

Barnt Green Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held at 80 Hewell Road, Barnt Green on Monday 9 September 2013 at 7.00pm

Present: Councillors (Cllrs) Rachel Banner, Alun Davies, Edwin Gumbley, Doreen Hawkey, Charles Hotham (Chair) and Susan Whitehand.

In attendance: Paul MacLachlan (Executive Officer).

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

- the Agenda;
- the following enclosures:
 - A: Draft of the Parish Council's response to planning application 13/0522 (first draft distributed 28 August 2013);
 - B: Report of planning applications received and decisions taken under delegated powers;
 - C: Draft of the proposed publicity for the proposed walks within the parish;
 - D: Report of the Responsible Finance Officer.

65/13 Apologies

The apologies of Cllr John Jagger were received and accepted. Apologies were also received from District Councillors Richard Deeming and Stuart Dudley.

66/13 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.

67/13 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting dated 29 July 2013 were approved and signed by the Chair:

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| No Parishioners attended the meeting |
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68/13 Chairman's Report

Cllr Hotham expressed the hope that Cllr Jagger would return quickly to full health and once again play an active part in the Parish Council. Cllr Hotham reported on a recent meeting with District Cllr Mike Webb and commented on the successful floral displays in the village and the recent distribution of the Parish Council newsletter.

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- 69/13 District Councillors' and County Councillor's question and answer session**
No District or County Councillors attended the meeting.
- 70/13 Response to planning application 13/0522 (Fiery Hill Road)**
Cllrs considered a first draft of the Parish Council's response (Enclosure A). It was noted that the 40% affordable housing rule was not being rigorously applied and that this ought to be referred to in the Parish Council's response. It was agreed that the focus of the Parish Council's objection should be to reduce the density of development.
It was further agreed that Cllrs Hotham and Whitehand should take a lead in finalizing the response and distribute a draft document for consideration and comment by other councillors prior to submission.
- 71/13 Planning**
Cllrs considered the report (Enclosure B) on planning applications received and decisions taken by the District Council and agreed the recommended Parish Council attitudes to applications not previously considered.
Cllr Whitehand was asked to prepare a recommendation in connection with application 13/0664, 17 Hewell Lane.
Cllrs noted that building work had begun on the site of the former Guide Hall in Hewell Lane. The Executive Officer was asked to investigate what could be done to secure safe passage for pedestrians past the dwelling and over the railway bridge during, and after, construction.
- 72/13 Environment**
- (i) Cllr Banner reported on the following environmental issues:
- Winter planting of the tubs on Hewell Road;
 - The growing nuisance arising from dog faeces;
 - The hazard arising in icy weather from the rain dripping from the canopy outside Tesco.
- The Executive Officer was asked to arrange the winter planting in conjunction with 'Where Next?', to organise appropriate dog fouling signage at the top of Orchard Croft and to contact Tesco.
- (ii) Cllrs considered the purchase of a bench to be sited at the junction of Bittell Road and Bittell Lane. It was agreed that, before proceeding further, Cllr Banner should ascertain the attitude of the owner of the bungalow outside which the bench would be sited.
- (iii) Cllrs considered the suggestion that the old Telephone Exchange on Hewell Road be listed as a building of special interest as it displayed one of few plaques marking the brief reign of King Edward VIII. It was agreed that Cllrs Banner and Hawkey carry out further research and that the matter be considered at a future meeting.

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- (iv) Cllrs agreed that Whiting Landscapes should supply and plant two English oak trees in Parker's Piece at an estimated cost of £230 + VAT. Cllr Hawkley indicated she would make the necessary arrangements.
- (v) Cllrs noted that Wicksteed had not yet replied to the Parish Council's concerns about the safety and maintenance issues arising from the glade play equipment in Millennium Park. It was agreed to carry this item forward to the next meeting.
- (vi) Cllrs agreed that assistance should be sought with the safety checks at Millennium Park and Parker's Piece. Cllrs asked the Executive Officer to contact a resident that they felt might be willing to assist.

73/13 Community

- (i) Cllrs considered the draft literature (Enclosure C) for the proposed walks in and around Barnt Green. It was agreed that:
 - (a) the name of the 6.5 mile walk around Barnt Green should be the *Barnt Green Circular*;
 - (b) appropriate text and photographs illustrating the walk be forwarded to Worcestershire County Council.
- (ii) Cllrs commented favourably on the banners advertising the community walk and pig roast. Cllr Hotham confirmed that arrangements were in place with local retailers for the pig roast and licenced bar. It was agreed that:
 - (a) further adverts be placed in local shops, on notice boards and, if possible, in local 'free' papers;
 - (b) emails be sent to the Residents' Association and to those on the Parish Council email list;
 - (c) the Parish Council will underwrite the cost of the bar licence and the cost of 50 pig roast baps in the event of poor weather and limited attendance;
 - (d) an offer of walk leader training be accepted.
- (iii) Cllr Hotham confirmed that the Friends' Meeting House had been hired for the Neighbourhood Plan public consultation on Saturday 19 October. It was agreed that further arrangements be delegated to members of the Neighbourhood, Planning and Environment Committee.

74/13 Communications

Cllrs considered the proposed new website and agreed to proceed to launch as soon as practicable.

75/13 Finance

It was agreed that the report of the Responsible Finance Officer for August 2013 (Enclosure D) be received and that payments be made.

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76/13 Urgent Decisions taken since the last meeting

No urgent decisions were taken.

77/13 Future Agenda Items

- (i) CCTV coverage within the village (requested July 2013);
- (ii) reservation of the 3 railway bridges between Barnt Green and Bromsgrove (requested July 2013);
- (iii) Age UK, home befriending;
- (iv) Wicksteed's reply regarding glade play equipment;
- (v) Listing of Telephone Exchange in Hewell Road.

78/13 Date and Venue of Next Meeting

7.00pm on Monday 28 October 2013 at the Parish Office was agreed.

The meeting ended at 8.59pm.

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Chairman 28 October 2013