

Barnt Green Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 80 Hewell Road, Barnt Green on Monday 28 October 2013 at 7.00pm

- Present:** Councillors (Cllrs) Rachel Banner, Alun Davies, Edwin Gumbley, Doreen Hawkley and Charles Hotham (Chair).
- In attendance:** Paul MacLachlan (Executive Officer), County Cllr Peter McDonald, District Cllrs Stuart Dudley and Mike Webb.
- 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: Recommendation regarding 2013/14 Chairman's Allowance;
 - D: Recommended 2013/14 meeting dates for the Parish Council Resources Committee.

79/13 Apologies

The apologies of Cllrs John Jagger and Susan Whitehand were received and accepted.

Apologies were also received from District Councillor Richard Deeming.

80/13 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.

81/13 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting dated 9 September 2013 were approved and signed by the Chair:

One parishioner attended the meeting but no items were raised.

82/13 Chairman's Report

Cllr Hotham thanked Councillors for their contribution to the successful community walk and pig roast held on 28 September. Councillors asked that letters of thanks be sent to Amanda Hill and Simon Richards who assisted with the walk.

Cllrs further noted the launch of the new website.

Cllrs expressed the hope that Cllr Jagger would return quickly to full health and once again play an active part in the Parish Council.

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- 83/13 District Councillors' and County Councillor's question and answer session**
Cllr Hotham thanked Cllr McDonald for his recent replies to the Parish Council regarding the proposed improved train service and regarding charges to parking arrangements within the village.

Cllr Dudley commented that he had received complaints about large lorries being unloaded outside Tesco at 5.30am. He has contacted the store and will advise the Parish Council of the outcome.

Cllr Dudley indicated that application 13/0522 (Residential development of Fiery Hill Road) was likely to be considered at the Planning Committee meeting on 9 December. Cllrs were surprised to be advised that issues regarding drainage and noise seemed to have been resolved. Cllrs expressed concern about the length of time taken to consider the application.

Cllr McDonald advised that further significant cuts in County Council expenditure were planned. Cllr McDonald expressed concern about the implications for any organisation dependant on financial support from the County Council. Cllr McDonald commented in particular on the implications for St Basil's, a local homeless charity.

Cllr McDonald noted the Parish Council's concern about the implications of electrification on local railway bridges and offered to broker a meeting with Network Rail to discuss their plans.

Cllr McDonald left the meeting.

- 84/13 Planning**

(i) Cllr Hotham welcomed Cllr Webb to the meeting and thanked him for his willingness to represent the Parish Council at the Planning Committee meeting on 9 December.

Cllr Hotham reported on a meeting with Cllr Webb and Ruth Bamford, Head of Planning and Regeneration, dated 24 October at which the Parish Council had raised a number of concerns.

Cllr Webb indicated that he will act as the point of contact for the Parish Council when seeking to raise issues connected to this application and asked Cllrs to propose regular meeting dates with him prior to 9 December.

Cllrs Dudley and Webb left the meeting.

- (ii) Cllrs considered the report (Enclosure A) on planning applications received and decisions taken by the District Council and agreed the recommended Parish Council attitudes to applications not previously considered.
- (iii) Cllrs authorized Cllrs Hotham and Whitehand to draft the Parish Council's response to the Bromsgrove District Plan and asked the Executive Officer to request a seven day extension to the deadline for response.

- 85/13 Neighbourhood Plan**

Cllrs noted that the Neighbourhood Plan consultation on 19 October had been attended by approximately 30 residents and that the outcome will be discussed at the next committee meeting.

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86/13 Environment

- (i) Cllr Banner advised that *Where Next?* Had completed the winter planting of the tubs on Hewell Road. Cllrs agreed to purchase a recently advertised biodegradable spray that will allow the Parish Council to highlight where dog faeces have been left uncollected by irresponsible owners
- (ii) Cllrs agreed to accept Wicksteed's offer of a further 12 month extension to the guarantee period on the Glade climbing frame but to indicate that the Parish Council reserves its position in the event of further structural failure.
- (iii) Cllrs agreed to apply for licences for the siting of benches at the junction of Bittell Road and Bittell Lane and outside the Manor House on Blackwell Road.
- (iv) Cllr Hotham reported on a meeting called by Barnt Green Waters at which concerns were raised with the Environment Agency about the deteriorating water quality. No action is required by the Parish Council.

87/13 Community

Cllrs agreed to provide support for the 2014 Sports Relief Mile subject to Barnt Green Chuggers agreeing to take a lead role.

88/13 Finance

- (i) It was agreed that the reports of the Responsible Finance Officer for September and October 2013 (Enclosure B) be received and that any outstanding payments be made;
- (ii) Cllrs considered Enclosure C and agreed that the 2013/14 Chairman's Allowance be £462.00, the same level as in 2012/13;
- (iii) Cllrs agreed that the Resources Committee will meet on the following dates:
 - 7.00pm on Wednesday 16 December 2013;
 - 7.00pm on Wednesday 19 March 2014.

89/13 Governance

- (i) Cllr Hotham reported that Cllrs Banner and Hawkley had indicated their intention to resign from the Parish Council with effect from 31 December 2013. Cllr Hotham indicated that it was helpful to notice of their intentions. Cllr Hotham further indicated that in order to resign on 31 December they should write to the Chair of the Council and deliver the letter to him on 31 December 2013 as resignations, once submitted, take immediate effect.
- (ii) Cllr Hotham reported on a meeting with a Barnt Green resident who had indicated an interest in becoming a Parish Councillor. The resident, who was present at the meeting, will contact the Parish Council to confirm or withdraw her interest.

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90/13 **Urgent Decisions taken since the last meeting**

No urgent decisions were taken.

91/13 **Future Agenda Items**

- To consider how the Parish Council might commemorate the 100 year anniversary of the outbreak of World War I;
- To consider amendments to the Parish Council's bank signatories.

92/13 **Date and Venue of Next Meeting**

7.00pm on Monday 25 November 2013 at the Parish Office was agreed.

The meeting ended at 8.55pm.

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Chairman 25 November 2013