



# Barnt Green Parish Council

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Parish Centre on Monday 27th April 2009 at 7.00pm

**Present:** Cllrs. Mrs Judith Jagger (chairman), Mr David Gilburn (vice chairman)  
Mrs Rachel Banner, Mrs Diane Carr, Mrs Chris Jenkins, Mrs Susan  
Whitehand and Mr David Harding.

**In attendance:** Roger Westbury (executive officer).

**Appendices:** The following documents will be appended to the signed minutes:

- a. the Agenda
- b. a report from the Chairman
- c. an updated report on planning applications
- d. an updated report from the RFO.
- e. Receipts and Payments Account for year ended 31.3.09
- f. Bank Reconciliation statement for year ended 31.3.09
- g. Draft Parish Council Charter received from BDC.
- h. a report on correspondence received.

**01/09 Apologies** – Cllr Tom Gray whose reason for absence as noted in the attendance book was accepted by the council.

### **02/09 Declarations of Interest**

- (a) The requirement to keep the Register of Interests was noted.
- (b) No interests were declared by Members.
- (c) The Council noted that Michael Waters, a potential new councillor, had advised the executive officer that he was no longer interested in being considered as a councillor

**03/09 Minutes of the Last Meeting** held on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2009 were approved as a true record and were signed by the Chairman.

*No Parishioners attended the meeting.*

### **04/09 Chairman's Report**

The Council received a written report from the Chairman, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

### **05/09 District and County Councillors' Question & Answer Session**

Neither our county councillor nor district councillors were able to attend the meeting.



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## 06/09 Infrastructure

### Planning & Conservation

The council received an updated report on applications received and decisions taken by the District Council's Planning Committee, a copy of which is appended to these minutes. The council noted that planning permission had been refused for 18A Fiery Hill Road, but that Sandhills Green House was back on the planning list.

The council noted that the proposed BDC Planning Workshop had been postponed and would now take place in July – exact date to be confirmed.

### Highways & Lighting

The Council noted that water was “pooling” on the recently resurfaced roads in the village and resolved to bring this to the attention of WCC Highways.

The Council is in discussion with a local solicitor to determine whether the shops on Hewell Road have a right of way or right of access over the broad pavement, and whether they have a licence from Worcestershire CC to park there. The Council resolved to check this with the County Council.

### Environment

The Council noted that the specialist drainage company engaged to investigate the problem with surface water in Millennium Park had installed a land drain which had solved the immediate problem of getting rid of the water. The source of the leak had still not been identified and Severn Trent Water had agreed to look further into this.

The Council accepted a revised quotation of £1700 for a new metal noticeboard at the bottom of Station Approach. It was agreed that this should be green.

## 07/09 Community Safety

**Village Watch** – Three issues had been raised at the PACT meeting held on April 16. These were parking on Hewell Road, parking on Fiery Hill Road, and speeding on Bittell Road. The Council noted that the Police had proposed holding an “Open Day” in the village where these issues could be discussed further and solutions sought. The Council agreed to support this initiative and agreed that invitations to attend should be extended to the businesses along Hewell Road.

The Council noted that Cofton Hackett combined its Neighbourhood Watch and PACT meetings and agreed to suggest this approach be considered for Barnt Green.

**Health & Safety** – the EO advised that safety inspections of the park and playing field had been carried out in March and that the RoSPA inspector had highlighted two problems – one with the collapsed weir in Parker's Piece and one with the



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new swings in Millennium Park. The Council was already aware of the problem with the weir and was taking steps to get it repaired. The EO undertook to look at the swings and to ask Wicksteed to inspect them if it was felt that there was a problem.

### **Communication**

The Council noted that Shred-It were holding a free Community Shred for confidential waste at Bromsgrove Rugby Club on May 17 and in view of this had decided not to proceed with a similar event in Barnt Green. The Bromsgrove event was publicised in the Spring Newsletter.

### **08/09 Governance**

**Finance** - The RFO circulated an updated report, a copy of which is appended to these minutes. Payments were approved.

The Council agreed to accept the increase in Parish Centre hire charges from £19.25 to £20 per session.

The receipts and payments account and the Annual Return and Annual Governance Statement for the year ended March 31, 2009 were approved by the Council. The Council noted that the external auditor had appointed 30 June 2009 as the date on or after which interested parties for the area may exercise their rights and that a notice will be displayed to this effect; the Annual Return is also to be completed and returned to the external auditor by 30 June 2009.

The Council authorised the re-appointment of Diane Malley as its internal auditor at a fee of £100.

The Council received the bank reconciliation statement for the year ended 31.3.09.

The Council agreed to accept quotations from Ellteve to paint nine new lampposts in the village (£540) and to repaint 26 existing columns (£260), and from Hosking GM to strim the field by the stream (£132) and to rebuild the collapsed weir (£624).

### **Administration**

The council noted that Martin Peyton had agreed to reimburse it for the cost of the damaged laptop and County Court charges – a total of £375 to be paid in four instalments commencing in May 2009.

The Council identified the cleaning of the stream on Parker's Piece as a project that could be offered to Redditch Unpaid Work for consideration.

The Council received the draft Parish Council Charter from Bromsgrove District Council and agreed that Cllrs Jagger, Whitehand and Jenkins would examine the content and prepare any response in time for the consultation deadline of June 1<sup>st</sup>.



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The Council considered a letter received from Mr Peter McHugh regarding the proposed Bordesley Park development and the EO was asked to obtain more details on this from the clerk to Alvechurch Parish Council.

The Council noted that a request under the Freedom on Information Act for a copy of its 2009/10 budget had been received from Lickey End PC. The EO was due to discuss this with other clerks, but was minded to refer the applicant to the Parish Council website where the basic budget would be posted.

**Youth Council** – the Council noted that the Youth Council would be participating in the Barnt Green Festival in June. It further noted that new grant applications for funding for adventure equipment were being prepared.

A quotation from Playdale to install the existing equipment was being finalised.

**Office & IT** - nothing to report.

**School Governor** – the Council noted that the next meeting of the Governors of St Andrews School was scheduled for April 29.

**WCALC/NALC** – the EO had attended a Clerks Gathering on April 23 at which the guest speaker was the external auditor from Clement Keys.

**CPRE** – the Council noted that the members its Planning Group had agreed to attend CPRE meetings on a rota basis.

### **Festivals and Events**

The council noted that arrangements for the summer festival were well advanced, although an official “opener” had not been secured. It was agreed that the EO would draft an invitation to pop singer Jamelia, who is a village resident.

- 09/09 Correspondence Received** – a report was circulated at the meeting and a copy is appended to these minutes.
- 10/09 Urgent Decisions** – none taken since last meeting
- 11/09 Future Agenda Items** – Members’ allowances for 2009/10.  
Planting in Millennium Park.



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**12/09 Date and Venue of Next Meeting** – Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2009 at 7.00pm at the Parish Centre was agreed. This would also be the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council. The council was also reminded that the next 3 Parishes Meeting would be held on Wednesday April 29 at 7.30pm at The Parish Centre and would be hosted by Barnt Green, and that the Annual Parish Meeting would take place on Wednesday 6 May at 8pm at The Parish Centre.

The meeting ended at 8.25pm.

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Vice Chairman                      May 18, 2009.