Barnt Green Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Parish Centre on Monday 23rd July 2007 at 7.00pm

Present: Cllrs. Mrs Judith Jagger (chairman), Mrs Diane Carr, Mrs Susan Whitehand, Mr David Gilburn, Mr T Gray, Mr David Harding and Mr Rick Main.

In attendance: District Councillor Ann Doyle; Roger Westbury (executive officer);

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

a. the Agenda
b. the chairman's report
c. An updated report on planning applications
d. Draft vision and mission statements for an environmental strategy.
e. an updated report from the RFO.
f. Bank reconciliation statement as at 30 June 2007
g. a report on correspondence received.

44/07 Apologies – Martin Peyton whose reason for absence as noted in the attendance book was approved by the council.

45/07 Declarations of Interest

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

46/07 Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 25th June 2007 were approved and were signed by the Chairman. The council resolved to invite Kevin Dicks, CEO of Bromsgrove District Council, to an open village meeting rather than to a council meeting.

47/07 Chairman's Report

The council received a report from the chairman. A copy will be attached to these minutes.

48/07 District and County Councillors' Question & Answer Session

Cllr Ann Doyle advised that she had requested a schedule for mowing verges, but to date this had not been received. She would pursue this.
Cllr Doyle suggested that the council contact John Godwin to register its interest in securing grants (from 106 monies if available) to refurbish Millennium Park in Hewell Road.

She further suggested that the Parish Council put forward a representative to sit on one of the Longbridge "inner committees". This request should be submitted to Mike Dunphy. Cllr Main indicated his willingness to take on this role.

49/07 Infrastructure

Highways & Lighting

The council noted that a progress letter had been sent to WCC Highways Department regarding outstanding issues, and agreed to "hold back" for the time being in view of the flood problems affecting the county.

Cllr Harding reported that he would be meeting the WCC tree officer to discuss planting for the Twatling Road triangle. He also advised that he had seen some "Remember it's still 30mph" signs on a recent visit to Stratford-on-Avon which the council might consider for future installation.

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. Cllr Whitehand agreed to write to the Planning Department regarding the wall and fence at 59 Bittell Road.

Environment

Cllr Main reported that Hampton-in-Arden is believed to be happy to be used as a benchmark for the village's environment strategy and he was asked to take this forward.

The council noted that a meeting with Central Trains had been arranged for July 27th to discuss car parking charges at Barnt Green station.

50/07 Community Safety

Village Watch – nothing to report.

Health & Safety – the EO was asked to check the RoSPA safety inspection report to see what actions needed to be taken..

Communication – the EO advised that the summer newsletter had been printed and distributed..

51/07 Governance

Administration – the council agreed that a resolution adopting the Model Code of Conduct for Parish Councils including Section 12(2) should be added to the agenda for its September meeting.

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

The council noted the bank reconciliation statement for the quarter ended 30 June 2007.

The council noted that an unqualified audit opinion had been received for the Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2007.

Youth Group – the council noted that establishment of the Barnt Green Youth Parish Council was in hand.
Office & IT –The EO reported that slow progress was being made with Lloyds TSB regarding the premises in Hewell Road. He was urged to pursue this.
CALC – the EO had attended a "Clerks Gathering" at Worcester County Hall.
CPRE – Cllr Main updated the council on recent activities.
Barnt Green Festival 2007 – Cllr Carr reported that £1610 had been banked to date for distribution to charities.

52/07 **Correspondence Received** – a report was circulated at the meeting and a copy is appended to these minutes.

53/07 **Future Agenda Items** –
Model Code of Conduct for Parish Councils.

43/07 **Date and Venue of Next Meeting** – Monday 24th September 2007 at 7.00pm at the Parish Centre was agreed.

The meeting ended at 8.15pm.

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Vice-Chairman 24th September 2007