



Barnt Green Parish Council



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

Wednesday 6th May 2009

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 Ann Doyle attended.

1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed those present and thanked them for attending.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from District Councillor Richard Deeming, Cllr Rachel Banner and Alison Hutchings.

3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 30th April 2008

These were circulated at the Meeting and approved by those present as a true record. They were signed by the Chairman.

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 refurbishment of Millennium Park and the installation of new swings; the purchase of new Christmas lights, thanking the village shops and businesses which had contributed £3150 towards this; the installation of permanent Christmas trees on Hewell Road and the successful Christmas Fayre. Plans for the coming year included an adventure trail on Parker's Piece; resurfacing of roads and footways and action to alleviate the shortage of parking space in the village.

She thanked all councillors and the executive officer for their contributions during the year, and all those volunteers who had helped the council in its endeavours.

A copy of the Annual Report is available on request. It is also available on the council's website.

5. Financial Report of the Parish Council

The accounts for the financial year 2008-09 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 2007-08 and 2008-09. The Parish Council had current reserves in excess of £95,000 and had set one year's precept (currently £56000) as a prudent minimum figure for its reserves. In view of the problems regarding safety of bank deposits over the past year, the Parish Council had taken the decision to spread its reserves between three banks and had invested in bonds in HSBC and Lloyds TSB.



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6. Questions on the Reports

There were no questions on the reports.

7. Any Other Issues

- a) A resident asked if the council had identified ways of meeting demand from elderly residents for smaller, affordable housing to downsize to. Cllr Whitehand pointed out that housing was the responsibility of Bromsgrove District Council and that the Parish Council was only a consultee. The need for smaller dwellings had been recognised in the Parish Plan, but the high cost of land in Barnt Green made it less profitable for developers to provide such accommodation. The situation was further constrained by the existence of the green belt and, at present, the moratorium on new development. Some of the older houses in the conservation area had already been converted to apartments. District Cllr Doyle advised that some units were being developed at Burcot Grange and elsewhere in the district.
- b) A resident asked if there were plans to reactivate the speed camera on Bittell Road. The Parish Council replied that the District Council had no plans to do this, and that in its opinion the speed activated signs on Bittell Road were having a beneficial effect. The Parish Council had discussed with the police the possibility of using speed guns on this road, but had so far received no promises on this.
- c) A resident followed up on last year's query regarding the possible encroachment of the fence on Fiery Hill Road, which had been installed by Network Rail. Cllr Whitehand advised that this had been reported to the District conservation officer, but in view of Network Rail's statutory position there was no action that could be taken.
- d) A further query from last year was raised regarding "conservation grade" yellow lines. The Council reported that it was not Worcestershire CC's practice to use such lines, and the meeting agreed that in view of the length of Fiery Hill Road it would look strange to have both conservation and non-conservation lines on the same stretch of highway. This query was discharged.
- e) The meeting noted that car park charges at Barnt Green station had recently been increased without any consultation with the Parish Council. The Chairman undertook to take this up with London Midland.
- f) A resident expressed his thanks to Tony's Handyman for the new fence that had been installed on Station Approach. The Chairman said that she would pass this on, and advised the meeting that the Council would shortly be installing a new noticeboard on the corner of Station Approach and Hewell Road for village notices.

8. Close of Meeting

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.50pm.