

Barnt Green Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at 80 Hewell Road, Barnt Green on Wednesday 4th January 2017 at 7.00pm

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

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

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

17/001 Apologies
Not required

17/002 Declarations of Interest

Cllr C Hotham has a standing declaration relating to his role as a member of the District Council's planning committee; as there were no planning applications to be considered the declaration was not required.
There were no other declarations of interest.

17/003 Consideration of dispensation requests
No dispensation requests had been submitted in advance of this meeting.

17/004 Adjournment of meeting to hear from:

- a) **Members of the Public:** non present.
- 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. District Plan: this is set to be adopted by the Council following the Inspector's report, although there is still no indication of the housing numbers to be allocated to each area;
 2. Public toilets in Barnt Green: the request for funding has been put to the Cabinet meeting for 11/01/2017.

17/005 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 7th December 2016 were agreed a true record and signed by the Chairman.

17/006 Chairman's Report: Cllr R Cholmondeley

With regard to the closure of the public footpath between Barnt Green and Cofton, the Chairman had written to the Secretary of State for Transport and had received a reply from the department confirming funding is available for the installation of a footbridge.

17/007 Updates and Decisions taken by the Executive Officer (EO) since last meeting

CALA/Fiery Hill Rd development	See below, minute no. 17/011c
Social Media	Date of training, via WorcsCALC, awaited
Cycle stands	These were installed 20/12/16.
Condition of drains	It is unlikely the parish council can appoint an alternative contractor to clear the drains; as at 20/12/2016, the parish Lengthsman has cleared out the drains in Fiery Hill Road, Oakdene Drive, Hewell Road, Bittell Lane, Sandhills Lane, Sandhills Road, Sandhills Green and half Bittell Road (even no's); the remainder will be done in due course.
Footpath to Cofton	Worcs County Council has issued a revised closure notice for the next 12 months. It is believed Network Rail have given an undertaking to install a footbridge by then.
Public toilets	Bromsgrove DC Cabinet meeting is on 11/01/2017.

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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). Not aware of any progress to date.	
Sports Directory	Mike Dickenson advises Bromsgrove DC are keen to include sports opportunities on a database available to the public; much may already be available via The Village.	
Office furniture	5 x folding tables and 2 benches have been received. The office desks offered to the other parish council are no longer required and will be disposed of by alternative means. The lockable 4-drawer cabinet has been replaced with one that has a working lock.	
Smart meter rollout training	EO attended awareness training provided via ActOnEnergy at Redditch Town Hall 19/12/2016.	
Visits / calls / emails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resident called in for copies of Barnt Green walks to give to neighbour • Toiletries provided for Troop Aid. 	
General correspondence received and circulated to members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invitation to budget consultation 19/01/17 • Invitation to Minerals Plan consultation 23/01/17 • CALC meeting follow up - Warmer Winter event • Invitation to Go On Worcestershire digital conference 06/02/17 	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 Playing Field trees Local Council Award Scheme (foundation)	On-street car parking. Railway station, rail-users group Community Speed Watch scheme Risk management matrix
Litter bin, Cherry Hill beech avenue (LHS)	A resident has asked the Lickey Hills park rangers to install a bin at the entrance to this walkway opposite the station to help prevent dog-waste bags being placed into the bins at the station.	
Cross Country train consultation	EO had responded to the consultation on the Cross Country trains timetable for 2017 which proposes to withdraw the four trains that stop daily at Bromsgrove station.	

17/008 Finance

- i. **Receipts and payments** for December are as listed on page 98. The bank reconciliation to 31/12/2016 was circulated along with a summary of the 3rd quarter comparison of actual receipts and payments to budget.
- ii. **Purchase of sim-only deal, £5pcm**
It was agreed to take up the £5pcm cost of a sim-only (for mobile phone) offer via the office landline/broadband provider. The EO would supply the mobile phone at no charge.
- iii. **Renewal of electricity contract**
It was agreed to enter into a new 24-month contract with SSE, following advice by broker LSI. This includes electricity for the footpath lighting, Christmas event lighting and office heating and lighting.
- iv. **Response to Valuation Office Agency**
 It was noted the EO was required to complete a valuation form for an assessment of the rateable value of properties.
- v. **Council tax base figure and Precept for 2017/18**
 It was noted that the council tax base figure had been set as 998.54. Bearing in mind the budget figure for next year's expenditure, members discussed whether to keep the impact of the precept the same as this year or reduce it and the reasons for doing so.
It was agreed to set the precept at £62,490.00. The effect of this on the band D council tax payer will be the same as last year, ie £62.58 for the year.

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17/009 Committee and Working Party reports

- a) **Car festival** : working party is to meet during the month.

17/010 Events

a) **Christmas Best-Dressed Window competition**

The winners' certificates had been presented to Continental Collections (1st) and Oulsnam Lettings (2nd). The experiences of this event will inform the next event. All members supported the request to send thanks to Cheryl Welsh for her support and hard work.

b) **Mulled-Wine Walk**

The community walk had been well attended, with 52 people taking part. It was hoped to repeat the event in December 2017.

Regarding the suggested series of summer walks it was decided to defer this and instead promote the walking group operated by Barnt Green Social Club.

c) **Barnt Green Fun Run**

Members were in favour of supporting this event providing enough marshals and supporters are available. The date was proposed as Saturday 6th May, subject to agreement with the Sports Club Chuggers running group, starting in the afternoon to avoid Saturday morning shoppers and to encourage involvement in post-run party in the park. Further discussion was needed with the Chuggers to firm up on date, time and costs.

d) **Items carried forward:**

Shindig theatre.

17/011 Environment and Community well-being

a) **To approve improvements to Parker's Piece (playing field)**

1. To consider purchase of dog waste bag dispenser
It was agreed to purchase one dog waste bag dispenser, green coloured, to be sited near to the car park entrance.
2. To consider reducing height and depth of hedge between car park and field
It was agreed to reduce the height and depth of the hedge between the car park and field and to fill in the ditch.
3. To agree plans for completion of circular footpath
It was agreed to plan for the completion of the circular footpath. Members agreed not to seek tenders for this as it was a continuance of an existing path that was installed only 12 months earlier.
4. To agree to install outdoor gym equipment subject to receipt of grant funding
It was agreed to seek quotations for the installation of outdoor gym equipment and to apply for grant funding to help with costs. Parish council residents will be consulted on the plans.

b) **Imminent road closure junction Fiery Hill Road / Kendal End Road / Bittell Road**

Major infrastructure work is to be carried out from 09/01/2017 for 10 weeks. A meeting with Cala representatives before Christmas indicated there would be no way through for vehicles or pedestrians (contradicting the official road closure notice from WCC), however the Highways Liaison officer has pledged to ensure the village is not cut off for the duration.

It was suggested the Social Club could offer the use of their car park for any commuters / drivers seeking car parking space; PC members offered to help with any leaflet distribution.

17/012 Communications

Website: Cllr J Jellie had met with the EO to review the website. This item would be deferred to the next meeting to receive a presentation.

17/013 Planning

- a) **No current applications** had been notified for consultation.
- b) **Bromsgrove DC Local Plan** Inspector's report had been published and the District Council is expected to adopt the plan shortly. Cllr Hotham is to attend a briefing meeting.
- c) **Planning training:** this is to be arranged over the next few months via Bromsgrove DC.

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17/014 Governance

It was noted the EO's staff appraisal would be undertaken during January by the Chairman; members would be asked for input.

17/015 Future Meetings and Items for future agendas

- Cllr Hotham reported on his meeting with Barnt Green Waters Ltd which plans to drain Upper Bittell later this year for repairs to the sluice gate and maintenance of Jacobs Arm (canal backwater).
- Cllr Whitehand reported on the meeting with Hagley PC and that there is to be a meeting with Sajid Javid MP to seek support for provision of housing allocation numbers from Bromsgrove DC, which currently is non-committal.
- Cllr Cholmondeley had attend the Bromsgrove Area CALC meeting; no report.

Councillors were reminded of meetings to be attended including:

- 23/01/2017, Cllr Briggs is to attend the WCC consultation on their Minerals Plan
- Cllr Jellie is to meet with Rev R Fielding to progress the Emergency Plan.

For next meeting:

- Road (parking) markings outside Tony's (Cllr J Jellie)
- Tree, junction of Bittell Lane/Bittell Road (Cllr E Gumbley)
- Flat roof canopy to shops, 26 – 32a Hewell Road (Cllr J Jellie)

17/016 Date and Venue of Next Meeting

Wednesday 1st February 2017 at 80 Hewell Road

This meeting ended at 8.55pm.

Chairman 1st February 2017

Minute ref. 17/008i

Dec-17	Description	Receipts	Payments Gross	Payments VAT	Payments Net
v164/R22	New Homes Bonus grant	545.04	-	-	-
v165	Banners for walk event 27/12/16		65.10	10.85	54.25
v166	Xmas lights installations		3,966.00	661.00	3,305.00
v167	Environment maintenance		273.43	45.57	227.86
v168	Millennium Park grass and leaves		156.00	-	156.00
v169a	Footway lighting, dusk2dawn		209.42	34.90	174.52
v169b	Footway lighting, continuous energy		11.74	0.55	11.19
v170	Office rent, quarterly payment		1,237.50	-	1,237.50
v171	Folding tables (5) benches (2)		690.10	115.02	575.08
v172	Christmas replacement lighting		1,079.58	179.93	899.65
v161	lsman's quarterly invoice, cancelled (copied invoice)		- 500.00	-	- 500.00
v173	Chairman's annual volunteers thank-u		100.00	-	100.00
v174	printer inks		50.05	8.34	41.71
v175	Monthly maintenance, December		264.00	44.00	220.00
v176	Web design and hosting		58.00	-	58.00
v177	office telephone and broadband		10.69	1.78	8.91
v178	staff pensions, December		150.73	-	150.73
v179	staff salary, December		1,027.32	-	1,027.32
v180	PAYE and NI, 3rd quarter		521.10	-	521.10
v181	Service charge		18.00		18.00
v182/R23	Bank interest	4.69			
	sub total for month	549.73	9,388.76	1,101.94	8,286.82
	total for year to date	64,902.83	57,172.43	5,516.34	51,656.09