



Barnt Green Parish Council



Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting for the Parish of Barnt Green

Wednesday 30th April 2008

The Parish Centre, Sandhills Road, Barnt Green.

The Meeting was chaired by Mrs Judith Jagger, Chairman of the Parish Council, and was attended by residents of the parish whose names are recorded on the Attendance List. In addition, District Councillor Richard Deeming attended.

1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed those present and thanked them for attending.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from County Councillor Peter McDonald, District Councillor Ann Doyle, and Cllr Tom Gray.

3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 2nd May 2007

These were circulated at the Meeting. There were three items still outstanding. The Parish Council undertook to follow up with the County Council Highways Dept the queries regarding the possible encroachment of the fence on Fiery Hill Road and the existence of "conservation grade" yellow parking restriction lines. The question of speeding traffic on Bittell Road was being addressed as part of the Longbridge Area Action Plan.

4. Report of the Chairman of the Parish Council

The Chairman reported on the activities of the Council during the last 12 months and its aims for the forthcoming year. She highlighted the reduction in car parking charges at the station, the establishment of the Barnt Green Parish Youth Council and the successful Festival held in 2007. Plans for the coming year included a facelift for Millennium Park, the installation of new welcome signs and fingerposts and a campaign to "Make Barnt Green Greener".

A copy of the Annual Report is available on request. It is also available on the council's website. Sincere thanks were given to those volunteers who help the village and the Parish Council so much.

5. Financial Report of the Parish Council

The accounts for the financial year 2007-8 were circulated at the meeting. The Parish Council's Responsible Finance Officer, Roger Westbury, explained the reasons for any significant variances between the figures for 2006-7 and 2007-8. He explained that the early payment by Bromsgrove District Council of the first part of the precept in 2007 had distorted the income figures, and confirmed that the total precept for 2007-08 had been maintained at £56000. The Parish Council had current reserves in excess of £109,000. The Council had set one year's precept as a prudent minimum figure for its reserves. The Millennium Park facelift and a



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contribution towards an adventure trail in the Bittell Road Playing Field would both be funded from existing reserves.

6. Questions on the Reports

There were no questions on the reports.

7. Any Other Issues

- a) The problem of lorries using Sandhills Green and having to reverse when they encountered the low bridge was raised. The Parish Council undertook to raise this with WCC Highways to see if additional warning signs could be installed.
- b) A resident enquired whether more trains on the Bham-Worcester line could be encouraged to stop at Barnt Green. The Parish Council thought this was unlikely until such time as the refurbishment of Bromsgrove station had been completed, when it would be an issue for the train operating company.
- c) A resident raised the proposed perimeter fencing due to be installed at St Andrews School. The Parish Council explained the planning requirements and suggested that the resident contacted the school headteacher.
- d) It was suggested that Julie Kirkbride MP had intimated in a letter to a resident that the County Council was considering re-instating the damaged speed camera on Bittell Road. The Parish Council advised that this had not been mentioned in its comprehensive discussions with WCC Highways, but undertook to establish their current policy on this matter.
- e) A resident reported having seen rats on Bittell Farm Road. District Cllr Deeming agreed to take this up with Bromsgrove District Council.

8. Close of Meeting

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.30pm.