

Barnt Green Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting

Held at 80 Hewell Road, Barnt Green on Monday 24 February 2014 at 7.00pm

Present: Councillors (Cllrs) Kaye Elderton, Edwin Gumbley, Charles Hotham, John Jagger (Chair) and Susan Whitehand.

In attendance: Paul MacLachlan (Executive Officer) and District Cllr Richard Deeming.

The following documents will be appended to the signed minutes:

- the Agenda;
- the following enclosures:
 - A: Report of planning applications received and decisions taken under delegated powers;
 - B: Draft minutes of the Neighbourhood, Planning and Environment Committee dated 3 February 2014;
 - C: Report of the Responsible Finance Officer;
 - D: 2014 training proposals for the Executive Officer;
 - E: Draft minutes of the Sport Relief Mile Steering Group dated 28 January and 13 February 2014;
 - F: Child Protection Policy (as amended at the meeting).

121/13 Apologies

The apologies of Cllr Alun Davies were received and accepted. Apologies were also received from County Councillor Peter McDonald.

122/13 Declarations of Interest

The requirement to keep the Register of Interests was noted. Parish Council dispensations dated 26 November 2012 apply. No other interests were declared by Parish Council Members. No dispensations were sought.

123/13 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting dated 13 January 2014 were approved and signed by the Chair.

No parishioners attended the meeting.

124/13 Chairman's Report

The Chairman thanked Cllrs for their work on the Neighbourhood Plan and the organization of the forthcoming Sports Relief Mile.

125/13 District Councillors' and County Councillor's Question and Answer Session

District Councillor, Richard Deeming, commented that staff shortages in the District Council Planning Department meant that new applications were being held for long periods before being noted as received.

Cllr Deeming advised that Marks and Spencer would be opening a very large store at Longbridge and that the station car park at Longbridge was now open and free of charge to rail users.

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126/13 Planning

- (i) Cllrs considered the report (Enclosure A) on planning applications received and decisions taken by the District Council. It was agreed that the Parish Council would recommend rejection of application 13/0972.
- (ii) It was noted that the County Council had been unable to persuade Network Rail or the Department of Transport to install lifts at Barnt Green station when the new bridge was erected. It was agreed that a letter be sent to Sajid Javid, MP.
- (iii) Cllrs Whitehand and Hotham commented on a recent meeting with Mr and Mrs Terry to discuss the possible development of land owned by them. Cllrs had advised that access, and the fact that the land was currently located in the green belt, presented significant obstacles to development.

127/13 Neighbourhood, Planning and Environment Committee

Cllrs received the draft minutes of the Neighbourhood, Planning and Environment Committee dated 3 February 2014 (Enclosure B).

128/13 Finance

- (i) It was agreed that the reports of the Responsible Finance Officer for January and February 2014 (Enclosure C) be received and that any outstanding payments be made.
- (ii) It was noted that Aspire no longer wished to consider using the Parish Council office.
- (iii) It was agreed that £25,000 be invested for a fixed term of 6 months in a Lloyds Bank Corporate Bond.
- (iv) It was agreed that the training proposals submitted by the Executive Officer (Enclosure D) be approved.

129/13 Community

- (i) Cllrs received the draft minutes of the Sports Relief Mile Steering Group meetings dated 28 January and 13 February 2014. On matters referred to the Parish Council for decision, it was agreed:
 - (a) to arrange for the trees in Millennium Park to be trimmed prior to the event;
 - (b) that no formal invitations be issued by the Parish Council;
 - (c) that the risk assessment of Millennium Park be delegated to Cllr Charles Hotham;
 - (d) that the risk assessment of the course be delegated to Mike Dickenson and Simon Richards.
- (ii) Cllrs discussed a number of proposals to commemorate the outbreak of World War 1 noting that more than one activity was possible and that these could be spread across the calendar year. The following activities were agreed:
 - (a) to purchase 50 packets of poppy seeds and to make them available to local residents to collect from the parish office on a first-come, first-served basis;
 - (b) to promote a 'Centenary Competition' within the community on the theme of life during the First World War;
 - (c) to approach St Andrew's First School regarding their interest in a 'whole of school' project focussing on the First World War.

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- (iii) Cllrs Jagger and Hotham reported on a meeting dated 3 February 2014 with Ruth Dugdale and Mat Porton to discuss whether the Parish Council would consider purchasing a public access defibrillator for the village. Cllrs noted Mat Porton's costing of £970 + VAT for the initial purchase of the recommended defibrillator and £500 + VAT for an outdoor, heated lockable cabinet. It was agreed that the Parish Council should purchase a public access defibrillator for the village subject to finding a suitable location and permission to install.
- (iv) Cllrs considered their attitude to the general issue of permitting memorials to local residents and decided that this was appropriate on the clear understanding that the Parish Council was under no obligation to approve all applications received. On the specific issue of a memorial to Valerie Greaves it was decided that, subject to County Council approval for the installation, the family should be invited to consider funding the cost of a memorial bench at the junction of Bittell Road and Bittell Lane.

130/13 Governance

- (i) It was agreed that the date of the 2014 Annual Parish Meeting be Wednesday 7 May 2014.
- (ii) Cllr Hotham indicated that events such as the Sport Relief Mile highlighted the need for the Parish Council to adopt a Child Protection Policy. Cllrs considered agreed that Cllr Hotham be the Parish Council's Child Protection Officer and that the draft Policy, as amended (Enclosure F), be adopted. It was further agreed that the policy be forwarded to Sports Relief organizers.

131/13 Decisions taken since last meeting

Cllrs noted the decision taken under delegated powers to enter into new contracts for the supply of electricity to the office, street lighting and Christmas illuminations.

132/13 Councillors' reports and items for future agendas

Cllr Hotham drew attention to the seeming out-of-hours use of the Social Club car park and asked the Executive Officer to enquire about the matter.

Cllr Hotham commented that Parker's Piece had been used by Total Football over the February half term. The Executive Officer was directed to issue an invoice based on Monday to Friday usage.

Cllr Whitehand advised that she had been asked to meet with Gill Harvey, Jessica Fletcher and Janet King to consider the listing of assets in Barnt Green, Lickey and Blackwell. Cllrs agreed that Cllr Whitehand should represent the Parish Council.

Cllr Jagger asked that the new legislation governing public access to meetings and records be considered at a future meeting.

133/13 Date and Venue of Next Meeting

7.00pm on Monday 31 March 2014 at the Parish Office was agreed.

The meeting ended at 9.20pm.

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Chairman

31 March 2014