



Barnt Green Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Parish Centre on Monday 26th January 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: Cllr George Lord, Leader Worcestershire County Council; District Cllr Richard Deeming; Roger Westbury (executive officer); Ms Rachel Banner (Barnt Green resident)

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

- a. the Agenda
- b. a report from the Chairman
- c. an updated report on planning applications
- d. an updated report from the RFO.
- e. Bank reconciliation statement
- f. Reports from the school governor and Youth Council
- g. a report on correspondence received.

95/08 Apologies – Cllr Rick Main whose reason for absence as noted in the attendance book was approved by the Council.

96/08 Declarations of Interest

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

97/08 Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 24th November 2008 were approved.

No Parishioners wished to address the meeting.

98/08 Chairman's Report

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

99/08 District and County Councillors' Question & Answer Session

Dr George Lord, Leader of Worcestershire County Council gave a strategic overview of how the County Council works. He explained that the County Council had a limited budget of £80 million pounds to address all of the County's



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highways needs, but that by the end of the current financial year approximately £250,000 will have been spent in Barnt Green since 2004. He confirmed that further resurfacing work would shortly be carried out on Fiery Hill Road, Hewell Lane, Margesson Drive, the Bittell Road service road and the Poplar Drive footway. Additional bollards would also be installed at the Bittell Road/Bittell Farm Road junction and the County Council was considering installing planters to protect the verges on the Twatling Road triangle. Dr Lord also advised that more money would be available for the Lengthsman Scheme in 2009/10.

He informed the Parish Council that the County would not be looking to make any changes to the Hewell Road parking arrangements at the present time.

In response to questions from Councillors, Dr Lord suggested writing to Jon Fraser regarding a pedestrian crossing on Bittell Road and to Derek Prodger regarding damaged verges. Regarding a comment on the quality of resurfacing work in the County, he advised that the County had changed contractors and was now using a company regarded as the best in the country.

There was nothing to report from the District Council.

100/08 Infrastructure

Planning & Conservation

The council received an updated 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 expressed concern about the approval of plans for an extension to the Baptist Church and resolved to request a site meeting with Church representatives and residents living adjacent to the Church.

Highways & Lighting

The Council noted that minutes of the meeting with WCC Highways held on January 7 had been circulated to members.

In the absence of any progress on amendments to the parking arrangements on Hewell Road, the Council resolved to look further at developing off-road parking at the station, the rear of Tesco, the Victoria and Barnt Green Social Club. It was agreed that all off-road parking should be well signposted. The Council also agreed to pursue further with Bromsgrove District Council the availability of a traffic warden once parking is decriminalised.

The Council resolved to meet with the Traders Association in March to get feedback on the new Christmas lighting and to discuss plans for 2009.

Environment

The Council noted that a soakaway had been installed in the playground area of Millennium Park and Severn Trent had sealed off a leaking redundant water supply beneath the footway on Hewell Road. It is hoped that these steps will eradicate the surface water problem in the park.



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The Council resolved to trim the banks of the stream at the bottom of Parker's Piece.

101/08 Community Safety

Village Watch – a PACT meeting had been held in Lickey but had been poorly attended. The next meeting is due to be held in Barnt Green in April.

Health & Safety – the Council noted that safety inspections of the park and playing field would be carried out in March.

Communication – the Council noted that the Winter Newsletter had been printed and distributed. The EO reported that he had met with a representative of Shred-It to discuss the possibility of holding a free Community Shred for confidential waste in the village. If the company agrees to go ahead with this it will take place in the spring.

102/08 Governance

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

The Council received a Bank Reconciliation Statement for the nine months ended 31 December 2008 and noted that the Council's reserves had been split between three banks.

Administration

The Council passed a resolution to declare a vacancy on the Parish Council following the disqualification of Cllr Peyton for non-attendance. This would be communicated to the District Council.

The Council agreed to await a response from NALC regarding the DCLG consultation paper on a code of practice for local authority publicity.

The Council considered requests for donations received from Barnt Green Scout & Guide Field Trust and Bromsgrove Citizens Advice Bureau. The Council resolved in principle to make a donation to the scouts' rebuilding fund, but deferred a decision on the actual amount until its February meeting. It declined the request from the CAB but the EO was instructed to write to them to propose holding surgeries in the village if and when the Council secures a Parish Office.

The Council congratulated the EO on achieving his CiLCA Certificate and noted that he will accordingly move one spinal point up the NALC salary scale with effect from 1 February 2009

Youth Council – a report on the activities of the Youth Council is attached to these minutes. The Council resolved to spend up to £150 to fund a training workshop for members of the Youth Council.



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Office & IT – the Council noted that the Chairman is awaiting an update from Truslove on the premises at 67 Hewell Road.

School Governor – a report from the school governor is attached to these minutes. In response to a comment on the level of noise emanating from the music trail on the school premises, the school governor was asked to raise this at the next meeting of the Governors.

WCALC/NALC – nothing to report.

CPRE – the Council agreed to renew its subscription to the CPRE for 2009.

103/08 Correspondence Received – a report was circulated at the meeting and a copy is appended to these minutes.

104/08 Festivals and Events

The council noted that the Christmas Fayre had been a great success. Cllr Carr reported that she would shortly be holding a meeting of the organising committee for the Summer Festival

105/08 Future Agenda Items – None suggested.

106/08 Urgent Decisions

None taken since last meeting.

107/08 Date and Venue of Next Meeting – Monday 23rd February 2009 at 7.00pm at the Parish Centre was agreed.

The meeting ended at 8.45pm.

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Chairman February 23, 2009.