

Barnt Green Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at 80 Hewell Road, Barnt Green on Wednesday 2nd September 2015 at 7.00pm

Present: Cllrs R Cholmondeley (vice-Chairman), R Banner, C Hotham, S Whitehand

In attendance: Richard Dugdale, Network Rail project manager
4 members of the public
Gill Lungley (Executive Officer)

In his role as vice-Chairman, Cllr Cholmondeley took the chair and paid tribute to the late Chairman, John Jagger. Members shared their sadness at his untimely death and a minute's silence was held.

53 Apologies

The apologies of Cllrs R Briggs and E Gumbley were received and accepted.

54 Co-option of new member

It was agreed to co-opt Jennifer E Jellie to fill the vacant seat.

Cllr Jellie signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took a seat at the council table.

55 Declarations of Interest

a) The requirement to keep the Register of Interests updated was noted.

b) and c) The need to declare DPI and ODI was noted.

d) **Cllr C Hotham** submitted a request for a dispensation to be allowed to stay in the meeting but not speak or vote when the planning applications at minute no. 60 are discussed, on the grounds that, as a member of the district council's planning committee, the applications may be referred to that committee for a decision.

It was agreed to grant a dispensation to Cllr Hotham to be allowed to stay in the meeting but not speak or vote at agenda item 60.

56 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 05/08/2015 were agreed a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Open Forum

57 Adjournment of meeting to hear from:

a) Richard Dugdale, Network Rail Project Manager, had been invited to provide an update on the electrification scheme of which Barnt Green is a part. The scheme involves building a new station at Bromsgrove, structural replacement work including upgrading the over-bridges on the line between Barnt Green and Bromsgrove, and a re-signalling scheme.

With reference to the Hewell Lane over-bridge there had been a delay due to statutory undertakers' equipment and residents were thanked for their tolerance whilst the road was closed. The bridge has been topped with an anti-climb coping stone and the appearance is expected to weather in due course.

With reference to the station's old footbridge, it is to be dismantled and relocated at Matlock. There are plans to install lifts at the station with the new footbridge.

There will be a 12-day disruption to rail services later in the year to allow for further line works although the Redditch/Birmingham line will be unaffected except for the final weekend.

With reference to the closure of the public footpath no 500 that crosses the railway line to the north of the station, Network Rail representatives will attend the next meeting of the parish council.

b) Members of the public:

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b1) Ita Curtis, Barnt Green Residents' Association, spoke with reference to the planning application to be discussed, log no. 005, 15/0652 – Re-alignment of Fiery Hill Road (with relation to the development of land at the north end of Fiery Hill Road); the BGRA's comments are included on their Facebook page.

b2) Karen Hillmansen, PTA Chairman, St Andrews First School, sent apologies for non-attendance to speak further to agenda item 61.

c) Worcestershire County Councillor for Beacon division, Peter McDonald, sent apologies.

d) Bromsgrove District Councillor for Barnt Green and Hopwood ward, Cllr Charles Hotham, reported on:

- The Planning Inspector's (PI) decision on the developer's appeal against the DC's decision to refuse permission to develop land at Whitford Road, Bromsgrove; the appeal was not allowed meaning the PI supported BDC's stance. However this now affects the deliverability of the proposed District Local Plan's 5-year land supply and there is doubt about the Plan's future.
- The BDC's office move from Burcot Lane to Parkside is running behind schedule;
- BDC has been negotiating with Worcestershire and with Greater Birmingham with regard to the proposed creation of metropolitan areas. The current local government set-up is likely to change in some form but no clear direction at the moment.

Open Forum closed.

58 **Chairman's Report**, Cllr R Cholmondeley (RC)

Two upcoming events require support – the Community Walk on 26/09/2015 and the Shindig event (Seven Ages drama) on 03/10/2015.

Cllr EG asked for thanks to be recorded to the Footpath Warden, Simon Richards for his "leg-work" in preparing for the Community Walk.

59 **Decisions taken since last meeting and updates**

The Executive Officer provided updates relating to:

- a) **Defibrillator**: the cabinet has been registered with West Midlands Ambulance Service; training has yet to be arranged. It was noted that the pads with the kit are adult-sized only, the EO was asked to find out about pads for use in an incident involving a child.
- b) **Cherry laurel** in the Fordrough: this had been cut back.
- c) **Residents' concerns** included –
 - i) Overgrown hedgerows and pavement verges (referred to Lengthsman service)
 - ii) Fear of potential problems of extra traffic over the weekend of the Outdoor Cinema event on 4th and 5th September (referred to organisers who are to carry out mitigation procedures to try to reduce any congestion or nuisance)
 - iii) Himalayan Balsam (HB) growing in brook between Parkers Piece and Bittell Farm Road. This had been reported to Birmingham City Council as landowners. The growth in Parkers Piece had been mostly pulled up. It was agreed that in future years any growth of HB would be sprayed with an acceptable weed-killer as soon as it appeared.
 - iv) The closure of footpath no. 500 (between Barnt Green and Cofton Hackett over the railway). No viable alternative has yet been offered and members asked for a response and a solution. It was noted Network Rail are to attend the parish council's next meeting to talk about this matter.
- d) **Community Walk** (26/09/2015) arrangements are proceeding
- e) **Shindig** (03/10/2015) arrangements are progressing, tickets are available and flyers have been distributed with the newsletter. Licence arrangements would be checked.
- f) **Office administration** arrangements: members were in favour of various minor alterations to office filing cabinets and shelving. The EO expressed concern about access to the office across loose gravel and negotiation of two steps and it was agreed to discuss this with the landlord.

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- g) **Newsletter:** the Bulletin had been delivered but some duplication had been noted and the EO was to revise the delivery schedule for next time. Members were notified of the timetable for the next issue due for distribution on 26/11/2015.

60 Neighbourhood, Planning and Environment

a) Committee meeting held 06/08/2015 –

- NPE 15/15a **It was agreed** to include the neighbourhood development plan questionnaire in the next issue of the Bulletin
- NPE 15/16a The committee had commented on planning applications (log no's 000 to 003).
- NPE 15/17a It was noted that quotations are to be obtained for the provision of a paved footpath in Parkers Piece and for planting of shrub (not Pyracanthus) against fence in Millennium Park.

b) Current Planning Consultations –

Dispensation - Cllr C Hotham's dispensation allowed him to remain in the meeting for this item but not speak or vote.

Members considered the following applications and responded as follows:

Log no.	App no.	Address	Development Proposal
004	15/0663	3 Rosewood Drive, B45 8LF	Addition of first floor balcony to replace pitched roof
PC Comment: No objection			
005	15/0652	Fiery Hill Road	Re-alignment of Fiery Hill Rd
PC Comment: Concerns relate to oblique angle for drivers turning out of Fiery Hill Road into Kendal End Road; access arrangements are not improved despite increase in road users; the re-siting of the car park will give the impression it is part of the residential complex and the plans show a pedestrian walk-way to it from the site; no landscaping arrangements have been provided; drainage, currently inadequate, will be worsened. (Final version to be advised.)			
006	15/0722	6 Hewell Lane, B45 8NZ	Two storey rear extension with alterations to existing single storey side extension
PC Comment: No objection as long as the 45° rule is not breached.			
007	15/0517	Land opposite Underhill, Aqueduct Lane, B48 7BP	Replacement of existing detached garage
PC Comment: No objection			

61 Christmas lights arrangements

St Andrews Church of England First School PTA would like to repeat the 2014 'Barnt Green Lights Up' event.

It was agreed to work with the PTA for Barnt Green Lights Up on 04/12/2015.

62 Tidying Barnt Green environmental improvements

Cllrs R Cholmondeley and R Banner had toured part of the parish and produced a report highlighting sites which required improvement. It was noted this was a work in progress since not all the parish had been covered.

It was agreed that Cllr Banner would prioritise the list of improvements to date.

A motion was tabled seeking to lock the gate into the children's play area at Millennium Park between 8pm and 8am, due to rowdy behaviour there in the evenings; the majority of members voting were in favour of taking this action for a trial period and to ask a nearby resident to undertake to lock/unlock the gate on a daily basis. This motion would be added to the parish council's next agenda for ratification.

63 Finance

- 63(i) **Current Financial Position** The Responsible Financial Officer (the EO) provided an update on current finances that included a list of payments for the month, current balances and budget comparisons. This was noted and signed off by two members.

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- 63(ii) Staff pension arrangements** The requirement to provide a pension to staff was discussed with concerns raised about the risk inherent in the schemes available.
It was agreed that whichever scheme is adopted to back date the start date to 1st July 2015 if possible.

Point of Order, Standing Order 3v.

The time being 9.30pm members agreed to continue the meeting to complete remaining business.

64 Councillors' reports and items for future agendas

- **Cllr S Whitehand** had recently attended the Alvechurch Neighbourhood Development Plan meeting which is making progress.
- **Cllrs R Cholmondeley, J Jellie and S Whitehand** and the EO are to attend training at Bromsgrove DC on Standards and Members' Code of Conduct on 03/09/2015.
- **Cllr S Whitehand** is to attend the next CALC meeting on 09/09/2015.
- **Community Resilience and Emergency Planning** briefing on 28/10/2015 is to be attended by Cllrs J Jellie and S Whitehand.
- **Cllr R Banner** reported that the hanging baskets in the village will shortly cease flowering and asked that a letter of thanks be sent to all those shops that have 'hosted' a hanging basket and asked for the resurrection of the Best Hanging Basket competition.

Matters carried forward:

- The Community Gardens event was to be discussed in more detail, to include costs.
- Preparations for a Christmas lunch to thank community volunteers would be undertaken.
- Review of website.
- Review of parking issues in Barnt Green, to open a dialogue with Worcestershire CC.

65 Date and Venue of Next Meeting

Wednesday 7th October 2015, 7pm at the Parish Council Office.

The meeting ended at 9.48pm.

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Chairman 7th October 2015