

Barnt Green Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at 80 Hewell Road, Barnt Green on Wednesday 22nd July 2015 at 7.00pm

Present: Councillors (Cllrs) Robert Cholmondeley (Chair), Rosemary Briggs, Edwin Gumbley, Charles Hotham, Susan Whitehand

In attendance: Gill Lungley (Executive Officer) and two members of the public.

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

28 Apologies

The apologies of Cllr Jagger were received and accepted.

29 Declarations of Interest

The requirement to keep the Register of Interests was noted.

No interests were declared.

No dispensations were sought.

30 Co-option of new members

There are currently two vacancies.

It was proposed to co-opt Rachel Banner to fill one of the vacant seats; this was seconded and:

It was agreed to co-opt Rachel Banner to the Parish Council and

It was agreed to allow Cllr Banner to defer signing the Declaration of Acceptance of Office until the paperwork was ready.

Cllr Banner was welcomed to the council and duly took her seat at the council table.

Members asked for information about the remaining vacancy to be included in the next newsletter.

31 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting dated 16 June 2015 were agreed a true record and signed by the Chairman.

The meeting was adjourned for public question time

A resident was present to bring the council's attention to the temporary closure of the footpath that crosses the railway line between Barnt Green and Cofton Hackett.

32 Chairman's Report

Cllr Cholmondeley reported on the following issues:

- Thanks to Cllr Gumbley for overseeing the repair of the safety matting in the children's play area, Millennium Park.
- Concerns about the railway footpath crossing.
- The need to co-opt one more member to complete membership requirements.
- The Council is looking forward to the upcoming events – the Community Walk on 26th September and the Shindig theatre on 3rd October.

33 District and County Councillors' question and answer session

County Councillor P McDonald had sent apologies

District Cllr Hotham (CH) reported on the following issues:

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- Sajid Javid had responded to the notification raised at the previous parish council meeting of the passing on of a seemingly small percentage of the New Homes Bonus with the hope that more people will apply for the grants now being made available. CH suggested that next year BGPC could apply for a grant and would support the drawing-up of a wish-list.
- It would appear the proposed District Plan has not yet found favour with the Planning Inspector and is to be revised then re-submitted.
- The BDC offices move from Burcot Lane premises to Parkside has been delayed.
- BDC were late submitting their annual accounts, which are now being audited.
- It is not known if the parish support grant for 2014/15 has been spent; CH is to find out whether he will be able to spend any unspent allocation.

34 Decisions taken since last meeting

- the damaged play-surface matting in Millennium Park has been repaired.
- BDC has been notified of the names of the Chairman and Clerk; the members' Register of Interests is now available online.
- The cabinet for the community-use defibrillator has been purchased and will be installed on the side wall of the Post Office (owner's consent has been granted).
- Lengthsman's concerns as follows:
 - (a) Has reported online via WCC 'report-it' tab that the cover needs to be unlocked to unblock drain in Hewell Rd parallel to shops at bottom of Station Approach.
 - (b) has trimmed around the benches and bins in Parker's Piece
 - (c) has been asked to cut vegetation from VAS in Bittell Road o/s Baptist Church.
 - (d) has mentioned to BGPC grass cutter at Parker's Piece to ensure gate is kept locked (to avoid traveller incursion if possible).
 - (e) will keep alert for rats in village centre
 - (f) has checked on overgrown hedges 7 and 9 Fiery Hill Road
 - (g) will check on overhanging trees in Cherry Hill Rd.
 - (h) has requested replacement for Sandhills Road name plate outside antiques shop
 - (i) has been asked for opinion on cutting back cherry laurel in the Fordrough between Cherry Hill Drive and Cherry Hill Avenue. Lickey Hills Rangers are aware of need to cut back but have little opportunity to do so. Members noted the significance of the avenue of trees here and may like to research their history.
 - (j) Sandhills Green drains are to be reported to WCC.
 - (k) Has been asked to remove dead saplings in Parker's Piece
 - (l) has been asked for information on dog-fouling notices (new style being trialled).

35 Neighbourhood, Planning and Environment

- (i) **Planning Applications** No new application notifications had been received.
- (ii) Cllrs considered the following matters that have been notified to the office since the previous parish council meeting:

Ref	Issue	Action
15/1	Is there a designated route to and from the Cala Homes development, Fiery Hill Road?	No specific route designated. Local weight restrictions and road conditions would dictate sensible option.
15/2	Is the new access from Fiery Hill Road onto the Cala Homes development site in the right place?	The EO would ask the appropriate contact at Cala Homes.
15/3	Temporary 6 month closure of pedestrian rail crossing near	Various comments about what could happen but no definite conclusion as yet. The EO would write

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	Cofton Hall (footpath no. 500), due to evidence of poor behaviour at this point. Electrification of the line will mean more frequent, and quieter, trains.	to Network Rail, cc Worcs County Council, Bromsgrove District Council, Ramblers Association, Cofton Hackett PC, & MP to state BGPC not happy with the closure, asking NR to justify their decision and to provide notice of their long-term intentions.
15/4	Consultation on proposed diversion of footpath no. 527(B) near Alvechurch Fisheries.	This was noted.
15/5	Quality of lighting on Bittell Road.	The EO would seek advice from the Lighting contractor on possible improvements.
15/6	Speeding traffic in Bittell Road	Members are hopeful the installation of a pedestrian crossing via s106 monies will reduce traffic speeds. Other traffic calming measures such as chicanes, speed bumps, Community Speedwatch could be proposed but physical measures need to be supported by WCC, which is unlikely without supporting data/police approval.
15/7	Speeding traffic in Cherry Hill Road	Concerns raised by resident who saw child run into path of vehicle
15/8	Overhanging trees, Cherry Hill Rd	Concerns raised by resident of uncut hedges. Both 15/7 and 15/8 to be shared with Lickey & Blackwell PC and WCC division member.
15/9	Millennium Park broken fencing	The Quakers had repaired the damaged fence; members agreed to pass on thanks to Sean and to plant shrubs to protect the fence. EO to obtain costings.
15/10	Hewell Road, missing bollards	The EO would discuss the situation with the WCC Highways Liaison Officer.
15/11	Cherry laurel overgrowth in the Fordrough of Fiery Hill Rd	See above min. 34(i)
15/12	Dog-fouling notices for Parker's Piece	See above min. 34(l).
15/13	Shindig performances	The event for Saturday 3 rd October has been booked; final arrangements on refreshments and publicity to be confirmed.
15/14	Community Walk 26/9/15	Three walks are to take place varying in length from 8 miles to Rowney Green and back to the shorter village circuit. Arrangements & advertising to be confirmed.
15/15	Parking restriction outside 80 Hewell Road	A visitor to the surgery expressed concerns that vision is obstructed when driving out of surgery car park due to cars parked outside 80 Hewell Road. EO will discuss with WCC.
15/16	Open Gardens Event	It was agreed to support an Open Gardens event on 03/07/2016. Cllrs R Banner, R Briggs and E Gumbley would form a working party to progress the event and the EO will check on insurance.
15/17	Sport Relief Mile 2016	The parish council had been contacted to see if keen to repeat this event in 2016. Cllr C Hotham would speak to the BG 'Chuggers'.

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36 Governance

- (a) **Issue management and project updates** [minute no. 23(ii)]: members agreed it would be best to give the new EO time to settle into the role to find out how best to share information relating to the progress of issues raised by residents and projects.
- (b) **Dates of parish council meetings for 2015/16 civic year:** it was agreed to meet on Wednesday 5th August at 80 Hewell Road and review schedule thereafter.
- (c) **Response to consultation by Bromsgrove DC on their review of Gambling Act 2005.** Members agreed no response was required.
- (d) **Format of agenda and information for meetings:** The agenda and notice of meetings is currently forwarded to members by email. The EO asked if this system is to continue and **It was agreed** that members would advise the EO of their preferred media method for receiving notice of meetings.
- (e) Agenda items 23(e) Policy on use of notice boards and 23(f) Policy on provision of funding support/donations were deferred to the next meeting.

37 Finance

- (i) The payments and receipts report of the Responsible Financial Officer was noted along with the list of bills for payment, shown below.
- (ii) The External Auditor had completed the annual audit and had issued an unqualified opinion; this will be available to view on the website and the notice of completion of audit has been posted on the notice board.
- (iii) The quarterly book-keeping check had been undertaken by Cllr R Cholmondeley and found to be in order.

38 Councillors' reports and items for future agendas

- (i) Cllr S Whitehand reported on recent CPRE meeting and the fact that this year CPRE celebrate their 60th anniversary.
- (ii) Neighbourhood Development committee next meeting is 06/08/2015 at 10:30am.
- (iii) Cllr R Cholmondeley had received a letter from MP Sajid Javid regarding the rebuilding of Bromsgrove railway station and the need to raise the height of the footbridge above that originally planned for, hence delay in completion of project.

39 Date and Venue of Next Meeting

7.00pm on Wednesday 5th August 2015 at the Parish Council Office was agreed.

40 Staffing matters

Cllr R Cholmondeley would investigate the provision of staff pension via LGPS or appropriate alternative.

The meeting ended at 10.00pm.

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Chairman 5 August 2015

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Min. no. 37(i)

Payments and Receipts for July 2015

RECEIPTS

voucher ref	Date received	Receipts	
33	Jun-15	Worcs CC - Lengthsman	500.00
43	Jun-15	Bank - interest	1.64
44	Jun-15	Bank - interest	11.96

total for June 2015 £513.60

PAYMENTS, July 2015

voucher ref	Reason for payment	Total	VAT recoverable	Net
45(a)	Office sundries (reported last month)	68.95	0	68.95
45(b)	Postage and balance	14.63	0	14.63
46	Hire of Meeting House 20/05/2015	27.00	0.00	27.00
47	Grass cut Millennium Park	108.00	0.00	108.00
47	Grass cut village high street	56.00	0.00	56.00
48	Stationery and printer inks	44.21	7.37	36.84
49	Newsletter printing	245.00	0.00	245.00
50	Hanging baskets	499.50	83.25	416.25
50	Planters	566.00	94.33	471.67
51	Attach plaque to memorial bench	30.00	5.00	25.00
52	Office telephone/broadband inc's quarterly discount	7.48	1.25	6.23
53	Grass cut Millennium Park	162.00	0.00	162.00
53	Grass cut village high street	28.00	0.00	28.00
54	Annual external audit	360.00	60.00	300.00
55	Defibrillator cabinet	636.00	106.00	530.00
56	PAYE and NI for first quarter 2015/16	1,120.24	0.00	1,120.24
57	Safety surface repair	720.00	120.00	600.00
58	Unmetered supply street lights	209.34	34.89	174.45
58	Unmetered supply lights	11.74	0.55	11.19
59	Office electricity Apr15 to Jun15	264.49	12.59	251.90
60	Website maintenance	58.00	0.00	58.00
61	Salary, July 2015	860.05	0.00	860.05
62	Salary, July 2015	158.37	0.00	158.37
63	Office sundries since last report	17.12	0.00	17.12

total for July 2015 £6,272.12 £525.23 £5,746.89