

Barnt Green Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at 80 Hewell Road, Barnt Green on Monday 27 October 2014 at 7.00pm

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

In attendance: Paul MacLachlan (Executive Officer)

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: report of the Responsible Finance Officer;
 - C: payments and receipts statement for the year to 30 September 2014;
 - D: 2014/15 budget and virements.

57/14 **Apologies**

The apologies of District Councillor Richard Deeming were received.

58/14 **Declarations of Interest**

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

59/14 **Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the Parish Council meetings dated 23 July 2014 and 17 September 2014 were agreed a true record and signed by the Chair.

No members of the public attended the meeting

60/14 **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman thanked Cllrs Gumbley and Hotham together with Parish Paths Officer, Simon Richards, for their contribution to a successful Community Walk. It was proposed by Edwin Gumbley, seconded by Charles Hotham, and agreed that flowers to the value of £25 be sent to Amanda Hill in acknowledgement of her assistance on the day.

Cllrs acknowledged the help given by Worcestershire County Council in cutting back the hedge along a 100m stretch of the walk which had become badly overgrown. It was proposed by Cllr Gumbley, seconded by Cllr Hotham and agreed, that the Parish Council contribute £250 towards the cost of this work.

The Chair reported on a meeting with Cala Homes (9 October) at which it had been advised that, if possible, the 17 shared ownership dwellings will be replaced by discount market housing.

The Chair advised that Wade Muggleton will be visiting Parker's Piece on 29 October to advise on the thinning of trees and planting of spring bulbs.

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61/14 District Councillors' and County Councillor's Question and Answer Session
No District or County Councillors attended the meeting.

62/14 Decisions taken since last meeting
No Officer decisions had been made under either specific or general authorizations.

63/14 Neighbourhood, Planning and Environment

- (i) Cllrs considered the report (Enclosure A) on planning applications received and decisions taken by the District Council. It was agreed that no objection be made to application 14/0785, 28 Margesson Drive.
Cllrs noted with regret the Planning Authority's reply to the Executive Officer's correspondence regarding the lack of consultation on rail bridge applications 14/0685, 14/0728 and 14/0732.
- (ii) It was agreed that the Programme Officer be advised that the Parish Council wishes to participate in the Bromsgrove and Cross-boundary hearings in December 2014 in order to address issues relating to:
 - the lack of a boundary for the Greater Barnt Green Settlement area;
 - the number of houses required within the Bromsgrove area.
- (iii) It was agreed that Where Next? be asked to undertake the winter planting of the containers on Hewell Road at a cost of £137.50 + VAT.

64/14 Community

- (i) It was proposed by Cllr Jagger, seconded by Cllr Whitehand and agreed, that a two-course Volunteers' Christmas lunch be held at Barnt Green Cricket Club on Monday 15 December and that the cost be met from the Chairman's Allowance.
- (ii) It was agreed that the Parish Council carol service be held on Friday 28 November prior to the St Andrew's School Christmas Fete.

65/14 Finance

- (i) It was agreed that the report of the Responsible Finance Officer for October 2014 (Enclosure B) be received and that any outstanding payments be made.
- (ii) It was agreed that the £50,000 bond maturing on 29 October 2014 be reinvested, if possible, in a Cambridge Building Society Council 90-day notice account at 1% or, failing that, in a further six-month Lloyds Bank bond.
- (iii) Cllr Davies confirmed that he had undertaken the quarterly accounting checks and had found everything in order.
- (iv) Cllrs reviewed and agreed the receipts and payments statement (Enclosure C) for the period to 30 September 2014.
- (v) Cllrs reviewed the 2014/15 budget (Enclosure D) in the light of receipts and payments to date and agreed the virements indicated.
- (vi) Cllrs agreed to meet prior to the next Parish Council meeting in order to identify any plans and activities needing to be incorporated within the 2015/16 budget.
- (vii) Cllr Whitehand reported on the work being undertaken with Alvechurch and Lickey and Blackwell Parish Councils in connection with the listing of local heritage assets. Cllr Whitehand indicated that the Parish Council would be invited to approve all

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Barnt Green parish nominations for national or local listing prior to formal submission. It was proposed by Cllr Elderton, seconded by Cllr Davies and agreed, that expenditure up to £100 be approved for this work and that costs be allocated to the *Other Environment* budget

- (viii) Cllr Hotham reported on a meeting with Total Football (20 October) at which the charges for use of Parker's Piece had been discussed.

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

- the field will be hired to Total Football using a block booking agreement;
- block bookings will be of approximately 4 months duration;
- the sum paid by Total Football for block bookings from 1 September 2014 to 31 August 2015 shall not exceed £510;
- both parties will agree, in writing, the basis for future payment increases;
- the invoices issued to Total Football for use prior to 1 September 2014 be withdrawn on payment of the block booking for the period to 31 December 2014 and agreement of the basis for future payment increases.

- (ix) Cllr Jagger reported on a meeting (1 October) with the landlord of the parish council office at 80 Hewell Road to discuss the terms for extending the lease beyond the current expiry date in April 2015.

It was proposed by Cllr Jagger, seconded by Cllr Cholmondeley and agreed, that the lease be extended for 5 years on current terms varied as follows:

- a fixed rent of £4,950 per annum throughout the term;
- a tenant-only option to break at the end of year 3 with 6 months written notice;
- community groups be given access to the office for reasonable use.

66/14 Councillors' reports and items for future agendas

- (i) Cllr Hotham reported on a meeting with Sajid Javid and Network Rail at which Network Rail had agreed to address local rail squeal by increasing the number of greasers in situ from 5 to 9. The Executive Officer was asked to arrange a meeting with Network Rail to discuss issues of local concern.

- (ii) Cllrs noted the following meetings:

- 29 October: Parish Conference at Worcester;
- 5 November: Barnt Green Waters at Sailing Club;
- 7 November: Parish Councils meeting with Sajid Javid at Bromsgrove;
- 26 November: CALC AGM at Worcester;
- 10 December: Bromsgrove CALC meeting at Bromsgrove.

- (iii) Cllrs noted and agreed the following:

- a request from Barnt Green Sports Club for a letter of support from the Parish Council in connection with an application for grant support;
- that the Parish Council seek grant support from District Cllr Richard Deeming for the purchase of new planters;

67/14 Date and Venue of Next Meeting

7.00pm on Wednesday 26 November 2014 at the Parish Office was agreed.

The meeting ended at 9.12pm.

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Chairman

26 November 2014