



Barnt Green Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Parish Centre on Monday 31st March 2008 at 7.00pm

Present: Cllrs. Mrs Judith Jagger (chairman), Mr David Gilburn (vice chairman), Mrs Diane Carr, Mr Rick Main, Mrs Susan Whitehand, and Mr Martin Peyton.

In attendance: District Cllrs Roger Hollingworth (leader of Bromsgrove District Council), Ann Doyle and Richard Deeming; Roger Westbury (executive officer)

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

- the Agenda
- Chairman's Report
- an updated report on planning applications
- an updated report from the RFO.
- Income & Expenditure account as at 31.3.08/ revised budget
- a report on correspondence received.

111/07 Apologies – Cllrs David Harding and Tom Gray whose reasons for absence as noted in the attendance book were accepted by the Council.

112/07 Declarations of Interest

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

113/07 Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 25th February 2008 were approved and were signed by the Chairman.

No Parishioners attended the meeting.

114/07 District and County Councillors' Question & Answer Session

District Councillor Roger Hollingworth updated the Council on the Neighbourhood Partnership trial and confirmed that the scheme would continue. Boundaries for the groups would be based on PACT areas. He advised that a paper on the acceptance of Parish Plans would be put to the District Council for acceptance and would recommend that Parish Plans were fed into the Local Strategic Partnership.

In response to a question from Cllr Whitehand, Cllr Hollingworth confirmed that 4800 houses would be built in Bromsgrove by 2026. Finally Cllr Hollingworth apologised for the distribution of grant money received from The Big Lottery Fund. This money had been secured and allocated by District Council officers without consultation with elected members. He confirmed that this would not



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happen again and advised that the District Council now had a person in post whose specific function was to identify and investigate all sources of funding available to local councils.

District Cllr Richard Deeming gave an update on the Longbridge situation, advising that there was currently a “stalemate” between Birmingham City Council and St Modwen on the issue of road infrastructure funding.

115/07 Chairman’s Report

The council received a written report from the Chairman, a copy of which will be appended to these minutes.

116/07 Infrastructure 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.

Highways & Lighting

The council noted that a response had been received from Ian Bamforth of WCC Highways following the recent meeting with him and that progress was being made on the outstanding highways issues. A further meeting with Ian Bamforth was planned.

Full costings were awaited from WCC for the proposed new welcome signs and fingerposts.

The Council noted that speeding traffic on the B4120 (Bittell Road) was still a problem and it was agreed that this would be discussed with Ian Bamforth. Suggested solutions would include flashing speed signs and a pedestrian crossing by the Baptist church.

Environment

The EO advised that he had had little success in identifying a source of permanent Christmas trees for Hewell Road, but confirmed that this was an agenda item for the Three Parishes Meeting on April 10 and that our neighbouring parishes would be reporting on their efforts to identify a supplier.

Cllr Carr reported that the “Make Barnt Green Green” campaign was receiving wide support and that an article on this would appear in the Spring Newsletter.

117/07 Community Safety

Village Watch – the council noted that minutes of the Neighbourhood Watch meeting held on February 19 had been received and that these included an up-to-date list of co-ordinators.

A PACT meeting for the Hillside ward would be held on April 17 at Lickey Primary School.



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Health & Safety – nothing to report.

Communication – the EO confirmed that the Spring Newsletter would be printed and distributed in April.

118/07 **Governance**

Administration – the Council noted that the Annual Parish Meeting would be held on Wednesday April 30 at the Parish Centre, commencing at 8.00pm.

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

The council received the revised income and expenditure account as at 31 March 2008 and an amended budget for expenditure for 2008-09. The Council accepted as a general proposition that it should hold reserves equivalent to one year's precept.

The Council approved the appointment of Mrs Diane Malley as internal auditor for the 2007-08 accounts at a fee of £100.

The Council resolved to accept a price increase in Parish Centre room hire charges to £19.25 per session. A proposed increase in Ellteve Lighting's monthly maintenance charges from £200 to £260 (30 per cent) was rejected and the EO was asked to negotiate a lower figure, not exceeding 15 per cent.

Youth Council – The Youth Council had prepared a questionnaire designed to gather the views of young people in the village on a number of topics. This would be included in the Spring Newsletter.

Office & IT –The EO confirmed that Lloyds TSB had been informed of the Council's decision not to proceed with the assignment of the lease on 67 Hewell Road.

119/07 **Correspondence Received** – a report was circulated at the meeting and a copy is appended to these minutes.

120/07 **Future Agenda Items** –
None suggested

121/07 **Date and Venue of Next Meeting** – Monday 28th April 2008 at 7.00pm at the Parish Centre was agreed.

The meeting ended at 9.00pm.

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Chairman April 28, 2008