



# Barnt Green Parish Council

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Parish Centre on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2008 at 7.00pm

**Present:** Cllrs. Mrs Judith Jagger (chairman), Mr David Gilburn (vice chairman), Mr David Harding, Mrs Diane Carr, Mr Rick Main, Mrs Susan Whitehand, Mr Tom Gray (until 8.00pm) and Mr Martin Peyton (from 8.00pm)

**In attendance:** Roger Westbury (executive officer); District Cllr Richard Deeming

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

- a. the Agenda
- b. Chairman's Report
- c. an updated report on planning applications
- d. an updated report from the RFO.
- e. Income & Expenditure account as at 31.1.08
- f. a report on correspondence received.

**100/07 Apologies –** None received

**101/07 Declarations of Interest**

- (a) The requirement to keep the Register of Interests was noted.
- (b) No interests were declared by Members.

**102/07 Minutes of the Last Meeting** held on 28th January 2008 were approved and were signed by the Chairman.

*No Parishioners attended the meeting.*

**103/07 District and County Councillors' Question & Answer Session**

Cllr Deeming updated the council on the Longbridge development and confirmed that there would be no access to the site from Cofton Church Lane. He also advised that 35 per cent of the housing on BDC owned land would be social housing.

He recommended that the council discuss its draft grant application to BDC with the leader of the council.

**104/07 Chairman's Report**

The council received a written report from the Chairman, a copy of which will be appended to these minutes.



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## 105/07 Infrastructure

### Planning & Conservation

The council received a 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 the West Midland Regional Spatial Strategy could result in more housing being built in the Bromsgrove area.

### Highways & Lighting

The council noted that a meeting had been held with Ian Bamforth of WCC Highways following the letter sent to County Cllr Prodger bemoaning the lack of activity on various highways matters.

The council further noted that WCC Highways had now offered to fund the installation of bollards on the Twatling Road triangle and at the junction of Bittell Road and Bittell Farm Road to prevent vehicular damage to grass verges at these locations. Orders for this work will be placed in April.

A meeting had been held with WCC to discuss what welcome signs and fingerposts could be installed in the village and the designs should be finalised by the end of March. It is anticipated that they will be installed early summer.

The council noted that the new lighting in Millennium Park had been well received by residents.

### Environment

The EO advised that a meeting with Cllr Roger Hollingworth, leader of Bromsgrove District Council, to discuss the Parish Council's proposed request for a grant to refurbish Millennium Park and to install adventure equipment on Bittell Road Playing field had been arranged for Monday March 10. The aim of the meeting is to clarify Cllr Hollingworth's response that "BDC no longer gives grants". If it proves impossible to secure a grant from BDC for this work, the council resolved to carry out all of the proposed improvements to Millennium Park and to fund from its reserves the approximate cost of £19000.

The council asked the EO to place an order for a replacement bench (with dark green sides) at the corner of Bittell Road and Bittell Farm Road at a quoted cost of £718.

The council resolved to establish a sub committee to investigate ways of creating a more festive atmosphere in the village over the Christmas period. Sub committee members will be Cllrs Jagger, Carr and Main.

Cllr Carr reported that she was in the process of contacting all businesses in the village with a view to resurrecting the Chamber of Trade. Allied to this would be a campaign to "Make Barnt Green Green" and to encourage traders to do away with plastic bags. If this proved to be successful, the council will consider helping to fund re-usable bags.



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### 106/07 Community Safety

**Village Watch** – the council received verbal reports on the recent District Neighbourhood Watch meeting in Bromsgrove and on the Barnt Green Neighbourhood Watch meeting held on February 19. The council noted that only 7 of the 34 roads in Barnt Green Parish currently had coordinators.

**Health & Safety** – the EO confirmed that he had ordered safety inspections for Millennium Park play area and Bittell Road Playing Field. These would take place in March.

**Communication** – the EO confirmed that the deadline for copy for the spring newsletter is 31 March. The council agreed that this should include a photograph of the bulbs on the Twatling Road triangle and an article on “rogue traders”.

### 107/07 Governance

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

The council received the forecast income and expenditure account as at 31 January 2008 and the EO was asked to update this for the next council meeting on March 31.

**Youth Council** – The Youth Council had looked at potential sites on the playing field for an adventure trail and had agreed that the best site was on the lower part of the field in front of the copse.

**Office & IT** –The council noted that a surveyor had now inspected the former Lloyds TSB premises and advised that a significant amount of work would be required to bring these up to a reasonable standard. In view of this the EO was asked to instruct the council’s solicitors to advise Lloyds TSB that it did not wish to proceed with the assignment of the lease on the property. The council would continue to look for suitable office premises in the village. It was agreed that an article explaining this decision would be included in the spring newsletter.

**108/07 Correspondence Received** – a report was circulated at the meeting and a copy is appended to these minutes.

**109/07 Future Agenda Items** –  
None suggested

**110/07 Date and Venue of Next Meeting** – Monday 31st March 2008 at 7.00pm at the Parish Centre was agreed. The council noted that Cllr Roger Hollingworth, leader of Bromsgrove District Council, would be attending the meeting. The council



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agreed to advise Cllr Hollingworth by 20 March of the questions it wished to raise at the meeting. The EO was asked to coordinate this.

The meeting ended at 8.55pm.

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Chairman

31 March 2008