



**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting
held at 8.00pm on Wednesday 8 May
2013 at the Friends' Meeting House,
Sandhills Road, Barnt Green**



The Meeting was chaired by Mr John Jagger, Chairman of the Parish Council, and was attended by 15 residents of the parish. District Councillor Stuart Dudley was in attendance together with Community Support Officer Sarah Wills and Parish Lengthsman, Ron Rand.

1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed those present and thanked them for attending.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from County Councillor Peter McDonald, District Councillor Richard Deeming, Parish Councillors Alun Davies, Doreen Hawkley, Edwin Gumbley and Charles Hotham and residents Janice Haywood, Peter and Alison Hutchins, Margaret and Brian Wright and Christine Horton.

3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 9 May 2012

The minutes were approved by those present as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

4. Report of the Chairman of the Parish Council

The Chairman referred to the wide range of statutory duties undertaken by the Parish Council and presented his report as summarised in appendices 1 and 2.

Residents commented as follows:

- (i) on the deteriorating condition of roads within the parish;
- (ii) on the work of the Parish Council in seeking to improve the condition of many pavements in the village and to ensure that dropped kerbs were in place as appropriate;
- (iii) on the problems created by rail users parking in the village rather than in the designated car park and the opportunities afforded by the appointment of traffic enforcement officers;
- (iv) that subsidising the cost of parking at the station would be effectively be providing a benefit for rail users living outside the parish.

The Chairman's report was

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5. Financial Report of the Parish Council

The Responsible Finance Officer presented draft accounts for 2012/13 (appendix 3) referring to the explanatory notes provided (appendix 4).

Residents commented as follows:

- (i) on donations arising from the 2011 Barnt Green Festival;
- (ii) on the benefits arising from the play areas at Millennium Park and Parker's Piece;
- (iii) on the extent to which the planters and hanging baskets enhanced the village centre.

The Responsible Finance Officer's report was

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6. Report of Elected Representatives

District Councillor, Stuart Dudley, reported:

- (a) on Banner Homes' application to build 88 units of accommodation on Fiery Hill Road indicating that they had only a limited amount of time to complete the reserved matters determined by the District Council;
- (b) on Banner Homes' application to reduce the number of car park spaces associated with the residential development of Fiery Hill Road from 39 to 24 indicating that this would result in a broadly neutral position regarding the parking available on Fiery Hill Road;
- (c) that the Parish Council had continued to represent the perceived views and interests of residents in Barnt Green in relation to both of these applications.

Residents commented as follows:

- (i) on the adverse implications of Bromsgrove's 'duty to co-operate' with Redditch in the provision of land for further housing development;
- (ii) on the number of empty properties within the District and the willingness of the District Council to address the issue;
- (iii) on plans to develop the centre of Bromsgrove town centre.

The District Councillor's report was

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7. Report of the Community Support Officer

Community Support Officer, Sarah Wells, reported:

- (a) that the village was served by 3 CSOs at present and that they sought to maintain a visible presence within the community;
- (b) on an awareness that parking was a major concern within the village but that the role of CSOs in the enforcement of parking regulations following changes to take effect on 30 May 2013 had not yet been clarified;
- (c) on the very low incidence of crime within Barnt Green but the need to remain vigilant and to report incidents of anti-social behaviour.

Residents commented as follows:

- (i) on the number of door to door traders operating without the appropriate licence;
- (ii) that the 20mph speed limit in the village centre was largely ignored.

The Community Support Officer's report was

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8. Reports from Community Groups

David Baker, representing Barnt Green Baptist Church, thanked the Parish Council for consulting the congregation about the Neighbourhood Development Plan. David outlined the work of the Baptist Church within the village which, in addition to weekly services, include money management and marriage courses and activities ranging from divorce recovery and parent and toddler groups to bible study and social events.

No other community reports were presented.



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The report from Barnt Green Baptist Church was

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9. Neighbourhood Development Plan

Chair of the Parish Council Neighborhood Plan Committee, Susan Whitehand, reported:

- (a) on progress to date with the Barnt Green Neighbourhood Development Plan;
- (b) that the Parish Council would shortly be summarising the results of the recently undertaken consultations and proposed to prepare a draft scoping document which would be shared with the community via the Autumn issue of *The Bulletin*.
- (c) on the importance of securing community support for the Neighbourhood Development Plan as in order to be adopted it would be subject to a local referendum;
- (d) that Lickey and Blackwell Parish Council had recently decided to seek approval to create a Neighbourhood Development Plan.

The report of the Neighbourhood Development Plan Committee was

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10. Open session

Residents commented as follows:

- (i) appreciating the wide range of amenities within the village;
- (ii) suggesting that the Residents' Association seek a closer working relationship with the Parish Council;
- (iii) recommending that the Parish Council consider how best to communicate with residents in order to ascertain their views;
- (iv) thanking the Parish Council for their work on behalf of the community.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.31pm.

John Jagger
May 2014