



Barnt Green Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Parish Centre on Monday 30th March 2009 at 7.00pm

Present: Cllrs. Mrs Judith Jagger (chairman), Mrs Rachel Banner, Mrs Diane Carr, Mrs Chris Jenkins, Mrs Susan Whitehand and Mr David Harding.

In attendance: Roger Westbury (executive officer).

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. a report on highways matters
- e. an updated report from the RFO.
- f. a report on correspondence received.

123/08 Apologies – Cllrs David Gilburn and Tom Gray whose reasons for absence as noted in the attendance book were accepted by the council.

124/08 Declarations of Interest

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

125/08 Casual Vacancy

The council resolved to invite Mrs Chris Jenkins to fill the vacant post. Mrs Jenkins accepted and signed the declaration of acceptance of office and was duly co-opted to the council. The Chairman also formally welcomed Rachel Banner to her first meeting as a councillor.

126/08 Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 23rd February 2009 were approved as a true record and were signed by the Chairman.

No Parishioners attended the meeting.

127/08 Chairman's Report

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

128/08 District and County Councillors' Question & Answer Session

Neither our county councillor nor district councillors were able to attend the meeting.



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129/08 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 some concern at planning applications for 18A Fiery Hill Road and Sandhills Green House.

The council noted that there had been a problem with notification of planning applications from BDC and that the EO was attempting to resolve this.

Highways & Lighting

The Council received a report on progress with highways matters which Cllr Gilburn had drafted and which would appear in the Spring Newsletter. The council noted that there had been an increase in the number of cars parking on Fiery Hill Road (including parking on the pavement in some instances) and that more traffic was using Hewell Lane. The Chairman advised that a meeting to discuss parking in the village had been requested by PC Willetts and it was hoped that this would take place later in the week.

Cllrs Jenkins and Banner agreed to join the working group to look into additional Christmas lighting requirements for 2009.

Environment

The council noted that Hosking Ground Maintenance had been asked to move the goalposts on Parker's Piece and to examine the weir on the stream at the far end of the field. A quotation to repair the damage to the weir had been requested.

The council noted that a specialist drainage company had been engaged to investigate the problem with surface water in Millennium Park. A quotation of £1680 to resolve the problem was accepted by the council.

Cllr Banner agreed to take on responsibility for environmental matters and the Parish archives.

The council noted that a quotation of £1800 for a new metal noticeboard at the bottom of Station Approach had been received. The EO advised that, on checking the dimensions, a slightly smaller board would be required and an alternative quotation had been requested. The council approved outline expenditure of a maximum of £2000 to cover the supply and installation of a suitable board and landscaping of the surrounding footway area.

A working group comprising Cllrs Carr, Jagger, Gilburn and Jenkins was established to investigate the possibility of installing planters or hanging basket columns on the forecourt at the front of the Tesco block of shops.

The council agreed that, with the approach of spring, Playdale should be contacted to arrange installation of the adventure trail equipment on Parker's Piece.



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130/08 Community Safety

Village Watch – the council noted that minutes of the Neighbourhood Watch meeting held on 28 January had been received and that the next meeting was scheduled for May 20. A PACT meeting is scheduled for April 16 at 7pm in the Friends Meeting House and the chairman urged as many councillors as possible to attend.

Health & Safety – the EO advised that safety inspections of the park and playing field were carried out in March and that a report from RoSPA was awaited.

Communication – the Council noted that the deadline for copy for the Spring Newsletter was March 31. Topics to be covered included The Festival, highways work, the revised planning consultation procedure and the Spring Walk.

The EO confirmed that Shred-It had agreed to hold a free Community Shred for confidential waste in the village. This will take place in the spring and will be publicised in the Newsletter.

131/08 Governance

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

The council received a copy of the minutes of the Finance Group meeting held on March 9 and the revised asset register and risk review log.

Administration

The council noted that the application for reaccreditation of its Quality Parish status had been agreed in principle subject to the EO submitting certain additional documents.

The council noted that Martin Peyton had advised that the Parish Council laptop in his possession had been damaged beyond repair. The EO advised that action had been taken to recover the cost of the laptop through Redditch County Court. The council agreed to identify projects around the village which could be submitted to Redditch Unpaid Work for consideration

Youth Council – the council noted that the Youth Council was drafting an article for The Village magazine on their activities.

Office & IT – the council noted with regret that its offer to lease 67 Hewell Road had not been accepted by the landlords. The Chairman also advised that the former Lois King premises in Hewel Road had been investigated but were not



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considered suitable for the council's needs. The council would continue to seek suitable premises for a Parish Office.

School Governor – nothing to report

WCALC/NALC – nothing to report.

CPRE – a decision on the appointment of a councillor to represent the council at CPRE meetings was deferred until the next meeting.

132/08 Correspondence Received – a report was circulated at the meeting and a copy is appended to these minutes.

133/08 Festivals and Events

The council noted that arrangements for the summer festival were well advanced and that a draft programme had been drawn up. The Festival would start at 2pm.

134/08 Future Agenda Items – Members' allowances for 2009/10.
Planting in Millennium Park.

135/08 Urgent Decisions

Decisions to set in motion recovery of the cost of the council's laptop from Martin Peyton and to investigate the drainage problem in Millennium Park had been taken since the last meeting. The council approved these urgent decisions.

136/08 Date and Venue of Next Meeting – Monday 27th April 2009 at 7.00pm at the Parish Centre was agreed. The council was also reminded that the next 3 Parishes Meeting would be held on Wednesday April 29 at 7.30pm at The Parish Centre and would be hosted by Barnt Green, and that the Annual Parish Meeting would take place on Wednesday 6 May at 8pm at The Parish Centre.

The meeting ended at 8.25pm.

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Chairman April 27, 2009.