

Barnt Green Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at 80 Hewell Road, Barnt Green on Wednesday 15th June 2016 at 7.00pm

Members present: Cllrs R Cholmondeley (Chairman), C Hotham (vice-Chairman), R Briggs, E Gumbley, J Jellie, S Whitehand (2 vacant seats)

In attendance: Peter McDonald, Worcs County Councillor for Beacon Division
Three members of the public
One member of the press (The Village)
Gill Lungley (Executive Officer)

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

16/91 Apologies

No apologies for absence received (all members present)

16/92 Declarations of Interest

It was noted that:-

- a) Members are required to keep the Register of Interests updated.
- b), c) Members need to declare both Disclosable Pecuniary and Other Disclosable Interests.
- d) Dispensation requests are to be submitted in advance of the meeting in writing.

16/93 Consideration of dispensation requests

No dispensation requests had been submitted in advance of this meeting.

16/94 Adjournment of meeting to hear from:

a) **Members of the Public:**

1. Mrs Rachel Banner: spoke about the Open Gardens event on weekend of 2nd / 3rd July and the logistics involved. A cup is to be presented on 3rd July to the winner of the best-decorated shop window and bunting has been purchased for decorating Millennium Park which parish councillors will install.
2. Oakdene Drive residents: were present to talk about parking concerns, having seen the growth in the use of the railway station and increased on-road parking in Fiery Hill Road and side roads. Aware of similar issues in other parts of the country that have been dealt with favourably and would like to see this happen here but have been met with little support from county council officers.

It was suggested that the residents meet with the County Councillor and parish councillors to discuss possible ways forward. The Chairman added that he would be interested in seeing evidence of proven solutions and the caveat that the current rate of parking might decrease when Bromsgrove station is working to the new electrified timetable in 2017.

b) **Worcs County Councillor: Peter McDonald** spoke on 6 matters before leaving:

1. Combined Authorities: The County Council must vote on any decision by one of its district councils to join another authority; Bromsgrove DC was close to joining with the West Midlands/Birmingham combined authority but have now decided to withdraw. Had BDC gone ahead then there were fears that the county would become split.
2. Asbestos in schools: Peter McDonald is behind the campaign to remove asbestos from all school buildings.
3. Sure Starts: The county council is to get rid of the Sure Starts centres (delivering early help and support to families in the county) and it is likely these will be taken over by private enterprise.
4. Libraries: The funding for libraries has been reduced and there have been cuts to the opening hours across the county.
5. Academies: There are concerns that academies across the county are employing unqualified teachers.
6. Parking in Barnt Green: any action taken by WCC will be for reasons of safety.

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- c) **Bromsgrove District Councillor: Charles Hotham, Barnt Green & Hopwood ward.**
1. Bromsgrove District Plan: the Planning Inspector is to deliver his recommendations on 17/06/2016 and fairly soon after that the Green Belt review will begin.
 2. Dolphin Centre replacement: the plans for the new sports and leisure centre, which do not include a sports hall, have incurred further costs of £700,000 to deliver.
 3. Combined Authority: as mentioned by Peter McDonald above, Bromsgrove DC were very close to becoming an associate member of the Birmingham Combined Authority. CH has not found any advantage or reason to join, just a huge long-term risk.

16/95 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 12/05/2016 were agreed a true record and signed by the Chairman.

16/96 Chairman's Report

Cllr Cholmondeley reported upon his attendance at the Bromsgrove Area CALC committee meeting on 08/06/2016 where the district council's head of planning had mentioned the Green Belt review and its impact on Neighbourhood Plans.

16/97 Updates and Decisions taken by the Executive Officer (EO) since last meeting

Due to limited time a detailed report had been circulated with the agenda for this meeting:

CALA/Foxhills development	Re: agreement for the sale of freehold property known as Car Park at Fiery Hill Road, the developer's solicitors are expected to provide the grossment documents for signature.
RoSPA inspection	PC has yet to address the gate-stop into the play area at Millennium Park.
Hewell Road bollards	No progress to report.
Flagpole	EO has no progress to report.
Meeting with village retailers	No further progress to date.
Bulletin, issue 47	This has been distributed throughout the parish. Next issue is due to be ready for distribution end of August; a copy of the 2016/17 production schedule has been circulated.
Lengthsman scheme	Lengthsman, via BDC's Place Team, continues to provide a good service and provides reports on work done. Has been asked to remove the dead tree on the corner of Hewell Lane / Blackwell Rd (Longlands bank); BDC's tree officer has no objection. Resident has been informed.
General correspondence received and circulated to members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shindig calendar/acts for 2016/17 • Launch of Worcs Wellbeing - HUB • Healthwatch • Elmley Grants • Dementia Friendly training • NALC's star council awards • Traffic Regulation Order, various roads in BG area • Auditor confirmation received annual return • Hewell Lane temp closure, 28/06 • Planning Aid newsletter • New police and crime commissioner, John Campion • BDC press release re. joined authority proposals • NPMS - thanks to volunteers • Worcester CC celebrations, queen's birthday 11/06/2016 • WCC Walks/June Events at Worcester • Countryside services newsletter • Wellbeing in partnership • SNT crime stats for May • Police and Crime Commissioner survey, closes 17/06/2016

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lickey Hills Society newsletter • Locality Convention (York)
Concerns raised by residents for report only (not otherwise included on this agenda, but could be put forward for future reference if requested)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Two emails from resident in response to receipt of recent parish council newsletter, expounding personal views 2. Notification re residents concerned about the noise of partying after the school PTA's May Ball held at the BG Sports Club on 14/05/2016; it would appear to have been due to a ball after-party that continued in a nearby house after the main event. Similar concerns about planned Beer & Fizz Festival on 10/11 June. 3. Letter from resident requesting a push-button crossing in Hewell Road (shopping centre) and suggesting PC meetings should end by 9pm. 4. Resident of Sandhills Lane called in to ask if anything could be done to reduce the amount of water splashed against side of house after rain; photos show the water puddles uphill of drain channel, hence belief problem is caused by road 'sinkage'. Referred resident to Peter McDonald and also reported online via WCC's 'report-it' function.
Concern raised by resident to be considered in future	Barnt Green resident visited the PC office to raise concerns about the lack of footpath lighting between GP's surgery at 82 Hewell Road and village centre. During winter evening he was unable to see the footpath.
Letters dealt with by EO	TV Licensing: "Your business address is unlicensed. Don't risk breaking the law."
Hanging baskets	40 have been supplied by Where Next Association. EO is to visit each shop to ensure each basket is being cared for. The cost of contracting out the work to water each time would be IRO £2.25 per basket.
Railway Station	A site meeting has been arranged with a representative of London Midland for 28/06/2016 to discuss station improvements
Laptop recycling	3 old office laptops disposed of via UK I.T. Recycling Ltd; Waste Transfer Note received.
Annual Return	The External Auditor has confirmed receipt of the Annual Return; the audit period runs from 3rd June to 15th July after which the Annual Return will be returned to the parish council with the external auditor's comments and report (if any). Independent Internal Audit report for consideration at agenda item 99(ii)
Emergency Planning	Meeting arranged for 12/10/2016 at Bromsgrove DC.
Volunteer litter pickers	The six-month period had ended for the two Duke of Edinburgh award volunteer litter pickers. This matter would be considered at the next parish council meeting for appraisal and to consider whether to continue.
Parker's Piece	The EO had arranged for grass around benches and play equipment to be cut, following report from the weekly equipment inspector.

16/89 Co-option update

There was a potential volunteer to fill one of the 2 current vacancies on the council. Members would continue to seek candidates to fill the vacant seats.

16/99 Finance

- i. Current financial position to 31/05/2016 and bills for payment
The council noted the receipts and payments for the month of May, as listed on page 67, along with the comparison of actual receipts and payments to budget for the year so far, and bank reconciliation to 31/05/2016. The bills for payment were noted (all as budgeted).
- ii. Independent Internal Auditor's report for financial year ending 31/03/2016.
Diane Malley's report was noted.

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16/100 Committee and Working Party reports

- a) **Planning Committee** The committee meeting held on 02/06/2016 had been inquorate but notes had been taken based on which, and acting under delegated authority, the Executive Officer had submitted comments to the local planning authority.
It was agreed to ratify the report from the Planning Committee meeting held 02/06/16. Ratification of the recommendations from that meeting included writing to the Local Planning Authority with concerns about the non-consultation of an application, two enforcement issues, and the committee's proposed Terms of Reference.
- b) **Neighbourhood Plan** Cllr S Whitehand is to forward the first draft documents to members in due course.
- c) **Recreation and Environment** No particular matter of concern to report at this time.
- d) **Finance and Staffing** No particular matter of concern to report at this time. It was noted that policies would be brought directly to the full council meetings for discussion.
- e) **SmartWater** Cllr Gumbley had received one response to the article in the Summer 2016 issue of the Barnt Green Bulletin. Members agreed they would have preferred a larger response to help decide how to progress this issue.

16/101 Events

- a) **Shindig 2016/17**
It was agreed to not continue hosting Shindig/Live and Local entertainment events for the remainder of 2016 but to review in 2017. Members agreed it had been hard to involve people to support the two events last year but they would be keen to support requests from home-grown talent and entertainment.
- b) **Open Gardens 2nd & 3rd July**
An update had been provided at the start of the meeting.
- c) **Community Walk, September**
It was agreed to host another community walk on 24/09/2016; the parish footpath officer would host (as before) with support from the parish council.
- d) **Annual Barnt Green fun-run**
The Sport Relief mile is held every two years and it had been suggested that a similar event is held every other year so that some sort of running/sports event is held annually in Barnt Green. Members agreed to consider this and the costs involved and would discuss with the Barnt Green Chuggers.

16/102 Community

- a) **Use of Parker's Piece as home ground for u-12's football**
Members were advised that the request had been withdrawn.
- b) **Residents' concerns about car parking in the parish**
As detailed above a meeting is to be arranged to discuss this issue with residents and the county council member for Beacon division.
- c) **Network Rail plans for Cofton Crossing**
It was agreed to write to Network Rail for an update on the crossing that was closed in July 2015 and for plans for the installation of lifts at Barnt Green station.
- d) **Dementia Action Alliance**
Members were unsure how they could participate in the alliance. **It was agreed** to review this after the Open Gardens event and possibly when meeting with the Town Centres manager.
- e) **Meet with representative from Bromsgrove and Redditch Network (BARN)**
Members agreed they would like to hear from, and work with, BARN.

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f) Monthly farmers' market

It was suggested that Barnt Green could host a monthly Farmers' Market or an annual food fayre. It was agreed to request a meeting with the newly appointed Town Centres' manager for North Worcestershire Development and Regeneration to discuss this further.

16/103 Councillors' reports and items for future agendas

i. Reports on meetings attended:

The Chairman had met with the Chairman of Alvechurch Parish Council to discuss common issues.

Cllr E Gumbley had met with residents of Margesson Drive who had expressed concerns about the issuing of Temporary Events Notices for the Sports Club which allowed music to be played late at night.

Cllr C Hotham had, in his role as school governor, spent a morning in school touring the classrooms and reported upon an excellent visit, reinforcing how good the school is.

ii. Minor matters not elsewhere included:

Cllr E Gumbley commented on reports he had received relating to the newsletter which appears to have improved recently.

16/104 Confidential Item

Following the appropriate resolution via the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 the meeting was closed to members of the public to allow for discussion of matters relating to staff. **It was agreed** to accept the recent NALC/SLCC pay-scale award for 2016 and 2017, back-dated to 1st April 2016.

16/105 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next parish council meeting will be on Thursday 28th July 2016 at 80 Hewell Road, starting at 7.00pm.

This meeting ended at 8.55pm.

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Chairman 28th July 2016

May 2016 receipts and payments

invoice ref V/R	Receipts	Description	Payments Gross	Payments VAT	Payments Net
v035		Grass cutting and grounds maintnce	273.43	45.57	227.86
v036		Independent internal audit	120.00		120.00
v037a		Street lighting power supply	222.94	37.15	185.79
v037b		Street lighting power supply	12.09	0.57	11.52
v038/R8	170.00	hire of playing field, Sept-Dec 2015			-
v039/R9	5.00	Room hire (cash receipt)			-
v040/R10	1.60	refund following closure of account			-
v041a		Millennium Park grass cut, April	112.00	-	112.00
v041b		Village verges cut, April	56.00		56.00
v042		Street lighting maintenance, May	264.00	44.00	220.00
v043		Administration / salary	1,019.77		1,019.77
v044		Office phone and broadband	9.93		9.93
v045		Website support	58.00		58.00
	176.60	total for month, as at 31/05/2016	2,148.16	127.29	2,020.87
	30,719.70	total for year to date	16,027.26	1,843.00	14,184.26