Barnt Green Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at 80 Hewell Road, Barnt Green on Wednesday 21 May 2014 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors (Cllrs) Rosemary Briggs, 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 minutes of the Neighbourhood, Planning and Environment Committee dated 8 May 2014
 - C: draft Neighbourhood Development Plan scoping document
 - D: report of the Responsible Finance Officer.

12/14 Apologies

The apologies of County Councillor Peter McDonald were received.

13/14 Declarations of Interest

The requirement to keep the Register of Interests was noted. Parish Council dispensations dated 26 November 2012 apply. Cllr John Jagger declared an interest in planning application 14/0350 which he had submitted.

No other interests were declared by Parish Council Members. No dispensations were sought.

14/14 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

15/14 Chairman's Report

The Chairman commented on the small number of residents who attended the Annual Parish Meeting and, while thanking those councillors who attended, suggested that further thought needed to be given to the format of the meeting in order to attract more interest. Cllr Elderton offered to consider this and to bring recommendations to a future meeting.

The Chair advised the outcome of the further quotations sought for the parish Christmas lights and confirmed that Blachere remained the least expensive. It was proposed by Cllr Jagger, seconded by Cllr Whitehand and agreed that the threeyear quotation submitted by Blachere be accepted.

The Chair canvassed dates for the working group to discuss the Parish Council's image and communications. It was agreed to defer this initiative.

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The Chair encouraged Councillors to promote the Parish Council's WW1 centenary competition. Cllr Elderton indicated that she would contact local clubs and societies to encourage participation.

The Chair invited councillors to contact him with offers to cover the office between 11.00am and 12noon during the Executive Officer's leave absence.

16/14 District Councillors' and County Councillor's Question and Answer Session No County or District Councillors attended the meeting.

17/14 Planning

(i) Cllrs considered the report (Enclosure A) on planning applications received and decisions taken by the District Council.
Cllr Jagger left the meeting while application 14/0350 was discussed.
The following response was agreed:
Application 14/0350: 57 Sandhills Lane, Barnt Green Permit Cllr Jagger returned to the meeting.

- (ii) The draft minutes of the Neighbourhood, Planning and Environment Committee dated 8 May 2014 (Enclosure B) were received.
- (iii) Cllrs considered the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan scoping document (Enclosure C) and agreed to forward comments to Cllr Whitehand.
 Cllrs thanked Cllr Whitehand for her work in drafting the document.
- (iv) Referring to the forthcoming meeting with Mike Dunphy, Strategic Planning Officer, on 29 May, it was agreed that Cllrs Whitehand, Cholmondeley and Hotham attend.

18/14 **Community**

- (i) It was proposed by Cllr Jagger, seconded by Cllr Hotham and agreed that:
 - (a) a community walk be organised on Saturday 27 September 2014;
 - (b) Cllr Gumbley be authorised to make appropriate arrangements with Simon Richards, the Parish Footpaths Officer.
- (ii) Cllrs noted that no response had been received from Total Football in response to Horton's recent letter.

Cllrs were advised of the personal action taken by Cllr Gumbley in leafleting the owners of cars bringing their children to the football training on 3 May. Cllrs noted that no action should be taken unless approved by the Parish Council.

It was proposed by Cllr Hotham, seconded by Cllr Davies and agreed that Total Football be invoiced for use of the field with effect from Saturday 10 May 2014, being one week after receipt of the letter from Hortons.

19/14 Finance

- (i) It was agreed that the report of the Responsible Finance Officer for May 2014 (Enclosure D) be received and that any outstanding payments be made;
- (ii) Councillors noted that the Council's insurance was due for renewal on 1 June 2014 and considered the insurance quotations received from Zurich and Came and Company.

It was proposed by Cllr Briggs, seconded by Cllr Elderton and agreed that the quotation provided by Zurich be accepted.

(iii) Councillors considered a request from the Lengthsman to increase his hourly rate.

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It was proposed by Cllr Hotham, seconded by Cllr Whitehand and agreed that

- (a) the Lengthsman be offered an increase in hourly rate from £12 to £12.50;
- (b) in the event that the offer is declined, other Lengthsman candidates be interviewed.

20/14 Decisions taken since last meeting

Cllr Jagger advised that he and Cllr Hotham had, under delegated powers, asked the Executive Officer to purchase a shredder for the office, a set of NALC booklets for councillor guidance and to secure a debit card for Parish Council purchases.

21/14 Future Agenda items

To consider receiving training to become a dementia-friendly council. To consider whether Barnt Green Quakers can provide parking spaces for visitors to the village centre.

22/14 Date and Venue of Next Meeting

7.00pm on Wednesday 25 June 2014 at the Parish Office was agreed.

The meeting ended at 9.13pm.

Chairman 25 June 2014