

Barnt Green Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting
held at 80 Hewell Road, Barnt Green on Wednesday 23 July 2014 at 7.00pm

Present: Councillors (Cllrs) Rosemary Briggs, Robert Cholmondeley, Kaye Elderton, Edwin Gumbley, Charles Hotham and John Jagger (Chair).

In attendance: Paul MacLachlan (Executive Officer)
County Cllr Peter McDonald (part)

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 response to County Council consultation on Statement of Community Involvement Update;
 - C: draft minutes of the Resources Committee meeting dated 9 July 2014
 - D: report of the Responsible Finance Officer.

33/14 **Apologies**

The apologies of Parish Councillors Davies and Whitehand were received and accepted.

34/14 **Declarations of Interest**

The requirement to keep the Register of Interests was noted.
Parish Council dispensations dated 26 November 2012 apply.
Cllrs Hotham and Jagger gave notice that, as members, they may have to leave the meeting if item 40/14 made recommendations regarding Barnt Green Social Club.
No dispensations were sought.

35/14 **Minutes of the last meeting**

Cllr Gumbley asked that in minute 26/14 the word 'training' be deleted and replaced by the word 'awareness'.
The minutes of the Parish Council meeting dated 25 June 2014, as amended, were approved and signed by the Chair.

No members of the public attended the meeting

36/14 **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman thanked Councillors for their work since the last meeting. Referring to business decided at prior meetings:

- the response from Sajid Javid MP regarding the station bridge was noted;
- the email correspondence exchanged between councillors on the subject of Barnt Green becoming a dementia-aware council was noted. Cllr Elderton was asked to make appropriate arrangements;
- Councillors noted the correspondence to be sent to estate agents in Barnt Green regarding out of parish property advertising.

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The Chairman thanked those councillors involved with the organizing of Neighbourhood Development Plan Working Groups and those who had participated in the working party placing signage along the Barnt Green Circular path.

37/14 District Councillors' and County Councillor's Question and Answer Session

County Councillor Peter McDonald reported that:

- admittance into homes for the elderly under County Council control had ceased;
- youth provision in the County had been given a one-year extension;
- by 2016, the County Council will have shed 60% of its services;
- those caught by the 'bedroom tax' and unable to access their benefit entitlement were experiencing real poverty because Capita was 6 to 12 months behind on the necessary disability assessments.

County Councillor McDonald left the meeting.

38/14 Neighbourhood, Planning and Environment

- (i) Cllrs considered the report (Enclosure A) on planning applications received and decisions taken by the District Council.

The following response was decided:

Application 14/0456: Barnt Green Sailing Club, Barnt Green Permit

- (ii) Cllrs considered the draft response to the County Council's consultation, *Statement of Community Involvement (Update)*. It was proposed by Cllr Hotham, seconded by Cllr Briggs and agreed that the consultation response (Enclosure B) be submitted.
- (iii) Cllr Jagger commented on a meeting with District Council officials regarding their *Place* initiative. Cllrs noted the schedule of work prepared by the Executive Officer and agreed that this be the basis of further discussion with the District Council. A recommendation regarding the *Place* initiative will be brought to the next meeting.
- (iv) Cllrs Jagger and Hotham reported on the District Council's New Homes Bonus Forum on 15 July. The Executive Officer was asked to obtain copies of the slides used at the meeting and to ask Jane Pickering, the District Council Finance Officer, to justify her assertion that redirecting the New Homes Bonus for local use would result in a 26% increase in the Council Tax.
- (v) Cllrs Jagger and Hotham reported on their meeting with Banners Gate and Cala Homes on 16 July. Cllrs had drawn attention to the following issues:
- the installation of new sewage pipes on Fiery Hill Road;
 - the seeming discrepancy in plans approved by the Department of Transport and Bromsgrove District Council in connection with the redirection of Fiery Hill Road;
 - the road closures that will follow from the electrification of the mainline rail track.
- A further meeting is planned for early October.
- (vi) It was reported that fires had been lit within Parker's Piece and that there had been alcohol consumed in the wooded area at the bottom of the field. It was agreed that no further action to be taken at this time.
- It was proposed by Cllr Hotham, seconded by Cllr Elderton and agreed that:
- (a) the missing rope and steps on the activity equipment in Parker's Piece be replaced;
- (b) the supplier be contacted regarding replacement of what appears to be two dead oak trees in Parker's Piece.

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39/14 Resources

The minutes of the Resources Committee meeting dated 9 July 2014 were received (Enclosure C).

40/14 Community

Cllr Gumbley reported on progress with the 2014 Community Walk Day. It was noted that neither the Friends' Meeting House nor St Andrew's Church hall were available to support the event on 27 September. Cllr Gumbley commented that he and the Footpaths Officer had considered whether to use the Barnt Green Social Club as a base for the walk but had decided against on the grounds that using Millennium Park, albeit without shelter, provided a more visible presence within the village.

It was proposed by Cllr Gumbley, seconded by Cllr Briggs and agreed that the walk start and finish in Millennium Park.

Cllr Hotham asked that his abstention be noted.

It was further proposed by Cllr Gumbley, seconded by Cllr Briggs and agreed that:

- (a) Vinalia be invited to run a licensed bar;
- (b) Warwicks be invited to provide the pig roast;
- (c) two portable loos be installed in Millennium Park for the event;
- (d) two banners be purchased to promote the event.

41/14 Finance

- (i) It was agreed that the report of the Responsible Finance Officer for July 2014 (Enclosure D) be received and that any outstanding payments be made.
- (ii) It was agreed that the Executive Officer be authorized to approve the reinvestment of the bond maturing in August 2014 following consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair.
- (iii) It was proposed by Cllr Hotham, seconded by Cllr Elderton and agreed that the Parish Council participate in a cycle to work salary sacrifice scheme.
- (iv) It was proposed by Cllr Jagger, seconded by Cllr Elderton and agreed that the Executive Officer write in support of CALC's application for grant support from the County Council.

42/14 Decisions taken under delegated powers since the last meeting

No decisions were made.

43/14 Councillors' reports and items for future agendas

Cllr Elderton requested that further enquiries be made of the fire brigade regarding the *flood* sandbags promised for Barnt Green.

Cllr Jagger referred to correspondence offering free NHS healthchecks in the village. It was proposed by Cllr Hotham, seconded and agreed that the Executive Officer act on advice from Barnt Green Surgery.

44/14 Date and Venue of Next Meeting

7.00pm on Wednesday 17 September 2014 at the Parish Office was agreed.

The meeting ended at 8.59pm.

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Chairman

27 October 2014