

# Barnt Green Parish Council

## Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at 80 Hewell Road, Barnt Green on Tuesday 16 June 2015 at 7.00pm

**Present:** Councillors (Cllrs) Robert Cholmondeley (Chair), Edwin Gumbley and Charles Hotham.

**In attendance:** Paul MacLachlan (Executive Officer) and two members of the public.

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: outline of the General Power of Competence;
  - D: notes of a meeting with Network Rail to discuss the pedestrian crossing near Cofton Hall;
  - E: Disciplinary Procedure;
  - F: Grievance Procedure;
  - G: Equal Opprtunities Policy;
  - H: Sickness Absence Policy.

In the absence of Cllr Jagger, Cllr Cholmondeley took the chair.

### 16 Apologies

The apologies of Cllrs Briggs, Jagger and Whitehand were received and accepted. The apologies of County Cllr McDonald were received.

### 17 Declarations of Interest

The requirement to keep the Register of Interests was noted.  
No interests were declared.  
No dispensations were sought.

### 18 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting dated 13 May 2015 were agreed a true record and signed by the Chair.  
The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of 20 May 2015 were agreed a true record and it was agreed they be presented to the next Annual Parish Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned for public question time

A resident commented adversely on the District Council's New Homes Bonus policy and on correspondence with MP, Sajid Javid, on the subject. District Cllr Hotham indicated he would contact Sajid Javid on this matter.

A resident commented on the poor lighting on Bittell Road and the implication for older, less agile pedestrians.

A resident commented that the 30mph speed limit on Bittell Road was widely disregarded and asked that this be a future agenda item.

### 19 Chairman's Report

Cllr Cholmondeley reported on the following issues:

- the outcome of a well-attended Annual Parish Meeting;

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- that Shindig events have been booked for October 2015 and April 2016;
- that plans were taking shape for the Community Walk in September 2015;
- on an approach from Bromsgrove Rail Users Group to promote their activities;
- on a new solid wall insulation scheme backed by Eon and the District Council.

### 20 District and County Councillors' question and answer session

County Cllr McDonald had forwarded news, via District Cllr Hotham, that Twalting Road was due to be re-surfaced.

District Cllr Hotham reported on the following issues:

- that he had received training to participate on the District Council Planning Committee;
- on a meeting with Oakdene Drive residents and County Cllr Peter McDonald to discuss parking;
- on a meeting with Network Rail to discuss the future of the pedestrian crossing near Cofton Hall;
- on discussions with local police regarding unsociable parking in the village. It was agreed that photographic evidence be submitted to the police via the Executive Officer.

### 21 Decisions taken since last meeting

That Gill Lungley had been appointed to the post of Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer.

### 22 Neighbourhood, Planning and Environment

- (i) Cllrs considered the report (Enclosure A) on planning applications received and decisions taken by the District Council. The following recommendations were made:  
15/0404: 52 Hewell Road: Permit
- (ii) Cllrs considered the following matters raised at the Parish Council meeting dated 13 May 2015:

Issue	Action
Parking on Sandhills Road	PCSO 40215 Stuart Taylor will monitor the problem, particularly in Sandhills Road and Sandhills Lane, and will <i>sticker</i> offending vehicles
Leaking roof near Tesco	Tesco landlord indicates that it is not their problem but that of the neighbouring landlord. The Executive Officer was asked to follow this up.
Cut back hedge by Sandhills Nursery	The nursery have been requested to cut back the hedges, particularly that on Sandhills Lane
Fallen tree in Parker's Piece	The resident from whose garden the tree has fallen has been requested to remove the tree
Dead trees in Parker's Piece	That the trees be removed and consideration be given to planting elsewhere in the parish. It was requested that this be considered at a future meeting.
Dog faeces in Parker's Piece	A polite notice be placed in the next issue of the Bulletin and appropriate signage be displayed reminding dog owners of their responsibilities
Long grass around rubbish bins in Parker's Piece	The Lengthsman be asked to incorporate this into the team's schedule of work

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- (iii) Cllrs considered the following matters raised at the Annual Parish Meeting dated 20 May 2015:

Issue	Action
Children over 11 years of age are playing football in Millennium Park	PCSO 40215 Stuart Taylor will monitor the problem and speak to any children playing football in the park
Damage to the Quaker's fence bordering Millennium Park	Cllrs considered the comments made at the meeting together with subsequent correspondence from the Quakers. The Executive Officer was asked to write to the Quakers offering to make a contribution to the repair of the fence
Closure of Millennium Park at 8.30pm	Cllrs considered that closure could not be enforced and that no further action be taken
Keep dogs on a lead in Parker's Piece	Cllrs considered that in view of decisions taken at 22(ii) above no further action was necessary
Dogs be excluded from Millennium Park	Cllrs considered that such an exclusion could not be enforced and that no further action be taken
Overgrown laurel bushes on Cherry Hill Drive	Cllrs noted that the Lickey Rangers had been contacted on several occasions and requested that the Executive Officer make a further request that the laurel be cut back
Protective nets for second XI Cricket Club pitch	That the Parish Council had made all appropriate representations during the planning consultation process and that the matter must be resolved between the cricket club and the planning authority

- (iv) Cllr Cholmondeley reported on the outcome of a meeting dated 4 June 2015 with Network Rail to discuss the pedestrian crossing near Cofton Hall (Enclosure D). It was agreed that the pedestrian crossing should be maintained at all costs and that the matter be kept under close review.
- (v) Cllrs asked that, following representations during public question time, a discussion on the quality of lighting on Bittell Road be carried forward to the next meeting.
- (vi) Cllrs noted the damage to the safety mat near the small slide in Millennium Park and considered the quotations obtained by the Executive Officer to effect the repair. It was agreed that DCM be asked to visit the site to ensure that the quotation supplied would effect a lasting repair or whether more radical work was required.
- (vii) Cllr Hotham reported that the following entertainment events had been booked to take place at St Andrew's Church Hall:
- Saturday 3 October 2015: Seven Ages
  - Saturday 16 April 2016: The Origin of Species

### 23 Governance

- (i) Cllrs considered the merits of adopting the *General Power of Competence* (Enclosure C). It was proposed by Cllr Gumbley, seconded by Cllr Cholmondeley and agreed that the recommendation in Enclosure C be adopted.
- (ii) Cllrs asked that the new Executive Officer give thought to ways in which cllrs can be kept abreast of issues raised by the public between meetings.

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## 24 Finance

- (i) It was agreed that the report of the Responsible Finance Officer for June 2015 (Enclosure B) be received and that any outstanding payments be made.
- (ii) Cllrs noted the need to remove former Cllr Alun Davies from the list of bank signatories. It was proposed by Cllr Hotham, seconded by Cllr Gumbley and agreed that:
- (a) Cllr Robert Cholmondeley be added as a cheque signatory and be authorised to view and authorise the Parish Council's internet payments at Unity Trust Bank;
  - (b) With effect from 1 July 2015, Gill Lungley be:
  - (c) the key contact for the Parish Council's bank accounts with Unity Trust Bank;
  - (d) authorised to view and submit payments to the Parish Council's account with Unity Trust Bank;
  - (e) an authorised telephone user able to make enquiries and authorise transfers between the Parish Council's accounts with Unity Trust Bank;
  - (f) authorised to apply for an ALTO card serviced from the Parish Council's current account with Unity Trust Bank;
  - (g) the declarations and undertakings required by Unity Trust Bank on the application forms associated with items (a) to (f) be agreed.

## 25 Councillors' reports and items for future agendas

- (i) Cllr Cholmondeley reported that London Midland was not interested in providing free car parking at Barnt Green station.
- (ii) There were no meetings to be advised other than future Parish Council meetings.
- (iii) The following agenda items were agreed for future consideration:
- Lighting on Bittell Road;
  - 30mph speed limit on Bittell Road;
  - Planting of trees/shrubs to replace dead trees in Parker's Piece;
  - Missing bollards on Hewell Road;
  - How to keep cllrs apprised of issues between meetings.

## 26 Date and Venue of Next Meeting

7.00pm on Wednesday 22 July 2015 at the Parish Office was agreed.

## 27 Staffing matters

- (i) Cllrs considered the following procedures and policies:
- E; Disciplinary Procedure;
  - F; Grievance Procedure;
  - G; Equal Opportunities Policy;
  - H; Sickness Absence Policy
- It was proposed by Cllr Cholmondeley, seconded by Cllr Gumbley and agreed that the policies and procedures be adopted.
- (i) Cllrs considered the contract of employment and job description to be offered to the new Executive Officer, Gill Lungley. It was proposed by Cllr Gumbley, seconded by Cllr Cholmondeley and agreed that the documents be issued.

The meeting ended at 9.15pm.

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Chairman 22 July 2015