



Barnt Green Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Parish Centre on Monday 23rd February 2009 at 7.00pm

- Present:** Cllrs. Mrs Judith Jagger (chairman), Mr David Gilburn (vice chairman), Mrs Diane Carr, Mr Tom Gray, Mrs Susan Whitehand and Mr David Harding.
- In attendance:** District Cllr Richard Deeming; Roger Westbury (executive officer).
- Appendices:** The following documents will be appended to the signed minutes:
- the Agenda
 - a report from the Chairman
 - an updated report from the RFO.
 - Income & Expenditure Account as at 17.2.09
 - a report on correspondence received.

The council expressed its deep sadness at the death of Cllr Rick Main. The Chairman asked the council to observe a minute's silence in memory of Rick and confirmed that his funeral would be held on Thursday 26 February in Wakefield. A memorial service would be held at St Andrew's Church in Barnt Green on Saturday 14 March.

108/08 Apologies – none received.

109/08 Declarations of Interest

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

110/08 District and County Councillors' Question & Answer Session

District Cllr Richard Deeming had nothing to report on District Council activities. Apologies had been received from County Cllr McDonald and District Cllr Doyle.

111/08 Casual Vacancy

The council interviewed three candidates for co-option to the council and resolved to invite Ms Rachel Banner to fill the vacant post. The chairman thanked all three candidates for attending. Confidential minute 01/09 refers.

112/08 Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 26th January 2009 were approved.

No Parishioners wished to address the meeting.



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113/08 Chairman's Report

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

114/08 Infrastructure

Planning & Conservation

No planning applications had been received from the District Council in the past month. The Council noted that the Baptist Church had acknowledged that there were concerns regarding its plans for an extension and was currently reconsidering its proposed changes.

The council noted that Bromsgrove District Council had agreed to consult with Parish Councils in future on certificates of lawfulness.

Highways & Lighting

The Council noted that resurfacing work on Fiery Hill Road and Hewell Lane had been completed and was currently underway on Margesson Drive and Penzer Drive. The council agreed that Hewell Road and Blackwell Road were the next roads requiring attention.

The council expressed its disappointment that Central Networks had dug a trench across Fiery Hill Road immediately after the resurfacing. This had been brought to the attention of WCC Highways.

A working group comprising Cllrs Jagger, Carr and Banner (subject to her agreement) was established to look into additional Christmas lighting requirements for 2009.

Environment

The appointment of a councillor to oversee environmental matters following Cllr Main's death was deferred until such time as the council was back to full strength.

Cllr Gray agreed to contact Hosking Ground Maintenance to ask them to move the goalposts on Parker's Piece and to examine the weir on the stream at the far end of the field.

The council noted that there was still surface water in Millennium Park and agreed that the drain should be rodded. If this failed to solve the problem, Severn Trent would be asked to take another look at it.



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115/08 Community Safety

Village Watch – nothing to report.

Health & Safety – the Council noted that several footways in the village were uneven and that this should be brought to the attention of the District Council.

Communication – the Council noted that the deadline for the Spring Newsletter was March 31. Topics to be covered included The Festival, highways work and the Spring Walk.

The EO reported that Shred-It had agreed to hold a free Community Shred for confidential waste in the village. This will take place in the spring and will be publicised in the Newsletter.

116/08 Governance

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

The council received a copy of the income and expenditure account up to 17.2.09 and the draft budget for 2009/10. The Finance Group agreed to meet on March 9 when the budget would be finalised and the asset register and risk assessment would be reviewed.

The council noted that the application for a grant from Playbuilder towards additional adventure trail equipment had been rejected, but that an allowance of £20000 towards this had been earmarked in the Parish Council's reserves.

Administration

The Council passed a resolution to declare a vacancy on the Parish Council following the death of Cllr Main. This would be communicated to the District Council.

The Council resolved to make a donation of £600 towards the fund for rebuilding the scout hut. Cllr Gray asked for his view that this should be considered as a one-off charity donation to be recorded.

The council noted that the application portfolio for reaccreditation of its Quality Parish status had been delivered to CALC and would be considered at the next meeting of the County Accreditation Panel to be held on March 24.

Youth Council – the Youth Council continues to seek sources of grants for further adventure trail equipment.

Office & IT – nothing to report.



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School Governor – the council noted that St Andrews School is seeking to become an “eco school”.

WCALC/NALC – nothing to report.

CPRE – a decision on the appointment of a councillor to represent the council at CPRE meetings was deferred until the council was back to its full complement of members.

117/08 Correspondence Received – a report was circulated at the meeting and a copy is appended to these minutes.

118/08 Festivals and Events

The council noted that arrangements for the summer festival were well advanced and that St Andrews School had agreed to participate in the Maypole dance.

The cost of attendance by St Johns Ambulance had increased dramatically since the last festival and Cllr Carr agreed to query this with them.

The next meeting of the organising committee will take place in April.

119/08 Martin Peyton

The council noted that Martin Peyton had still not returned the Parish Council’s laptop which is in his possession. The council resolved to write to Mr Peyton again requesting return of the laptop within two weeks and advising that if it was not forthcoming, the council would instigate proceedings through the County Court to recover its property.

120/08 Future Agenda Items – Members’ allowances for 2009/10.

Noticeboard for the bottom of Station Approach.

121/08 Urgent Decisions

None taken since last meeting.

122/08 Date and Venue of Next Meeting – Monday 30th March 2009 at 7.00pm at the Parish Centre was agreed.

The meeting ended at 8.45pm.

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Chairman

March 30, 2009.