

Barnt Green Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 80 Hewell Road, Barnt Green on Monday 24 June 2013 at 7.00pm

Present: Councillors (Cllrs) Doreen Hawkley, Charles Hotham and John Jagger (Chair)

In attendance: Paul MacLachlan (Executive Officer).

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

- the Agenda;
- the following enclosures:
 - A: Draft response to planning application 13/0343;
 - B: Terms of Reference for the Resources Committee and the Neighbourhood, Planning and Environment Committee;
 - C: Scheme of Delegation;
 - D: Report of planning applications received and decisions taken under delegated powers;
 - E: Report of the Responsible Finance Officer.

37/13 Apologies

The apologies of Cllrs Rachel Banner, Alun Davies, Edwin Gumbley and Susan Whitehand were received and accepted.
Apologies were also received from District Councillor Stuart Dudley.

38/13 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.

39/13 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting dated 8 May 2013 were reviewed. It was agreed that the minutes be presented for adoption at the Annual Parish Meeting in May 2014.

The following meeting minutes were approved and signed by the Chair:
Annual meeting of the Parish Council dated 20 May 2013;
Parish Council meeting dated 20 May 2013;
Parish Council Meeting dated 29 May 2013;
Parish Council Meeting dated 11 June 2013.

No Parishioners attended the meeting

40/13 Chairman's Report

The Chair thanked councillors for work undertaken recently in connection with the application for the residential development of Fiery Hill Road.
The Chair expressed particular thanks to Cllr Hotham for his work on the planning application and for his liaison with the Rail Inspectorate.

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41/13 District Councillors' and County Councillor's question and answer session
Cllr Deeming indicated that, in order to avoid any possible pre-determination, he would be unable to comment on, or attend, during discussions relating to planning application 13/0343, the residential development of Fiery Hill Road.
Cllr Deeming advised that the Planning Committee would not be considering application 13/0291 in respect of 12 Margesson Drive.
Cllr Deeming commented on the recent introduction of traffic enforcement officers across the Bromsgrove District. Parish Councillors welcomed their presence in the village.
Cllr McDonald offered to follow-up concerns that, despite local authority investment, trains would still not be stopping at Barnt Green en-route to Bromsgrove and Worcester post electrification.
Cllr McDonald expressed concern about the proposed closure of the autism centre in Kidderminster which would deny support to people across the Bromsgrove district.
Cllr Deeming left the meeting prior to discussion of the Bromsgrove Transport Infrastructure Plan. Referring to the Plan, Cllr McDonald confirmed that Worcestershire County Council had identified and set aside funding for access improvements to Barnt Green station two years ago.
The Parish Council expressed thanks to Cllr McDonald for the resurfacing work to Aqueduct Lane.

42/13 Planning application 13/0343
It was agreed to submit the Parish Council's comments regarding the residential development of Fiery Hill Road to the District Council by 22 July 2013.
Cllrs noted that the District Council had invited the Parish Council to consult with Community Groups about the impact of the residential development of Fiery Hill Road on their infrastructure and what, if any works, would be required to mitigate the impact. It was agreed that the Parish Council should invite the 3 churches, the Scouts and Guides and the Sports, Social and Sailing Clubs to respond in writing to the consultation. It was further agreed to meet interested parties between 7.00pm and 9.00pm on Wednesday 3 July and to invite Barnt Green Residents Association to participate at these meetings.

43/13 Parish Council Committee structure
(i) The Chair reported on a meeting between the Chair, Vice-Chair, Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee at which the Parish Council's Committee structure was discussed.
Cllrs agreed the recommendation to:

- create a Resources Committee;
- create a Neighbourhood, Planning and Environment Committee;
- close the current Neighbourhood Plan Committee.

(ii) Cllrs considered the terms of reference for the Resources Committee (Enclosure B(i) and the Neighbourhood, Planning and Environment Committee (Enclosure B(ii) both of which had been reviewed by Worcestershire County Association of Local Councils (CALC).
It was agreed to amend both terms of reference so that each committee will comprise not less than 5 members of the Parish Council.

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The amended terms of reference were adopted.

(iii) the following nominations were made to each Committee:

Resources Committee	Cllrs Davies, Gumbley, Hawkley, Hotham, Jagger, and Whitehand
Neighbourhood, Planning and Environment Committee	Cllrs Banner, Davies, Hawkley, Hotham, Jagger and Whitehand

(iv) Cllrs considered the Scheme of Delegation (Enclosure C) which had been reviewed by Worcestershire CALC.

It was agreed to amend item 6 of the Resources Committee's additional delegated powers enabling it to appoint an Independent Appeals Panel.

The amended Scheme of Delegation was adopted.

44/13 Planning

Cllrs considered the report (Enclosure D) on planning applications received and decisions taken by the District Council and agreed the recommended Parish Council attitudes to applications not previously considered.

45/13 Environment

(i) Cllrs noted with thanks that the floral displays within the village had been arranged and agreed the following further work:

- to remove the Himalayan Balsam from Parker's Piece and to notify Birmingham City Council of an infestation in their adjacent field;
- to contact Whitings regarding the poor condition of the Quercus Rubra tree in Parker's Piece;
- to ask the Parish Lengthsman to contact residents responsible for overgrown hedges in Hewell Road and Sandhills Road.

(ii) Cllrs received an oral report of a meeting dated 5 June 2013 with Graham Cutler and Daniel Wagstaff from Bromsgrove District Council's Cleansing Department;

(iii) Cllrs noted with regret the necessary recommendations of the District Council Tree Officer regarding the protected tree on Bittell Road;

(iv) Cllrs considered what further action could be taken to deter older children using the play equipment in Millennium Park and from playing ball games. It was agreed that no further action be taken.

46/13 Community

(i) Cllrs noted that Total Football had not responded to the Parish Council's letter and email dated 3 June 2013 with the result that permission for their use of Parker's Piece lapses at noon on 30 June 2013.

(ii) Cllrs received an oral report of a meeting dated 20 June attended by Amanda Hill (Countryside Access Volunteers Officer), Simon Richards (Parish Footpaths Officer) and Mike Dickinson (Barnt Green Chuggers), Cllr Charles Hotham and the Executive Officer. The following objectives were agreed:

- to work with Walk Worcestershire to create a signed circular walk that both starts and finishes within the village;
- to seek to have the North Worcestershire Path diverted through the centre of the village;
- to spend up to £250 on publicizing the Barnt Green walk day on 28 September 2013;

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- to book the Friends' Meeting House on 28 September for the purposes of an Exhibition supported by Worcestershire County Council.

47/13 Finance

- (i) It was agreed that the report of the Responsible Finance Officer for June 2013 (Enclosure E) be received and that payments be made.
- (ii) Cllrs considered quotations from GJH Electrical (£20 per column) and Prysmium (£16.90 per column) for the electrical and structural survey of parish lighting columns. It was agreed to accept the quotation submitted by Prysmium;
- (iii) It was agreed to spend up to £1,500 on two seats in Parker's Piece;

48/13 Urgent Decisions taken since the last meeting

None taken.

49/13 Future Agenda Items

CCTV coverage within the village.

50/13 Date and Venue of Next Meeting

7.00pm on Monday 29 July 2013 at the Parish Office was agreed.

The meeting ended at 9.12pm.

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Chairman

29 July 2013