

# Barnt Green Parish Council

## Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at 80 Hewell Road, Barnt Green on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2015 at 7.00pm

**Present:** Cllrs R Cholmondeley (Chairman), C Hotham (vice-Chairman), R Briggs,  
E Gumbley

**In attendance:** P McDonald, County Councillor, Beacon division  
1 member of the public  
Gill Lungley (Executive Officer)

### 102 Apologies

Cllrs J Jellie, S Whitehand.

### 103 Declarations of Interest

- a) The requirement to keep the Register of Interests updated was noted.
- b) and c) The need to declare Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Other Disclosable Interests was noted.
- d) That dispensation requests are to be in writing was noted.

### 104 Requests for dispensation

No requests for a dispensation had been submitted

### 105 Adjournment of meeting to hear from:

- a) **Members of the Public:** no requirement to speak.
- b) **County Councillor: Peter McDonald** spoke of the County Council's requirement to make further cuts to council services by 2020; the recent various proposals for establishing joint authorities; recent meeting with the Highways officer regarding replacement of bollards in Hewell Road. With regard to the closure of the foot-crossing to the north of Barnt Green railway station, it would appear that Network Rail are having difficulties contacting the landowners but there was the possibility of a bridge being installed and members discussed the possibility of opening up the tunnel leading to the old Longbridge 'East Works' site.
- c) **District Councillor: Charles Hotham** reminded those present of Network Rail's undertaking to install lifts to the new bridge at Barnt Green station, and that he would be asking for help from Bromsgrove DC regarding the increasing commuter parking in and around the village. CH has also requested BDC funding towards supporting capital projects in the parish having noted a need for public conveniences.

### 106 Minutes of the last meeting

Following an amendment to minute no. 100 (iii) to note the date of the capital bid submission is 02/12/2015 not 07/12/2015, the draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 04/11/2015 were agreed a true record and signed by the Chairman.

### 107 Chairman's Report

Along with fellow council members the Chairman reported he had attended training in the use of the defibrillator. More information on the defibrillator would be included in the next Bulletin along with news that child-sized pads had now been purchased.

### 108 Decisions taken by the Executive Officer since last meeting and updates

The Executive Officer had provided a written report, as attached.

With regard to item 79d of the report, members agreed the Hewell Lane Longlands bank was to be cleared of overgrowth on an annual basis.

With regard to item 83v of the report, Staff Pension, members asked for more information regarding the employer's average contribution over a 40-year term of employment. Further enquiries would be made.

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## 109 Closure of footpath no. 500

Network Rail had not responded to the parish council's letter and members agreed to write to the Rail Regulator and to continue to seek a response from the NR contact. The crossings engineer and safety engineer would be invited to attend a parish council meeting.

## 110 To consider parking issues, informal survey Fiery Hill Road and station car park

Cllr E Gumbley had undertaken a survey of Fiery Hill Road and Oakdene Drive parking over a continuous 2-week period and had shared the results with the county councillor. Members thanked Cllr EG for the survey as it set a bench-mark for future comparisons.

## 111 Co-option to the two vacant seats

The Winter 2015/16 issue of The Bulletin contains information about the two vacancies.

## 112 Neighbourhood, Planning and Environment

a) **Committee meeting** held 11/11/2015; draft minutes noted.

The volunteer litter-pickers (Duke of Edinburgh award students) had been inducted and their photograph would be sent to the Village magazine as an item of news.

With reference to village centre management, Cllr CH noted that Bromsgrove DC have agreed to extend the remit of the Bromsgrove Town Centre manager to include the outlying retail areas of Barnt Green, Alvechurch, Catshill, Hagley, Rubery and Wythall. In which case it was suggested that a strong traders committee is established to prepare for the extra tier of support that is to be provided c. September 2016.

b) **Action Plan** for tidying Barnt Green, prepared by Cllr RC. **It was agreed to:-**

i) Budget for the extra costs;

ii) Contact the Friends Meeting House for fence maintenance

iii) Arrange for removal of dead trees from Millennium Park

iv) Contact drive-way landowner re pedestrian/traffic hazard by Deedar restaurant

v) Contact Network Rail to seek improvements to land at corner Hewell Rd/Bittell Rd.

c) **Planning Consultations** One notification had been received that day (log 012, 15/1015); the Executive Officer would ask for an extension to the consultation period to allow for members to consider comment at the next parish council meeting (6/1/2016).

d) **CALA Homes** Cllrs RC and CH had met with representatives of Barnt Green Residents Association and CALA Homes to discuss the latter's most recent planning application which sought to revise the plans that had approved the diversion of Fiery Hill Road junction with Kendal End Road away from the railway bridge (ref 15/0652, log 005). Members had asked for proof, or factual support, to show that the new proposals would be as safe as those already approved.

If the new proposals were approved by the planning authority, then consideration would need to be given regarding the status of the car park to ensure it is used for commuters (as intended) and not for the residents of the new estate – eg would it be free to use?

e) **Bus Shelter**

**It was agreed** to install lighting in the bus shelter, Hewell Road, at a cost of £350 and to seek support for this via the district ward members' funding carried over from the 2014/15 financial year sourced via the council tax/parish precept support grant.

f) **Village Watercourse** A resident had raised concerns about possible blockages along the route of the watercourse that runs through the village from Blackwell Road (field above scout hut) to Lower Bittell via Sandhills Lane, Sandhills Road, Victoria Mews, Orchard Croft, Bittell Lane. Cllrs EG and RB had toured the route with an officer from North Worcestershire Water Management (NWWM) and the resident to note the condition of the watercourse and a report was expected from NWWM in due course.

At the same time, the 'boggy' condition of the footpath adjacent to the track leading to the scout hut and allotments was noted and it was suggested that perhaps the probation service could be asked to attend to improve it.

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- g) **Village centre bollards** It would appear that P McDonald, county councillor, had met with a highways engineer in Barnt Green to discuss the missing bollards, where agreement had been given to replace a bollard in Orchard Croft near its junction with Hewell Road but the other missing bollards would need to be replaced at BGPC expense. Members considered which replacements were required and that a planter was needed on the isthmus outside Deedar restaurant to prevent cars parking on the pavement.
- h) **Clean for the Queen** Members are in favour of this campaign backed by Keep Britain Tidy and others to celebrate HM Queen Elizabeth's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in April 2016 and would like to use it as a catalyst to establish half-yearly litter picks in the parish.

## 113 Events

- a) **Christmas Lights:** switch on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2015 with carols in Millennium Park.
- b) **Sport Relief Mile 2016:** to take place on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2016.
- c) **Shindig Theatre** – 'The Origin of Species' on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2016 and
- d) **Open Gardens** – on the weekend of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2016.

## 114 Communications

Consultation: BDC Code of Practice on CCTV – it was noted there was scant indication within Barnt Green village of the existence or positioning of the CCTV cameras.

## 115 Governance

- a) Review of the parish council's Operational Risk Assessment:  
**It was agreed** to accept the review with an amendment to the wording relating to councillors, part 3 page 2.
- b) General Risk Assessment – not available for this meeting.

**Point of Order** The time being 9pm members agreed to continue to the end of the agenda.

## 116 Finance

- (i) **Current finances:** the bank reconciliation to the 31<sup>st</sup> October was presented and accepted and a list of payments for November and December, as below, was circulated. The procedure for authorising online payments would ensure that the member who checks the invoices is also one of those who authorises online.
- (ii) **Budget for 2016/17:** members reviewed the suggested budget and although could not settle on the exact amounts due to not yet having all the information available from the Billing Authority regarding the tax base figure and the amount of parish support grant funding, if any, agreed it in principle. Other costs to be considered included environmental improvements via RC's report, statutory provision for staff pension and Christmas lighting costs. Members would like to retain the precept amount at the same level as last year.

## 117 Councillors' reports and items for future agendas

- (i) Report on meetings attended –  
Cllr R Cholmondeley attended the WorcsCALC AGM 25/11/2015.  
Cllr E Gumbley was to meet contractors at Parker's Piece to discuss footpath installation
- (ii) Members were advised of the following events:
  - Bromsgrove Area CALC committee meeting 09/12/2015 (Cllr RC)
- (iii) Report minor matters of information not included elsewhere on the agenda –
  - a) It was noted that CALA Homes have agreed to pay for the installation of new cricket netting around the perimeter of the second team's field.
- (iv) Items for future agendas, to include provision of councillors' surgeries.

## 118 Date and Venue of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at 80 Hewell Road.

# Barnt Green Parish Council

This meeting ended at 9.20pm.

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Chairman

6<sup>th</sup> January 2016

Payments agreed at the meeting held 6<sup>th</sup> December 2015  
Minute no. 116(i)

Vno.	Reason for payment	Receipts	Payments	
			Gross	VAT
	October sub-total b/f	29,112.00	4,214.87	309.58
	totals for year to date b/f	62,147.38	37,463.61	2,948.96
124	Grass cut and grounds maintenance, October		273.43	45.57
125	Monthly salary, November		1,089.05	
126	Petty cash including Shindig event		278.81	40.18
127	Street lighting power costs		234.95	37.71
128	Office stationery and facilities management		176.53	29.42
129	Christmas Tree (not yet invoiced)		120.00	
130	Annual subscription to countryside group		36.00	
131	Monthly street lighting maintenance		264.00	44.00
132	Christmas lighting 2014		63.41	3.02
133	Annual subscription to staff support		171.92	
134	Registration fee to quality council scheme		30.00	5.00
135	Annual volunteers 'thank-you' via Chair's Allowance		343.00	
136	Clearance of highways verge		262.80	43.80
137	Playing field maintenance and grass cutting, Nov		273.43	45.57
138	Grass cutting,		28.00	
139	Park maintenance		44.00	
140	Christmas lights installation		3,210.00	535.00
141	Street light repairs, November		144.36	24.06
142	Village litter picking and play equipment checks		120.00	
143	Monthly website maintenance		58.00	
144	Office telephone, November		16.98	2.83
	Miscellaneous receipt via petty cash	37.54		
	November sub-total c/f	37.54	7,239.17	856.16
	totals for year to date c/f	62,184.92	44,702.78	3,805.12
	<b>Items due for payment in December:</b>			
	Planting of village flower boxes		378.00	
	Newsletter printing		245.00	
	PAYE and NI payments for 3 <sup>rd</sup> ¼		365.16	
	Salary, December		1,089.05	
	Street lighting maintenance, December		264.00	
	Website maintenance, December		58.00	
	Playing field maintenance		273.43	