



Barnt Green Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Parish Centre on Monday 27th February 2006 at 7.00pm

- Present:** Mrs Elaine Buckett (chairman), Mrs D Carr, Mrs B Lucas, Ms S Parker, Mrs S Whitehand and Mr T Gray.
- In attendance:** County Cllr Peter McDonald, District Cllr Brian Fuller and Roger Westbury (executive officer)
- Appendices:** The following documents will be appended to the signed minutes:
- the Agenda
 - an updated report from the RFO.
 - An update on Planning Applications
 - A report from the school governor.
- 197/05 Apologies** –Mrs J Jagger and Mr P Cliff whose reason for absence, noted in the Attendance Book, was approved.
- 198/05 Declarations of Interest**
- The requirement to keep the Register of Interests was noted.
 - No interests were declared by Members.
- 199/05 Minutes of the Last Meeting** held on 30th January 2006 were approved subject to the amendment that Cllrs Carr and Lucas would jointly head up the 2007 Festival team. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

The meeting was adjourned to allow two parishioners, Mr Dean Baker and Mr Bill Sedgwick, to address the Council. They expressed their concerns at the current state of the Bittell Road playing field following recent heavy usage and urged the Council to give careful consideration to the request from Catshill Juniors Football Club to play league games on the field. The chairman thanked them for their input and confirmed that the matter was on the agenda for discussion later in the meeting, and the EO was instructed to advise Mr Baker and Mr Sedgwick of the Council's decision.

- 200/05 District Councillors' and County Councillor's Question and Answer Session**
Cllr McDonald informed the meeting that Worcs CC was looking to impose an increase of 5 per cent in Council tax for 2006-07. He advised that the District Council was attempting to get more money from the County Council for highways work.



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Cllr Fuller thanked the parish Council for its pledge of £1000 towards HARM's costs, but advised that this pledge would not be drawn on now that the appeal hearing had finished.

Cllr Fuller advised that Bromsgrove DC was recommending a 4.99 per cent increase in Council Tax and that there would be cuts in Council services over the coming years. This could affect concurrent functions grants.

201/05 Police

The chairman welcomed Constable Jayne Willetts to the meeting who gave an update on the CCTV trial in Rubery.

She advised that traders in Barnt Green could contact the CCTV Centre directly to report incidents. The number to ring is 01527 578119. It was decided to invite someone from the CCTV team to the March Council meeting together with the chairman of the Barnt Green Chamber of Trade and the chairman of the Rubery Business Trade Association.

Constable Willetts was invited to submit a piece on policing matters for the next Parish Newsletter, to be published in April.

202/05 Chairman's Report – the chairman's Report was noted. The Council agreed that the question of holding fewer Council meetings should be included on the agenda for discussion at the March Council meeting.

203/05 Finance

- (a) The RFO circulated an updated report, a copy of which is appended to these minutes. Payments were approved.
- (b) The Council noted that the concurrent functions grant for 2006-07 had been set at £4615 excluding street lighting, but including a payment in respect of grass cutting.

204/05 Environment

- (a) The Council approved a payment of £50 towards the cost of plants and materials incurred in improving the village environment
- (b) The Council received a comprehensive report from the footpaths officer and approved his proposals for future walking activities. The EO was asked to convey the Council's thanks to the footpaths officer for his excellent work on this.
- (a) The Council approved a payment of £300 for soil and plants for the Hewell road planters once they are installed.

205/05 Lighting

The Council approved a quotation of £325 from Ellteve Lighting to illuminate the Parish Council noticeboard. The EO was asked to confirm that the proposed lighting would be inside the frame.



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The Council resolved to defer for 12 months the question of additional Christmas lighting for Hewell Road.

206/05 106 Monies

The Council resolved to empower the chairman, vice-chairman and EO to place orders for equipment and services in the schemes being funded from 106 Monies provided they were satisfied that prices showed only marginal increases on those quoted 12 months ago.

207/05 Parish Plan

The Council received the minutes of the Parish Plan Steering Committee meeting held on February 1st 2006.

208/05 Planning and Conservation

The Council received an updated report on planning applications. The chairman confirmed that £1000 had been pledged to the HARM Group under urgent decisions. This money had been transferred from the administration budget, but would not now be drawn down.

209/05 School Governor

The Council received a report from the council representative on the St Andrews School governing body, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

210/05 Communications

In order to improve communications between members, the Council agreed to fund the provision of answering/fax machines to those Councillors who did not have e-mail access. Members interested in taking up this offer should contact the EO.

211/05 Special Event

Saturday June 23, 2007 was provisionally agreed as the date for the 2007 Festival.

212/05 Urgent Decisions

See 208/05 above.

213/05 Playing Field

- (a) The Council resolved to decline the request from Catshill Juniors to play its league games on the Playing Field in the 2006-07 season. The EO was asked to communicate this decision to the club.
- (b) The Council also agreed to take advice on the current poor state of the area of the field on which football coaching was held to determine what action should be taken to enable the surface to recover.



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- (c) The Council noted Birmingham City Council's "interest in principle" in selling the playing field land to the Parish Council so that a deed of dedication could be taken out. The Council awaits developments on this.
- (d) The Council noted that the new basketball net would be sited in the corner of the field adjacent to the Sports Club.

214/05 Millennium Park

The Council noted that the transfer of title to Millennium Park from Alvechurch PC to Barnt Green PC had now been completed and the deed of dedication could now be drawn up.

Cllrs Parker and Gray confirmed the siting of the new roundabout in front of the lower tree, which would need pruning. The EO was asked to obtain a quotation for this work.

Cllr Gray also suggested that a slab path rather than a tarmac path from the entrance to the swings would be preferable. The EO was asked to ascertain RoSPA's attitude to this and to obtain a comparative quotation if there was no objection.

215/05 NALC, CALC, Training & CPRE

The Council noted that the chairman and EO attended a briefing on Pensions & Gratuities on February 21st.

216/05 Correspondence Received – a report was circulated at the meeting and a copy is appended to these minutes.

217/05 Future Agenda Items – CCTV presentation, footpaths officer's presentation and policy on use of the playing field.

218/05 Date and Venue of Next Meeting – Monday 27th March 2006 at 7.00pm at the Parish Centre was agreed..

The meeting ended at 8.55pm.

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Chairman
27th March 2006