

Barnt Green Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at 80 Hewell Road, Barnt Green on Wednesday 7th December 2016 at 7.00pm

Members present: Cllrs R Cholmondeley (Chairman), C Hotham (vice-Chairman), R Briggs, E Gumbley, J Jagger, J Jellie, P Perry

In attendance: One member of the public
One member of the press (The Village)
Gill Lungley (Executive Officer)

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

16/169 Apologies

Cllr S Whitehand (apology accepted)

16/170 Declarations of Interest

Cllr C Hotham has a standing declaration relating to his role as a member of the District Council's planning committee, such that when the parish council considers planning applications, his participation in both the debate and subsequent vote is on the basis that the views expressed are preliminary views taking into account the information available at the time to the Parish Council. Cllr CH would reserve his final views on the application(s) until in full possession of all the relevant arguments for and against. There were no other declarations of interest.

16/171 Consideration of dispensation requests

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

16/172 Adjournment of meeting to hear from:

a) Member of the Public:

Asked the parish council not to impose a 'dogs must be on leads' edict at the playing field. This site is the only publicly accessible field in the parish where dogs can currently run free; most dog owners are sensible and 'pick-up' after their dogs and will even 'pick-up' after other dogs where necessary. The speaker avoids letting his dog run free if there are children in the park such as Saturday mornings football training. Other authorities, such as Birmingham City Council, provide free dog-waste bags on similar sites which could be used not only by dog-owners but by non-dog-owners if noticing dog waste on the field. Keeping dogs on leads will not necessarily solve the problem of dog mess on the field.

The Chairman proposed and members agreed, to bring forward agenda item 179a 'To consider request that all dogs should be on a lead when on the playing field' to this point in the meeting.

Points raised referred to: policing of any 'dogs on lead' order; dog waste appears to be picked up by the majority; there should be somewhere local for dogs to run free; the public right of way across the playing field requires that dogs are under control.

It was agreed to not impose an order stating dogs must be on leads when in the Barnt Green playing field. The purchase of dog waste bag dispensers and bags and the location of waste bins would be considered at the next meeting.

b) Worcs County Councillor: Peter McDonald had sent apologies for non-attendance

c) Bromsgrove District Councillor: Charles Hotham, Barnt Green & Hopwood ward commented as follows:

1. Efficiency Plan: has been passed by Government, meaning Bromsgrove DC will have level funding for the next four years although amount of funding is not yet known.
2. Council Plan: the initial plan has been shelved and is to be replaced.
3. District Planning department: plans to incorporate both Redditch and Bromsgrove planning officers into one umbrella service have been deferred.

Barnt Green Parish Council

4. Public toilets for Barnt Green: capital funding for this scheme is to be considered at the Cabinet meeting in January.
5. Rail Squeal: a possible solution has been put forward.

16/173 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 2nd November 2016 were agreed a true record and signed by the Chairman.

16/174 Chairman's Report: Cllr R Cholmondeley

- a) Arising from the meetings on neighbourhood planning arranged by Hagley Parish Council which were attended by Cllr S Whitehand, it would appear that the 2,300 homes shortfall in the 15-year housing supply within the district is likely to be allocated to the six 'larger' settlements, one of which is Barnt Green. There is to be a review of the Green Belt, and sustainability is likely to be an issue.
- b) Cllr Cholmondeley had attended the Pensioners' Fair held by Sajid Javid MP.

16/175 Updates and Decisions taken by the Executive Officer (EO) since last meeting

CALA/Fiery Hill Rd development	Kendal End Road/Bittell Road under railway bridge is to be closed for 10 weeks starting 09/01/2017 (end date 22/03/2017); PC to meet with Cala representatives 8/12/16.	
Social Media	The offer of free training in this topic is being pursued via WorcsCALC; possible event in the new year with other councils at County Hall.	
Footway lighting	Review of existing provision dated 07/11/2016 and considered at agenda item 176(ii)	
Cycle stands	Awaiting installation by WCC Highways team.	
Condition of drains	Members have been asked to report on any flooding issues after periods of heavy rain; only affected site is Twatling Road/Fiery Hill Road due to collapsed drain. Despite Lengthsman having the list of drains that need attention members are keen to see all drains clear of detritus and asked if a contractor can be appointed to clear them.	
Footpath to Cofton	News item in Bromsgrove Standard 02/12/2016 states a footbridge over the railway is to be installed.	
Public toilets	Advice from Bromsgrove district councillor, Coun C Hotham: capital project for the toilet for £62k has been included in the capital bids 2017/18 within Leisure and Community Services for consideration at Cabinet in January	
Footpath along side scout hut	WCC Environment Services and North Worcestershire Water management have been asked to re-visit the concerns raised about the waterlogged footpath here. WCC ES were also asked for advice re fingerpost signs for fp 506 (Aqueduct Lane)	
Attendance at clerks' training	SLCC Roadshow 23/11/2016, issues covered included: finance update including pensions enrolment, audit regime changes; risk management; employment issues; mycommunity.org and social isolation; devolution opportunities; legal issues.	
Use of premises	The parish council offices have been used twice by local organisations during November.	
Sports Directory	Update from Mike Dickenson who has met with Bromsgrove DC Sport Development who have asked for information about sport and physical activity opportunities in Barnt Green.	
Visits / calls / emails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sandhills Lane resident concern about vehicles parked on pavement • Fiery Hill Road resident concerned about re-siting of Kendal End Rd footpath 	
General correspondence received and circulated to members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WCC re superfast broadband available • WCC County Councillor update, Woodvale • Wellbeing partnership campaigns • Smart meter training • Worcs Care Services directory • Loan Shark awareness campaign • Western Power Distribution road-shows 	Regular correspondence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WorcsCALC update newsletters • BDC Weekly planning lists • Police & Crime Commissioner • WCC Highways updates • Community First update • Neighbourhood Planning news
Matters carried forward	SmartWater campaign Barnt Green station lifts Litter bin, Cherry Hill beech avenue (LHS) Playing Field trees	On-street car parking. Railway station, rail-users group Community Speed Watch scheme Risk management matrix

Barnt Green Parish Council

16/176 Finance

- i. **Receipts and payments** for November are as listed on page 94, the bank reconciliation to 30/11/2016 would be circulated in due course.
- ii. **Preparation of budget for 2017/18**

Members noted the purpose of the informal meeting held 07/11/2016 had been to explore ideas for future capital projects and events, the likely costs and the expected direction of the council over the next financial year.

The street lighting review noted that overgrowth needs to be cut back at several lighting points in the parish but that generally there is no obvious need for better lighting.

Following a review of the office furniture **it was agreed** to dispose of 2 office desks from the parish council office and purchase 5 folding tables and 2 matching benches.
- iii. **Staff Pension**

Cllr Cholmondeley confirmed the statutory requirements regarding staff pension had been complied with.

16/177 Committee and Working Party reports

- a) **Emergency Planning** Cllr J Jellie reported on her meeting with the Emergency Planning officer on 09/11/2016 and ascertained the parish council's role is more concerned with identifying vulnerable people who may, for example, need help during bad weather. Cllr Jellie will collate information for a newsletter and the website.
- b) **Planning Committee:** meeting held 15/11/2016, draft minutes noted.

16/178 Events

- a) **Christmas lights switch-on 02/12/2016**

This event was well attended and enjoyed. Members would review in February 2017 to ensure early preparation for 2017 Christmas lights.
- b) **Small Business Saturday 3/12/2016 and Best Dressed Christmas window competition**

The orchestra organised by Oasis performed in the village during the morning and received good feedback. Members agreed to provide a donation for their appearance.
- c) **Chairman's Thank You to volunteer support**

The afternoon buffet to thank those who support the community and the parish council is to take place on 15/12/16.
- d) **Mulled-Wine Walk**

The community walk is all set to take place on 27th December, starting at 1pm from Millennium Park and ending at Café Morso.
- e) **Community Event, 01/07/2017**

Members were in favour of supporting an event related to cars on either 1st or 2nd July 2017; a working party consisting of Cllr Cholmondeley, Gumbley and Hotham would progress this.
- f) **Items carried forward:**

Barnt Green fun-run; Shindig theatre.

16/179 Environment and Community well-being

- a) **Request for dogs to be on leads in playing field**

This was considered earlier in the meeting, see minute no. 16/172a
- b) **To approve improvements to Parker's Piece (playing field)**

It was agreed to progress a number of improvements to the playing field, as outlined following the site visit on 15/09/2016. The EO would seek advice from the district council regarding the appropriateness of filling in the ditch between the field and the car park.
- c) **To consider use of playing field car park for mobile crane**

It was agreed to allow a mobile crane to be parked on the car park for a half-day (date yet to be confirmed) to allow access to the rear of a property fronting Bittell Road; usual conditions to apply.

Barnt Green Parish Council

d) **To consider undertaking a parking survey, Fiery Hill Road**

As an informal survey had been carried out last year, it had been suggested a similar exercise is carried out again, however members were mindful of a considerable number of variables that would make comparison impossible. Cllr EG had reviewed the situation over a few days at the start of December.

Point of order: members agreed to continue beyond 9pm to finish all business on the agenda.

16/180 Planning

a) **To consider and comment on current notified applications** as follows:

PC Log no. / BDC App. No	Address	Proposal
Log no. 052 / App ref: 16/0996	11 Sandhills Lane	Attic conversion with new front and rear dormer windows
PC Comment: Barnt Green Parish Council has no objection to this application other than would like to see all work to be in keeping with street scene and neighbouring properties.		
Log no. 053 / App ref: 16/1071	9 Bittell Road	Demolition of garage and erection of a single storey side extension with a two-storey rear extension to form additional bedroom space and enlarged kitchen.
PC Comment: Barnt Green Parish Council has no objection to this application but would ask that there is adequate room for parking and turning on site to ensure forward egress from site and that all work is in keeping with street scene and neighbouring properties		
Log no. 054 / App ref: 16/1093	5 Brookwood Drive	Kitchen extension
PC Comment: Barnt Green Parish Council has no objection to this application and adds the comment that all work is to be in keeping with the style of the building and surroundings.		

16/181 Governance

a) **To appoint members to the Planning Committee**

Members agreed to appoint Cllrs J Jellie and P Perry to the Planning Committee; Cllr Hotham asked to step down from the Planning Committee due to ongoing conflict of interest as a member of the district council's planning committee. The members of the Planning Committee going forward are: Cllr S Whitehand (committee Chairman), Cllr R Cholmondeley, Cllr R Briggs, Cllr J Jellie, Cllr P Perry.

In addition the members asked for specific training on planning matters.

16/182 Future Meetings and Items for future agendas

Councillors were reminded of meetings to be attended including:

- Meeting with Bromsgrove area WorcsCALC committee 14/12/2016

For next meeting:

- Website review
- Sim-only mobile phone offer via office phone and broadband provider

16/183 Date and Venue of Next Meeting

Wednesday 4th January 2017 at 80 Hewell Road

This meeting ended at 9.15pm.

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Chairman

4th January 2017

Barnt Green Parish Council

Minute ref. 16/176i

Payments for Nov		Description	Receipts	Payments Gross	Payments VAT	Payments Net	
BACS	v144	External office lighting		504.00	84.00	420.00	
BACS	v145	Parkers Piece tidying brambles		78.00	13.00	65.00	
s/o	v146	Environment maintenance		273.43	45.57	227.86	
BACS	v147	Clerk's training - CPD		94.80	15.80	79.00	
d/d	v148a	Footway lighting, unmetered supply		202.66	33.77	168.89	
d/d	v148b	Footway lighting, continuous energy		11.51	0.54	10.97	
BACS	v149a	High street verges		28.00	-	28.00	
BACS	v149b	Millennium Park hedges		90.00	-	90.00	
BACS	v150	Winter planting in village centre		378.00	63.00	315.00	
d/d	v151	Staff pension		150.73	-	150.73	
BACS	v152	Footway lighting repairs		468.12	78.02	390.10	
BACS	v153	Christmas lighting preparations		900.00	150.00	750.00	
s/o	v154	Web design and hosting		58.00		58.00	
BACS	v155	Staff salary, November		1,027.32		1,027.32	
BACS	v156	Councillor training 16/11/2016		60.00		60.00	
s/o	v157	Lighting, monthly retainer, November		264.00	44.00	220.00	
d/d	v158	office telephone and broadband		9.70	1.62	8.08	
BACS	v159	December newsletter printing		245.00	-	245.00	
BACS	v160a	Weekly play equipment inspection		60.00	-	60.00	
BACS	v160b	Weekly play equipment inspection		60.00	-	60.00	
BACS	v161	Lengthsman's quarterly invoice		500.00	-	500.00	
BACS	v162	Christmas bespoke lighting		2,902.43	483.74	2,418.69	
BACS	v163a	Attendance at conference		228.00	38.00	190.00	
	v147	Clerk's training - CPD		-	94.80	-	79.00
						-	
				8,498.90	1,035.26	7,463.64	
			64,353.10	56,282.57	5,449.66	50,832.91	