. The Chair noted that the bench honouring Bill Oakley had been installed and that Christmas arrangements, including traders' late night opening, were well in hand.

88/12 District Councillors' and County Councillor's question and answer session

District Cllr Richard Deeming reported on:

- current planning applications including a report on the vacant property at 26 Sandhills Lane;
- 106 monies arising from the residential development at Fiery Hill Road;
- the proposed ward boundary review linking Barnt Green with Hopwood;
- proposals to decriminalise parking throughout the Bromsgrove area and the resulting improved opportunities to bear down on anti-social parking.

County Cllr Peter McDonald reported on:

- the adoption of a living wage, rather than the minimum wage, by the County Council;
- on widespread budget cuts across the County Council and the adverse implications for adult services, education, charities and youth services.

The Chair asked the County Councillor to enquire about, and report back on, the procedures in place to ensure that parish councils were made aware of the impact of cuts in their area prior to implementation.

89/12 Neighbourhood Plan

The minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee meeting dated 5 October 2012 were received.



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90/12 Infrastructure

(a) Planning and Conservation

- (i) The report on planning applications and decisions made by the District Council's Planning Committee were received and the attitudes expressed by the Parish Council Planning Group under its delegated powers noted.

Cllr Whitehand reported on meetings with:

- a representative from Barnt Green Area Residents Association to discuss how they might assist the council to consult interested residents living outside the parish boundary;
- Bromsgrove District Council Planning Department and Banner Homes to discuss plans for the residential development of Fiery Hill Road;
- A representative from Alvechurch Parish Council regarding progress with their Neighbourhood Plan.

- (ii) Having received a verbal report from District Cllr Richard Deeming on the likely outcome of the Boundary Commission review it was agreed that no further action be taken.

(b) Environment

- (i) Cllrs noted the arrangements for the switch-on of lights;
- (ii) Cllrs agreed that, prior to the decriminalisation of parking in April 2013, concerns about illegally parked cars should be passed to the local police.

91/12 Community

Cllrs considered what community events might be supported by the council in 2013.

It was agreed to invite Barnt Green Chuggers to assist with the organisation of a 2013 Barnt Green Fun Run similar to the 2012 Sainsbury Sport Relief Mile.

It was further agreed to investigate the possibility of local traders using Millennium Park as a venue to organise a series of craft or other fairs to promote the village beyond the local community.

92/12 Governance

(a) Finance

It was agreed that:



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- (i) *the report of the Responsible Finance Officer for November 2012 be approved;*
- (ii) *the recommendations of the Finance Group meeting dated 12 November 2012 be adopted save that, in accordance with the advice from Worcestershire CALC, recommendations relating to the 2013/14 budget and precept be carried forward to the next meeting;*
- (iii) *the Executive Officer bring recommendations for the purchase of a specific laminator and scanner to the next meeting;*
- (iv) *the arrangements made for the volunteers' Christmas lunch be approved.*

(b) Reports of meetings

Reports were received on the following meetings attended by councillors:

- (i) St Andrews School Governors:
that governors were at an early stage of considering academy status;
- (ii) Worcestershire Association of Local Councils:
that the minutes of the last meeting had been distributed;
- (iii) Council for the Protection of Rural England:
on opposition to the proposed residential development in Hagley.

93/12 Correspondence received

Cllrs noted the following correspondence:

- (i) 1211/01: Cllrs noted the enquiry about the nature of recent surveys in Hewell Lane and asked the Executive Officer to contact the correspondent asking to be kept informed of any information received;
- (ii) 1211/02: Cllrs noted the objection to the original site of the bench honouring Bill Oakley and welcomed the fact that a solution acceptable to all parties had been reached.

94/12 Urgent Decisions taken since the last meeting

None taken.

95/12 Future Agenda Items

To consider the following items:

- membership of the Planning Group;
- the role of the parish council in the management of the proposed car park on Fiery Hill Road;
- to invite a local police representative to attend either a parish council meeting or the Annual Parish Meeting;



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- to adopt parish council email addresses;
- to agree the 2013/14 budget and precept;
- to purchase a laminator and scanner;
- Planning Group recommendations for section 106 monies.

96/12 Date and Venue of Next Meeting

7.00pm on Monday 7 January 2013 at the Parish Office was agreed.

97/12 To close the meeting to the public and press

In accordance with section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act the meeting was closed to the public in order to consider staffing matters.

98/12 Staffing matters

The Executive Officer withdrew from the meeting for this item of business.

The Staffing Group reported that a successful performance review had been conducted with the Executive Officer. The Council was very pleased with his performance to date and agreed that his probationary period was completed to the council's full satisfaction.

The Staffing Group recommended that, with effect from 1 December 2012, he should be paid at point 29 on the NJC scale. This recommendation was unanimously accepted by the Council.

The Executive Officer returned to the meeting and was advised of the outcome.

The meeting ended at 9.15pm.

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Chairman

7 January 2013