



Barnt Green Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Parish Centre on Monday 30th January 2006 at 7.00pm

Present: Mrs Elaine Buckett (chairman), Mrs D Carr, Mrs B Lucas, Ms S Parker, Mrs S Whitehand and Mr p Cliff.

In attendance: District Councillor Brian Fuller and Roger Westbury (executive officer)

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

- the Agenda
- the chairman's report
- an updated report from the RFO.
- An updated report on Correspondence Received
- An update on Planning Applications

175/05 Apologies –Mrs J Jagger and Mr T Gray whose reason for absence, noted in the Attendance Book, was approved.

176/05 Declarations of Interest

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

177/05 Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 12th December 2005 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

No Parishioners attended

178/05 District Councillors' and County Councillor's Question and Answer Session

Cllr Fuller advised that Bromsgrove District Council was "not keen" to sign the three-tier Councils Charter which had been circulated by CALC.

He reported that the District Council's budget for 2006-07 was "looking tight".

He further reported that, after studying an independent consultant's report, the District Council had decided not to proceed with decriminalisation of parking in the District.

The Parish Council asked Cllr Fuller to investigate a resident's claim that part of the car park adjacent to the Victoria public house was owned by the District Council.

County Cllr McDonald had presented his apologies to the meeting, but had advised that he had recently approved an amended scheme for the installation of bollards and planters in Hewell Road and revised parking arrangements in Fierly



Barnt Green Parish Council

Hill Road. The chairman advised that she and the EO had been invited to a meeting with the HPU on January 31st to be shown these schemes.

179/05 Police

The chairman welcomed Constable Jayne Willetts, the local beat manager, to the meeting who gave an update current policing activities.

Constable Willetts advised that Graham Rocke was now responsible for CCTV cameras in the District and that a trial scheme was currently being evaluated in Rubery whereby local traders were given direct access to the CCTV Centre to report any suspicious activities.

She asked that the Parish Council report any persistent parking offenders in the village to the Police.

The EO was asked to advise Constable Willetts of the outcome of the meeting with BDC on January 31st to discuss the bollards/planters scheme and the revised parking arrangements for Fiery Hill Road.

Constable Willetts agreed to attend the next Parish Council meeting on February 27th to give a further update.

180/05 Chairman's Report – the chairman's Report was noted. She drew the Council's attention to the need to have 100 per cent elected members and a good record of attendance if the Parish Council was to retain its Quality Parish status. Any councillors considering standing down in 2007 were asked to let their colleagues know in April 2006.

Councillors were reminded of the need to attend as many Council meetings as possible, although the Council recognised that other commitments sometimes made this difficult. A suggestion to hold fewer Council meetings was put forward and this was accepted as a possible way forward in the light of wider use of electronic communications.

The chairman reported that she had held a review meeting with the executive officer and that his employment had been confirmed following successful completion of his probationary period.

181/05 Finance

- (a) The RFO circulated a report, a copy of which is appended to these minutes. Payments were approved.
- (b) The Parish precept for 2006-07 was agreed at £56000. This represents an increase of 63.6 per cent over the current year's figure and will enable the Parish Council to take out a loan to purchase suitable premises in the village for a Parish Office and Community IT Facility. The chairman read out a letter from a resident expressing their objections to this plan and the EO was asked to draft a reply.
- (c) The Council approved the purchase of a copy of the 2006 edition of Charles Arnold Baker's Local Council Administration at a cost of £48.



Barnt Green Parish Council

182/05 Environment

- a) The Council noted that Network Rail had agreed to fund the tidying up of the railway embankment on Fiery Hill Road.
- b) The Council noted that there is Japanese knotweed on both sides of the railway embankment. The EO has advised Bromsgrove DC of its existence. The chairman, vice-chairman and EO will investigate this further and come back to the Council in March with a policy proposal.
- c) The Council noted that the ODPM has issued guidance on new powers for P&TCs to issue fixed penalty notices for dog fouling, litter, graffiti and fly-posting. Guidelines are due to be published in March and it was agreed that these would be discussed at the April Council meeting.
- d) The Council noted that an inquiry into the appeal regarding the erection of a waste transfer facility at Mayfield Farm, Hopwood will open at 10:00am on Tuesday, 21st of February, 2006 at the Offices of Bromsgrove District Council. The Council agreed to publicise this and the EO was asked to prepare flyers for distribution in the village.

183/05 Highways

The Council received a verbal report on the activities of the Parish lengthsman and on the proposed restructuring of the HPU.

184/05 Lighting

The EO reported that the Christmas lights which had been vandalised on December 2, had been repaired at a cost of £236.70. The offenders had been caught and charged and a bill for the repairs had been sent to the Police.

185/05 106 Monies

The Council noted that a grant of £12000 to cover the cost of improvements to the park and playing field had been approved by Bromsgrove DC and the initial £6000 had now been received. The EO is to place relevant contracts in consultation with the appropriate councillors.

186/05 Parish Plan

The Council noted that the next meeting of the Parish Plan Steering Group would be held on February 1st and that the draft plan should be available by March 1st.

187/05 Planning and Conservation

The Council received an updated report on planning applications.

188/05 Communications

- a) The Council noted that the winter newsletter had been distributed.
- b) The Council approved a news release for use in the event of any media interest in the level of the Parish precept for 2006-07.



Barnt Green Parish Council

- c) The Council noted that the residents of Rose Bank did not wish to take up the Council's offer to hold one of its meetings in their lounge.

189/05 Special Event

Cllr Carr agreed to head up the sub-committee to organise the 2007 Festival and would come to the next Council meeting with a proposed date for this.

190/05 Urgent Decisions

An urgent decision to repair the vandalised Christmas lights had been taken by the chairman and vice-chairman since the last meeting.

191/05 Playing Field

A request had been received from Catshill Juniors FC for permission to play on the Bittell Road playing field on Sunday mornings. The EO was asked to check whether the other users of the field had any objections to this. If not, a trial period of 3 months would be offered to the Catshill team.

192/05 Millennium Park

The Council approved a payment of £30 to Lois King in respect of the Land Registry fee for the transfer of title to Millennium Park from Alvechurch PC to Barnt Green PC.

193/05 NALC, CALC, Training & CPRE

- (a) The Council noted that the chairman and EO will be attending a briefing on Pensions & Gratuities on February 21st.
- (b) The Council approved a payment of £30 + travelling expenses for a one-to-one session for the EO with the CALC development officer.
- (c) The Council agreed to sign the Councils Charter as circulated by CALC.

194/05 Correspondence Received – a report was circulated at the meeting and a copy is appended to these minutes. The Council agreed that it would not be necessary in future to circulate this report with the meeting agenda.

195/05 Future Agenda Items – School Governor's Report and station parking charges.

196/05 Date and Venue of Next Meeting – Monday 27th February 2006 at 7.00pm at the Parish Centre was agreed..

The meeting ended at 8.56pm.

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Chairman
27th February 2006