

Barnt Green Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

held at 80 Hewell Road, Barnt Green on Monday 25 November 2013 at 7.00pm

Present: Councillors (Cllrs) Rachel Banner, Edwin Gumbley, Doreen Hawkley, Charles Hotham, John Jagger (Chair) and Susan Whitehand.

In attendance: Paul MacLachlan (Executive Officer) and District Cllr Richard Deeming.

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: Draft minutes of the Neighbourhood, Planning and Environment Committee dated 11 November 2013;
 - C: Report of the Responsible Finance Officer.

93/13 Apologies

The apologies of Cllr Alun Davies were received and accepted. Apologies were also received from County Councillor Peter McDonald and District Councillor Stuart Dudley.

94/13 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.

95/13 Co-option of new councillor

The Chair welcomed Kaye Elderton to the meeting and invited her to say a few words about herself.

Ms Elderton left the meeting to allow councillors to consider her election.

The Chair invited nominations and it was proposed by Cllr Hotham and seconded by Cllr Gumbley that Kaye Elderton be co-opted onto Barnt Green Parish Council.

The vote was carried unanimously.

Ms Elderton returned to the room and signed the declaration of acceptance of office and a further declaration confirming that she:

- (a) was eligible to stand as a parish councillor in Barnt Green;
- (b) accepted the Parish Council's code of conduct; and,
- (c) would, within 28 days, submit her declaration of disclosable pecuniary interests to the Monitoring Officer.

The Chair welcomed Councillor Elderton to the Parish Council.

96/13 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting dated 28 October 2013 were approved and signed by the Chair.

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No parishioners attended the meeting.

97/13 Chairman's Report

Cllr Jagger thanked councillors for their support during his illness and praised the work undertaken by Cllr Hotham who had acted as Chair in his absence.

Cllr Hotham reported that arrangements for the Redditch Branch line improvements had been approved, that the Parish Council had responded to the Bromsgrove District Plan Consultation and that the Parish Council newsletter had been published.

Cllr Hotham thanked the Executive Officer for his support while covering for the Chairman.

98/13 District Councillors' and County Councillor's question and answer session

Cllr Deeming confirmed that the Planning Committee proposed to decide on application 13/0522 at its meeting dated 9 December.

Cllr Deeming advised that the intended multi-storey parking facility at Longbridge was to be replaced by a car park that would accommodate 25 to 30 vehicles. Cllrs commented that it had been hoped that the planned 200+ parking spaces at Longbridge might take some pressure off the station car parking at Barnt Green.

Cllr Deeming was asked to look into the parking problems created by the construction of Station House on Hewell Lane.

The Executive Officer was asked to write to St Andrews Church asking them to encourage worshippers not to park on the pavement in Sandhills Road.

99/13 Planning

- (i) Cllr Hotham reported on recent meetings with Cllr Mike Webb concerning application 13/0522. Cllrs agreed that every effort should be made to co-ordinate the presentations made to the Planning Committee.
- (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.
Cllrs noted the ongoing investigation under reference 2013/0196/ENF.
Cllrs asked the Executive Officer to investigate whether the Parish Council's easement, relevant to application 13/0758, can be varied.
- (iii) The Chair invited nominations to represent the Parish Council at a meeting on 18 December with Network Rail and the County Council to discuss the impact of electrification on the bridges in Barnt Green. It was agreed that Cllrs Jagger, Hotham and Whitehand should attend with the Executive Officer.

100/13 Neighbourhood Plan

- (i) Cllrs received the draft minutes of the Neighbourhood, Planning and Environment Committee dated 11 November 2013 and agreed the recommendation that a

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trader be encouraged to participate on the Parish Council in the event of a future vacancy.

- (ii) Cllrs agreed to respond to the County Council's consultation, *The proposed withdrawal of subsidised bus services in Worcestershire*, and asked the Executive Officer to request details of the subsidy currently paid to sustain the 145 bus service.

101/13 Environment

Cllrs Banner and Hawkley reported on the following issues:

- (a) that the planters on Hewell Road required re-alignment;
- (b) that the pavement on Sandhills Road between Hewell Road and the Friends' Meeting House needed to be cleared of leaves;
- (c) that the tree at the junction of Bittell Road and Bittell Lane required further attention;
- (d) that a further two bollards had been knocked down and removed;
- (e) that a supply of salt should be purchased and stored with the Parish Lengthsman.

The Executive Officer was authorized to take appropriate action.

Cllr Whitehand advised that the Parish had been offered a supply of stones that could be used as hard standing in Parker's Piece. It was agreed that Cllrs Banner and Hawkley investigate and be authorized to take appropriate action.

102/13 Finance

- (i) It was agreed that the reports of the Responsible Finance Officer for November 2013 (Enclosure B) be received and that any outstanding payments be made;
- (ii) The following changes to Parish Council bank mandates take effect from 1 January 2014:
 - (a) Cllrs Hotham and Gumbley be added as Parish Council cheque signatories on all Parish Council bank accounts and that they also be authorised to approve online and telephone transactions;
 - (b) Cllrs Banner and Hawkley be removed as Parish Council cheque signatories from all Parish Council bank accounts and that they also cease to be authorised to approve online and telephone transactions.
- (iii) The Executive Officer withdrew from the meeting to allow councillors to consider authorizing the annual increment payable to the Executive Officer with effect from 1 December 2013.

As no members of the public were in attendance the Chair ruled that it was not necessary to move into private session.

It was agreed that the Executive Officer move from point 29 to point 30 with effect from 1 December 2013.

The Executive Officer returned to the meeting and was advised of the outcome.

103/13 Correspondence and reports of meetings

- (i) Cllrs considered correspondence from an elector in the parish complaining that estate agents paid no regard to parish boundaries when advertising properties as

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located in Barnt Green. The Executive Officer was asked to write to estate agents in the village drawing the matter to their attention and highlighting the fact that the catchment area of St Andrew's School stopped at the junction of Cherry Hill Road and Fiery Hill Road.

- (ii) It was agreed that Cllrs Jagger and Whitehand attend the Bromsgrove CALC meeting on Wednesday 4 December.
- (iii) There were no reports from meetings. It was agreed that the Parish Council should continue to subscribe to the Council for the Protection of Rural England at a cost of £29.00.

104/13 Urgent Decisions taken since the last meeting

No urgent decisions were taken.

105/13 Future Agenda Items

To consider honouring the memory of Margaret Maybee by a placing a plaque on one of the Parish Council benches.

106/13 Date and Venue of Next Meeting

7.00pm on Monday 13 January 2014 at the Parish Office was agreed.

The meeting ended at 9.01pm.

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Chairman 13 January 2014