

Barnt Green Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at 80 Hewell Road, Barnt Green on Wednesday 1st March 2017 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 press (The Village)
Peter McDonald, County Councillor for Beacon division
Gill Lungley, Executive Officer

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

17/035 Apologies

Cllr S Whitehand: apologies accepted.

17/036 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 any comment he may make during discussion on planning applications will be preliminary views taking into account the information presently available to the Parish Council. His final views on the applications are reserved until in full possession of all the relevant arguments for and against.
- Cllr R Cholmondeley declared an Other Disclosable Interest in planning application log no. 061, which, as a 'planning matter', would require him to leave the meeting whilst the matter was discussed [Members' Code of Conduct, s12 (4b)].

17/037 Consideration of dispensation requests

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

17/038 Adjournment of meeting to hear from:

- a) **Members of the Public:** not required.
- b) **Worcs County Councillor: Peter McDonald** commented with regard to:
 - Nearing the end of his 4-year term of office during which the county council's spending had halved, meaning less efficiency, a stretched workforce and lower standards.
 - The Ofsted report of 'inadequate' regarding the county's Looked-After Children had highlighted major concerns yet youth provision services are also losing funding.
 - Library services are likely to be cut.
 - Locally:
 - The flashing 30mph sign is to be installed in Blackwell Road soon;
 - Signs to warn of pedestrians crossing Cherry Hill Road between Cherry Hill Drive walkway and Pinfields Wood are to be installed;
 - Oakdene Drive double yellow lines are soon to be installed;
 - Resurfacing is planned for Sandhills Lane (will need to check on Bittell Lane);
 - Most of Cherry Hill Road will be resurfaced;
 - Most of Barnt Green Road is now 30mph.
- c) **Bromsgrove District Councillor: Charles Hotham, Barnt Green & Hopwood ward,** commented:
 - The district council's planning function will be a shared service with Redditch Borough Council;
 - The now disused council house at Burcot Lane is costing £150,000 pa.
 - The Council's operational plan was approved by BDC 28/02/2017; it details plans for improvement across the district/
 - Council tax set by Bromsgrove DC will rise by £5.00 per band D house; this represents an increase of 2.44% and was allowed by Central Government.
 - BDC are consulting with the MP regarding the requirement to save enough in funding in order to repay £740,000 to Central Government in 3 years' time.

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- Coun Karen May, BDC's portfolio holder for business improvement and development, has agreed to support assistance measures for Barnt Green traders, amid concerns of loss of business due to the 3-month Bittell Road / Fiery Hill Road junction closure.

17/039 Minutes of the previous council meeting

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 1st February 2017 were agreed a true record and signed by the Chairman.

17/040 Chairman's Report: Cllr R Cholmondeley

Standing Orders allow for meetings to continue for 2½ hours, but the Chairman would like to aim to finish around 9pm and will provide a reminder of the time every half-hour.

17/041 Updates and Decisions taken by the Executive Officer (EO) since last meeting

Public toilets	Cllr CH reported at the latest PC meeting that Bromsgrove DC Cabinet meeting had approved funding availability for public toilets in Barnt Green. Cllrs RB and CH had met with a contractor to discuss this project. Village residents have voiced concerns about the use of s106 funding on this scheme and have proposed alternative uses for the funding such as a pedestrian crossing on Bittell Road. The EO will contact BDC planning department to see what progress is being made wrt the pedestrian crossing which was referred to in the S106 agreement arising from the development at corner Fiery Hill Road / Kendal End Road.	
Footpath alongside scout hut	Awaiting notification of improvement scheme from North Worcestershire Water Management (NWWM); the suggestion is for costs to be shared between NWWM, WCC (Footpaths) and BGPC.	
Playing field	Delivery date of new equipment (picnic tables, notice board) put back due to bespoke notice board header; dog waste bag dispenser has been installed.	
Hewell Rd shops	EO is writing to owner/agent re improvements requested for flat roof over shop entrances 28 – 32a Hewell Road	
Safety checks	RoSPA will carry out the annual safety check on play equipment in March 2017.	
Station lifts	BARN reports Bromsgrove DC's Equality Officer confirmed that the Equalities Group chair had received a reply to her letter to Network Rail confirming that a lift will be installed at Barnt Green Railway Station by September 2017.	
Social Club walks	The Social Club preference is to keep these 'in-house'.	
From previous meeting	The final item of the meeting held 01/02/2017 was for issues to be considered at the next meeting, including to a) write to the Baron Davenport trust to thank them for the new dog bin installed on the walkway to the Lickey Hills between Fiery Hill Road and Cherry Hill Road and b) to put a notice on the litter bins on Barnt Green station. The EO has dealt with both, ie a) (letter of thanks has been sent) and b) item referred to London Midland.	
Defibrillator	The pads had reached their use-by-date and have been replaced; £30	
Rail squeal / grinding	It would appear the action taken to reduce the squeal nuisance has not had the desired effect.	
Visit to Envirosort	This visit for all members has been arranged for 06/04/2017	
Visits / calls / emails	Plus general correspondence received and circulated to members: List circulated to members.	
Matters carried forward	SmartWater campaign Barnt Green station lifts Playing Field trees (tree officer check) Local Council Award Scheme (foundation) On-street car parking. Railway station, rail-users group	Risk management matrix CALA/Fiery Hill Rd development, car park Condition of drains Footpath to Cofton Social media training Community Speed Watch scheme Village entry planters (next meeting)

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17/042 Finance

- i. **Receipts and payments** for February are as listed on page 109. The bank reconciliation for 31/01/2017 had not yet been prepared but would be circulated to members following this meeting.
- ii. **Quarterly book-keeping review**
It was agreed that Cllr R Briggs would review the year's third quarter.
- iii. **Renewal of grounds maintenance contracts for Parker's Piece and Millennium Park**
It was agreed to continue for 2017/18 with the current contractors on the existing contract terms.
- iv. **Review of Asset Register**
It was agreed to include the new path in Parker's Piece (£4,568) and dispose of the laser printer; additions relating to new Christmas lighting and office tables were noted. Thus a net increase (including the path) to the Asset Register of £7,590 to date.

17/043 Committee and Working Party reports

- a) **Fun Run:** the start time of 12:30hrs has been confirmed and the parish council is working with the Chuggers to a plan for the event.
- b) **Motor Festival:** the working party has arranged for 500 flyers incorporating an application form to be printed; the decision to proceed with the event will be made by 31/03/2017.
- c) **Village Improvements, Meeting with Centres Manager 22/02/2017:** despite only three representatives of traders in attendance, the events for 2017 were discussed. CH had asked Cala Homes to fund a banner for the corner of Hewell Road / Bittell Road. Two suggestions for a Barnt Green marketing slogan were put forward.
- d) **Public toilets meeting with contractor:** Cllrs RB and CH had met to progress possibilities for siting a toilet 'pod' in the village. The contractor will provide an outline of costs and options.
Discussion ensued including an opposing point of view in that the village has two 'eat-in' refreshment outlets and two public houses; each could be paid an annual amount to ensure they will make their facilities available and Barnt Green could become known as a 'toilet friendly' village. A counter argument was that people can find it difficult to ask for and use the facilities in a shop where they are not spending money.
- e) **Public transport BARN initiative:** Cllrs CH, EG and SW are to meet on 14/03/2017 to find out more.
- f) **Risk Management and Finance working party:** Cllrs RC, CH and EG are to meet.
- g) **Staffing working party:** Cllrs RC, JeJe and PP are to meet.

17/044 Events

Event	Date
Fun Run (co-organised with Chuggers)	7/5/17
Motor Festival	2/7/17
Busking Festival [details yet to be confirmed]	August?
Community Walk	23/09/17
Christmas Lights & switch-on	2/12/17
Post-Christmas Walk	27/12/17

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17/045 Environment and Community well-being

- a) **Road closure junction Fiery Hill Road / Kendal End Road / Bittell Road.** The traffic disruption is due to subsidence during March, however the roads that have been used for the detour route have suffered damage and WCC will be asked to ensure restitution measures are carried out.
- b) **Condition of roads in Barnt Green parish.** In addition to the roads used as part of the detour, the condition of many of the roads in the parish is causing concern. Members agreed to forward photographs provided by a resident to the Head of Environment Services, Worcestershire County Council along with the concerns raised. No response has been received yet regarding the request for the starting date for resurfacing of Sandhills Lane.
- c) **Public consultation for proposed playing field improvements.** Members agreed to carry out consultations on two Saturday mornings during March at two sites (① village centre, ② playing field) regarding the proposed installation of outdoor gym equipment on playing field.
- d) **Playing Field litter bins.** Bromsgrove DC had substantially increased the cost for emptying the litter bins at the playing field. The EO and Cllr C Hotham had met with the relevant DC officer to discuss the situation which is attempting to streamline services and bring costs up to a more competitive level; the officer has undertaken to discuss with other parish councils and will return to BGPC with a proposal for moving forward. It was believed other parish councils using alternative providers incur similar costs.

17/046 Communications

- a) **Website:** An outline of costs for renewing the site was provided and members would look at the various sites before making a decision.
- b) **Review of Communications Strategy:** concern had been raised that as the Bulletin is only delivered to parish residents, then people from outside the parish but who use the village miss out on parish-related news. It was suggested that a page in The Village magazine would reach a wider audience and the EO was asked to obtain costings. Additionally, it was understood that a communications strategy would need to be established in to cater for the website upgrade and the possible use of social media.
- c) **Newsletter:** the Bulletin, issue no 49 had been printed and was ready for delivery.

17/047 Planning

- a) **Planning Committee meeting held 22/02/2017:** draft minutes were available.
- In keeping with declarations of interest,** Cllr R Cholmondeley left the meeting. Members agreed to Cllr E Gumbley taking on the Chairman's role for consideration of the first application, log no. 061
- b) **Current applications** notified for consultation, comments as follows.

Log no. 61	17/0107	17 Orchard Croft	2-storey side extension
The parish council is concerned that the proposed increased volume of this extension is excessive and its impact locally would be to provide a terracing effect in relation to neighbouring properties.			

Cllr R Cholmondeley returned to the meeting and resumed the Chair...

Log no. 62	17/0119	17 Bittell Lane	Proposed extensions to rear of building
BGPC Comment: The parish council has no objection to this proposal.			

Log no. 63	17/0106	2 Fiery Hill Road	Car port on east side of house located behind existing gate with glazed roof & timber posts / rafters
BGPC Comment: The parish council would suggest this application is refused in order to comply with your SPG 1 Residential design Guide which states that: 4.2d) It is important that semi-detached or detached houses should not appear to become terraced. For this reason, two-storey or first extensions should be set at least one metre off the common boundary. Greater distances will be required for large plot sizes.			

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This car port seeks to extend the property to the boundary with the neighbouring property and will therefore provide no respite from the built-up appearance, contrary to the ambient street appearance locally.

- c) **Neighbourhood Plan update:** Cllr S Whitehand has asked to for the group working on the Neighbourhood Plan to meet; it was suggested this meeting take place in April.

17/048 Governance

No report at this meeting.

17/049 Consultations

Bromsgrove DC / Worcestershire Regulatory Services were consulting on a Penalty Points Scheme for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licence Holders in Bromsgrove. Members had no comments to forward to the consultation.

17/050 Future Meetings and Items for future agendas

Councillors were reminded of meetings to be attended including:

- 08/03/2017 Bromsgrove Area CALC at Parkside
- Annual Parish Meeting is to be held on 26/04/2017
- Annual Parish Council Meeting is to be held on 03/05/2017

For next meeting:

- Provision of grant towards the maintenance of St Michaels churchyard (Cllr CH)
- Inclusion in next newsletter of follow-up item regarding road closure issues (Cllr JJe)
- Inclusion in next newsletter of postcard showing unknown site in Barnt Green (Cllr JJa)
- Update to investigation of recent death on railway track at Barnt Green station (Cllr PP).

17/051 Date and Venue of Next Meeting

Wednesday 5th April 2017 at 80 Hewell Road

This meeting ended at 9.25pm.

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Chairman

5th April 2017

Minute ref. 17/042 (i)

Payments for February	Description	Receipts	Payments Gross	Payments VAT	Payments Net
BACS v194	Petty Cash debit card		200.00	-	200.00
d/d v195	data protection registration		35.00	-	35.00
BACS v196	dog waste bags and dispenser		196.50	32.75	163.75
s/o v197	playing field maintenance, monthly retainer		227.86	45.57	182.29
BACS v198	Playing field maintenance, extra works		278.40	46.40	232.00
v199/R25	Gross interest on savings account to 31/12/16	361.40	-	-	-
BACS v200	Carriage and storage of Xmas lights		558.00	93.00	465.00
d/d v201a	footpath lighting dusk to dawn energy		202.66	33.77	168.89
d/d v201b	footpath lighting on continuous energy		11.51	0.54	10.97
BACS v202	Supply and installation of Xmas tree		140.00	-	140.00
BACS v203a	Hedge cut in Millennium Park		60.00	-	60.00
BACS v203b	Hedge cut in Orchard Croft		15.00	-	15.00
BACS v204	Stationery		31.22	5.20	26.02
d/d v205	Staff pension scheme		150.73	-	150.73
s/o v206	Web design and hosting, Feb		58.00	-	58.00
BACS v207	Replacement defibrillator pads		40.74	6.79	33.95
BACS v208	Staff salary, February		1,027.32	-	1,027.32
s/o v209	Monthly maintenance, February		264.00	44.00	220.00
BACS v210a	quarterly litter pick/equipment check MP		60.00	-	60.00
BACS v210b	quarterly litter pick/equipment check PP		60.00	-	60.00
d/d v211	Office phone and broadband, Feb		9.50	1.58	7.92
			-	-	-
	sub total for month	361.40	3,626.44	309.60	3,316.84
	total for year to date	65,324.23	66,499.54	6,366.29	60,133.25