



Barnt Green Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Parish Centre on Monday 22 February 2010 at 7.00pm

Present: Cllrs. Mrs Judith Jagger (chairman), Mrs Diane Carr, Mr Alun Davies, Mrs Rachel Banner, Mrs Susan Whitehand and Mr Tom Gray

In attendance: District Cllrs Ann Doyle and Richard Deeming; Roger Westbury (executive officer); Ron Rand (Parish Lengthsman)

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

- a. the agenda
- b. Report on planning applications
- c. RFO Report
- d. a report on correspondence received.

106/09 Apologies – County Cllr Peter McDonald; Cllrs David Gilburn and Chris Jenkins whose reasons for absence as recorded in the attendance book were approved by the Council.

107/09 Declarations of Interest

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

108/09 Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 25th January 2010 were approved as a true record and were signed by the Chairman.

No Parishioners attended the meeting.

109/09 Chairman's Report

The Council received a verbal report from the Chairman. She and the EO had attended the postponed Parish Councils Forum meeting held on 28 January when it was announced that Bromsgrove DC was looking for a 15 per cent cut in its budget for the coming year.

The Chairman circulated the latest list of members of the BDC/Redditch BC shared management team.

She reminded members that, following David Gilburn's decision to step down from the Council at the end of March, a vacancy would be declared and a new vice chairman would be required. The EO had confirmed that the vacancy could be filled by co-option. Mrs Doreen Hawksley had expressed interest in standing for co-option when the vacancy is formally declared.



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110/09 District and County Councillors' Question & Answer Session

District Cllr Doyle informed the Council that complaints had been received from residents in Cherry Hill Drive regarding the withdrawal of recycling collection services from April. BDC had confirmed that it can only offer a collection service from Fiery Hill Road as Cherry Hill Drive is too narrow for the collection vehicles to drive up. BDC will monitor the situation to ascertain how many households take advantage of the Fiery Hill Road collection. If the problem persists, alternative solutions will be investigated.

Cllr Deeming advised the Council that he would be meeting with Cllr Hollingworth on 23 February to discuss the recent planning application from 22 Orchard Croft.

111/09 Infrastructure

Planning & Conservation

The Council received a report on planning applications received and decisions taken by BDC's Planning Dept. A copy is attached to these minutes.

Cllr Whitehand advised the Council that she had written to Cllr Deeming regarding BDC Planning Department's non-observance of Residential Design Guidelines, and to CALC regarding housing supply in Bromsgrove.

The Council discussed the need to formulate a view on development of the ADR land on Fiery Hill Road, although Cllr Whitehand pointed out that this land is privately owned. She also advised that BDC had appointed a new conservation officer who had undertaken to examine the request to extend the Barnt Green Conservation Area, although no timescale had been put on this.

Cllr Whitehand further advised that she would be contacting the BDC enforcement officer regarding the access at 7 Fiery Hill Road.

Highways & Lighting

The Council noted that resurfacing of Hewel Road had been completed to a high standard with a minimum of disruption. It was agreed that a letter of thanks should be sent to WCC Highways.

The Chairman advised the Council that a quotation had been received for repaving the footway in front of the Tesco block of shops and that a further meeting with Tesco and the landlords would be sought in order to ascertain what level of financial support was available for this project. WCC Highways had indicated that some financial support may be available from them.

The Council noted that a meeting had been scheduled for 25 February at St Andrews School with County Cllr McDonald, WCC Highways and local residents to discuss traffic calming measures on Hewell Road following the resurfacing.



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Environment

The Council agreed to accept quotations received from Neil Hosking and John S Bishop for maintenance of the playing field and park for the 2010-2011 season. The Council also agreed to ask Neil Hosking for a quotation for adding fertiliser to the cherry trees on Fiery Hill Road..

112/09 Community Safety

Village Watch

The council noted that the postponed Neighbourhood Watch meeting had been rescheduled for April.

Health & Safety

Cllr Grey reported that BDC had inspected the condition of the ramp outside the Tony's Handyman block of shops but that to date no action had been taken..

Communication

The Council noted that the deadline for the Spring Newsletter is April 6 and that the featured organisation would be St Andrews Church which is celebrating its centenary.

113/09 Governance

Finance

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

Office

The Council noted that a revised lease relating to 80 Hewell Road had been received, although some queries relating to service charges were still outstanding. The Chairman reported that she had visited the property and that completion was imminent. She also advised the Council that Lickey & Blackwell PC had expressed interest in sharing the premises and that a meeting with their chairman and new EO would be arranged shortly. The Council confirmed its wish to aim for completion on April 1st.

Administration

The Council confirmed the reappointment of Diane Malley as internal auditor at a fee of £105.



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The Council approved the EO's attendance at the SLCC relaunch meeting and IT trainings session on March 23 at a cost of £25. It also approved an increase in the amount that the EO could claim for heat and light at his home office from £2 to £3 per week. This increase to be backdated to April 2008 in line with HMRC recommendations.

Youth Council and School Governor

The Council noted that Julia Tozer was leaving the area and had stood down from her role with the Youth Council.

There was little to report from St Andrews School although the Council noted that it had a deficit caused by falling rolls.

WCALC/NALC – the council noted that the CALC Bromsgrove Area meeting will take place on March 3. The Chairman, EO and Cllr Whitehand will attend.

CPRE – nothing to report.

Events

The Council agreed to arrange a picnic on the playing field as part of The Big Lunch initiative on July 18th. A budget of £300 was agreed and Cllr Carr undertook to arrange the event

114/09 Correspondence Received – a report was circulated at the meeting and a copy is appended to these minutes.

The Council agreed to a request from Cllr Chris Scurrrell of BDC for support for his application to list the footbridge on Barnt Green station. The EO was asked to advise Cllr Scurrrell that the footbridge had been used as a template for Hornby Model Railways' footbridge as it was felt that this might add strength to the application.

115/09 Urgent Decisions – none taken since last meeting

116/09 Future Agenda Items – none

117/09 Date and Venue of Next Meeting – Monday 29th March 2010 at 7.00pm at the Parish Centre was agreed. Cllrs Davies and Grey presented their apologies.

The meeting ended at 8.25pm.

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Chairman March 29, 2010