

# Barnt Green Parish Council

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

held at 80 Hewell Road, Barnt Green on Monday 13 January 2014 at 7.00pm

**Present:** Councillors (Cllrs) Alun Davies, Kaye Elderton, Edwin Gumbley, Charles Hotham, John Jagger (Chair) and Susan Whitehand.

**In attendance:** Paul MacLachlan (Executive Officer), District Cllr Richard Deeming and County Cllr Peter McDonald.

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 meeting with Network Rail dated 18 December to discuss the impact of electrification of bridges within the parish;
  - C: Draft minutes of the Neighbourhood, Planning and Environment Committee dated 11 November 2013;
  - D: Draft minutes of the Resources Committee meeting dated 8 January 2014;
  - E: Proposed 2014/15 Parish Council budget (to follow);
  - F: Draft response to consultation on withdrawal of subsidised bus services;
  - G: Report of the Responsible Finance Officer;

### **107/13 Apologies**

There were no apologies.

### **108/13 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.

### **109/13 Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting dated 25 November 2013 were approved and signed by the Chair.

No parishioners attended the meeting.
---------------------------------------

### **110/13 Chairman's Report**

Cllr Jagger expressed disappointment at the Planning Authority's decision to approve application 13/0522 but praised the work undertaken by Cllrs Hotham and Whitehand in seeking to ensure that obvious shortcomings were addressed. Cllr Jagger commented on the work of the Resources Committee in preparing the 2014/15 budget.

### **111/13 District Councillors' and County Councillor's question and answer session**

Cllr Deeming referred to application 13/0522 indicating that Worcestershire Regulatory Services were still looking into one or two noise issues. Cllr Deeming

# Barnt Green Parish Council

indicated that he would investigate a number of the seeming contradictions raised by Cllr Hotham as a result of the approval of the application.

Cllr McDonald confirmed that he is lobbying the County Council to ensure that lifts are provided at Barnt Green station when the railway bridge is replaced.

Cllr McDonald commented on the very significant budget cuts being implemented by the County Council. Cllr McDonald forecast that Worcestershire County Council will become little more than a commissioning authority and that the outlook for support services currently in receipt of local authority funding is bleak.

## 112/13 Planning

- (i) Cllrs considered the report (Enclosure A) on planning applications received and decisions taken by the District Council. It was agreed that the Parish Council would recommend approval of applications 13/08502 and 13/0955 unless Cllr Whitehand's investigations uncovered anything to contradict that position. Cllrs asked the Executive Officer to write to the occupants of 29 Bittell Road reminding them of the restrictions arising from the easement granted by the Parish Council.
- (ii) Referring to Enclosure B, Cllr Hotham reported on the meeting on 18 December 2013 with Network Rail and the County Council to discuss the impact of electrification on the bridges in Barnt Green. Cllrs noted that Network Rail require an early decision from the Department of Transport regarding the lifts at Barnt Green Station.

## 113/13 Neighbourhood, Planning and Environment Committee

Cllrs received the draft minutes of the Neighbourhood, Planning and Environment Committee dated 9 December 2013 (Enclosure C).

## 114/13 Resources Committee

- (i) Cllrs received the draft minutes of the Resources Committee dated 8 January 2014 (Enclosure D).

### It was AGREED that:

- (a) Cllr Gumbley be lead councillor for community safety;
- (b) the Parish Council make a 2013/14 contribution to reserves of £2,500 for Neighbourhood Development Plan expenditure and £2,500 for maintenance of Parish Council assets;
- (c) further consideration be given to commemorating the outbreak of WW1 at the next meeting.

Cllr Jagger reported verbally on a meeting dated 13 January 2014 with Aspire. Their business needs to expand and are enquiring whether the Parish Council can assist. Cllrs Jagger and Hotham were asked to:

- continue to meet with Aspire;
- make recommendations by September 2014 regarding the future of the parish office beyond the current April 2015 lease expiry date.

- (ii) 2014/15 budget

### It was AGREED that:

