



Barnt Green Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Parish Office on Monday 22 April 2013 at 7.00pm

Present: Councillors (Cllrs) Rachel Banner, Charles Hotham and John Jagger (Chair).

In attendance: Paul MacLachlan (Executive Officer), District Councillors Richard Deeming and Stuart Dudley.

Appendices: 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: Report of the Responsible Finance Officer
 - C: Draft report of payments and receipts for the year ending 31 March 2013;
 - D: Draft report of the Parish Council to the Annual Parish Meeting.

136/12 Apologies

The apologies of Cllrs Davies, Gumbley, Hawkley and Whitehand were received and accepted.

137/12 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.

138/12 Minutes of the last meeting

It was requested that in item 132/12(b)(i) the words 'whether parish councils provided value for money' be inserted within speech marks. The minutes of the meeting dated 25 March 2013, as amended, were approved and signed by the Chair.

Two Parishioners attended the meeting



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139/12 Chairman's Report

The Chair thanked councillors for progressing the Neighbourhood Plan consultations. Cllr Hotham was specifically thanked for his work in connection with the Rail Inspectorate and the Parish Council's representations relating to the residential development of Fiery Hill Road.

140/12 District Councillors' and County Councillor's question and answer session

The Parish Council noted with disappointment that District Council officers had not yet responded to correspondence dated 26 March 2013 indicating that the article 12 certificate underpinning the residential development of Fiery Hill Road was flawed. Cllr Dudley acknowledged that the application was flawed.

Cllr Dudley indicated that Banner Homes were unlikely to discharge the reserved matters identified when outline planning permission was granted. The outcome of both issues was likely to be that Banner Homes would need to submit a new planning application.

The Parish Council sought assurances that planning application 13/0121, seeking a variation to condition 4 of planning approval 11/0741, would be either withdrawn or considered by the full Planning Committee.

The Parish Council sought the support of councillors to maximise the number of car parking spaces available to support the improved rail service planned for Barnt Green. District Councillors were asked to ensure that the views of the Parish Council and local residents are taken into account prior to a decision on car parking in and around the village and that saved policy BG3 and the Worcestershire Local Transport Plan 3 are considered.

141/12 Infrastructure

(a) Planning and Conservation

(i) The report on planning applications and decisions made by the District Council's Planning Committee (Enclosure A) was received. It was agreed that the views of Cllr Whitehand be considered prior to submitting comments on applications 13/0266 (89 Bittell Road) and 13/0251 (30a Hewell Road).

The Executive Officer was asked to draw the attention of the District Council to work being undertaken to the driveway at 12 Hewell Lane.

(ii) Referring to correspondence sent to the District Council, Network Rail, The Rail Inspectorate and the Department for Transport, Cllrs noted the content of the following responses:



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- Network Rail, letter dated 12 April 2013
- The Rail Inspectorate, email dated 10 April 2013
- Department for Transport, email dated 8 April 2013 and Pitman Solicitors (on behalf of Banner Homes (Midlands) Limited) dated 17 April 2013.

The Executive Officer was asked to follow-up the lack of response from District Council officers.

- (iii) Cllrs noted the District Council's advice that section 106 monies would not finance the refurbishing of street lighting within the village. It was agreed that the Council should consider making a grant application to upgrade the lighting when the current new technologies become more affordable.

(b) Environment

- (i) Cllr Hotham gave an oral report outlining progress with the Redditch branch line enhancement project. The views of the Parish Council regarding rail squeal, parking and access had all been conveyed. The Parish Council will be invited to make a final submission of evidence by 28 May 2013 following a presentation by Network Rail on 8 May.

- (ii) Cllr Banner gave an oral report outlining the work required to maintain and improve the local environment. The following actions were agreed:

- subject to permission, further hard surfacing be laid around the stile at the far end of Parker's Piece;
- quotations be sought for 2 benches with backs to be placed in Parker's Piece;
- Where Next? Be asked to quote for the supply of bulbs and hanging baskets;

The Executive Officer was asked to write a letter of thanks to Neil Hosking for his work on the paths in Parker's Piece and to ask Ron Rand to check the bins near Barnt Green Inn (recently overturned) and the drain near Penzer Drive to ensure it was not blocked.

Cllrs were asked to identify suitable locations for the wider planting of daffodils in the parish.

Cllr Banner indicated that she would follow-up the risk register checks falling to the Environment Group within Millennium Park and Parker's Piece.

- (iii) Cllrs noted the safety reports produced by RoSPA for Millennium Park and Parker's Piece. Cllrs authorised the Executive Officer to work with Cllr Gumbley to progress the necessary work.



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142/12 Community

- (i) Cllr Hotham reported that the cost of overheads meant that the charitable proceeds arising from the proposed Fun Run were too small to make the event worthwhile. A decision had been made with Barnt Green Chuggers not to proceed with the event.
- (ii) Cllrs considered how to distribute The Bulletin and agreed to revert back to the pattern of responsibilities in place in the Summer of 2012 with Sandhills Road being divided between Cllrs Hotham and Gumbley.
- (iii) Cllrs noted the lack of response from Total Football to reasonable requests to meet, agree revised charges and to notify the use made of the playing field.
It was agreed that the Parish Council should issue an invoice for the period from 1 January to 31 March 2013 based on the charges originally notified with a reduction for bad weather and school holidays.
It was further agreed that the Parish Council should consider at its next meeting whether to allow the playing field to be booked by commercial and other regular users.

143/12 Governance

(a) Finance

The Chair confirmed that he had inspected the accounting records for the 3 months to 31 March 2013 and agreed the bank reconciliation at that date. The Chair referred to the report of the internal auditor, Diane Malley, who confirmed that the books of accounts show good internal controls, well-kept records and no areas of weakness.

It was agreed that:

- (i) the report of the Responsible Finance Officer for April 2013 (Enclosure B) be approved;
- (ii) the report of payments and receipts (Enclosure C) be adopted and presented to the Annual Parish Meeting on 8 May 2013;
- (iii) the accounting statements in section 1 of the 2012/13 Annual Return be approved by the Parish Council;
- (iv) the annual governance statement in section 2 of the 2012/13 Annual Return be approved by the Parish Council.

