

Barnt Green Parish Council

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting
held at 80 Hewell Road, Barnt Green on Monday 28 April 2014 at 7.00pm**

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

In attendance: Paul MacLachlan (Executive Officer).

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 reports for presentation at the Annual Parish Meeting;
 - C: sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Return to the External Auditor;
 - D: report of the Responsible Finance Officer.

149/13 Apologies

The apologies of Cllr Rosemary Briggs were received and accepted. Apologies were received from District Councillor Richard Deeming and County Councillor Peter McDonald.

150/13 Declarations of Interest

The requirement to keep the Register of Interests was noted. Parish Council dispensations dated 26 November 2012 apply. Cllr Charles Hotham declared an interest in application 14/0294 due to the close proximity of the house to his own home. No other interests were declared by Parish Council Members. No dispensations were sought.

151/13 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting dated 31 March 2014 were approved and signed by the Chair.

No members of the public attended the meeting

152/13 Chairman's Report

The Chairman referred to meetings with Horton's (solicitors) and GJH Electrical. The content of both meetings arise later in the agenda.

153/13 District Councillors' and County Councillor's Question and Answer Session

No County or District Councillors attended the meeting.

154/13 Planning

- (i) Cllrs considered the report (Enclosure A) on planning applications received and decisions taken by the District Council. Cllr Hotham left the meeting while application 14/0294 was discussed.

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The following responses were agreed:

Application 14/0151:	20 Cherry Hill Road	Refuse
Application 14/0215:	15 Sandhills Lane	No objection
Application 14/0294:	28 Blackwell Road	No objection

- (ii) Councillors noted the opportunity to provide further evidence regarding the Bromsgrove District Plan to the Inspector for Examinations. It was agreed that the Executive Officer contact the Independent Programme Officer to seek guidance and that the matter be considered further at the next meeting.

155/13 Environment

- (i) Cllrs Jagger and Hotham reported on their meeting with GJH Electrical to discuss the maintenance of, and potential changes to, street lighting within the parish. Subsequent quotations suggested that further discussion was required prior to bringing any recommendation to change the existing street lamps. It was agreed that GJH Electrical should paint the Parish Council's 70 light columns over two years at a cost of £25 per column.
- (ii) Cllr Jagger reported on correspondence from Sajid Javid MP indicating that he has contacted David Higgins, Chief Executive of Network Rail, regarding the lack of lift access to rail platforms from the proposed station bridge. Councillors requested that the Executive Officer write to Worcestershire Regulatory Services regarding the unacceptable rail squeal.
- (iii) The Executive Officer reported on the recent litter pick-up undertaken by the District Council on Bittell Road beyond the junction with Bittell Farm Road. Councillors agreed the following actions:
 - (a) the bench in Parker's Piece nearest Bittell Road be repaired;
 - (b) the landlord be contacted regarding the instability of the slabs outside Café Morso;
 - (c) Tesco be contacted again regarding the drips from the overhead canopy;
 - (d) poppies be planted at appropriate sites in the village;
 - (e) the planters in Hewell Road be realigned after their summer planting.

156/13 Governance

- (i) The draft papers (Enclosure B) for presentation to the Annual Parish Meeting were considered and agreed.
- (ii) Cllrs noted that the notice of appointment of the date for the exercise of electors' rights had been posted on Monday 7 April.
- (iii) Cllrs Jagger, Hotham and Cholmondeley referred to Enclosure C and reported on the compliance checks made at their meeting with the Executive Officer. It was agreed that:
 - (a) the accounting statements in section 1 of the Annual Return be approved;
 - (b) the annual governance statement in section 2 of the Annual Return be approved.

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157/13 Finance

- (i) It was agreed that the reports of the Responsible Finance Officer for April 2014 (Enclosure D) be received and that any outstanding payments be made.
- (ii) It was agreed that the Parish Council continue to participate in the County Council Lengthsman Scheme during 2014/15. It was further agreed that consideration be given to the Lengthsman's hourly rate at the next meeting and that other options be explored.
- (iii) The Executive Officer reported on a meeting with Blachere and advised their quotation for a further 3-year hire of the lights used over the last 3 years. It was agreed that further quotations be sought.

158/13 Decisions taken since last meeting

No decisions were reported.

159/13 Councillors' reports and items for future agendas

- (i) Cllr Whitehand reported that the *Healthwatch* meeting she had planned to attend had been cancelled;
- (ii) the Executive Officer was asked to canvass dates for a Communications Working Group meeting;
- (iii) Cllr Elderton reported that the poppy seeds placed at Café Morso and the Tea Shop had all been taken by customers and had been well received;
- (iv) Cllrs received with thanks news that Cllr Briggs had agreed to take on the role of Tree Officer. The Executive Officer was asked to investigate whether Cllr Briggs would take on the role of lead councilor for the local environment;
- (v) Cllr Gumbley asked that the Parish Council consider, at a future meeting, organizing a Parish Walk on Saturday 27 September 2014.

160/13 Date and Venue of Next Meeting

7.00pm on Wednesday 21 May 2014 at the Parish Office was agreed.

161/13 Adjournment of meeting into Private Session

The Chairman moved, and it was agreed, that the public meeting be closed and that the meeting continue in private session.

162/13 Confidential business of the Council

The Council agreed to follow the advice of its legal advisors regarding the use of Parker's Piece.

The meeting ended at 9.05pm.

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Chairman

21 May 2014