



Barnt Green Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Parish Centre on Monday 29 March 2010 at 7.00pm

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

In attendance: District Cllrs 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
- Report on planning applications
- RFO Report
- a report on correspondence received.

118/09 Apologies – County Cllr Peter McDonald; Cllr Alun Davies whose reason for absence as recorded in the attendance book was approved by the Council.

119/09 Declarations of Interest

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

120/09 Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 22nd February 2010 were approved as a true record and were signed by the Chairman.

No Parishioners attended the meeting.

121/09 Chairman's Report

The Council received a report from the Chairman, a copy of which will be appended to these minutes. She highlighted the need for training for newer councillors and confirmed that she would be discussing the provision of suitable session(s) with CALC.

122/09 District and County Councillors' Question & Answer Session

District Cllr Doyle informed the Council that Bromsgrove DC had acquired a smaller vehicle for waste collection which would enable restoration of the service to residents in Cherry Hill Drive.



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Cllr Deeming advised that Birmingham City Council and St Modwen were currently in dispute regarding infrastructure financing for Longbridge, although construction work on the new Bournville College facility on the site was progressing well. He also informed the Council that the new waste recycling centre at Norton was working well and that visits could be arranged through County Councillors.

123/09 Infrastructure

Planning & Conservation

The Council received a report on planning applications received and decisions taken by BDC's Planning Dept. A copy is attached to these minutes.

Cllr Whitehand advised the Council that she had encountered difficulties contacting the Planning Department's enforcement personnel and that there was currently no Head of Planning in post following the merger of Bromsgrove and Redditch Councils.

Highways & Lighting

The Council noted that while resurfacing of Hewell Road had been completed to a high standard, the patching work on Blackwell Road had not been carried out to the same level. Patching work on Sandhills Green however had been more successful.

The Council noted that there were a number of potholes on Bittell Road. The Chairman advised the Council that WCC Highways were aware of the situation.

Environment

The Council expressed its disappointment that its funding for the Lengthsman Scheme for 2010-11 had been reduced from £2060 to £1810. The EO was asked to write to WCC Highways requesting that the funding level be restored to at least its current level.

124/09 Community Safety

Village Watch

The council noted that the next Neighbourhood Watch meeting would be held on April 6. It was agreed that the local police beat officer should be invited to attend a future Parish Council meeting to explain W Mercia Police's policy on neighbourhood policing.



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Health & Safety

Cllr Grey reported that there had been no progress on the condition of the ramp outside the Tony's Handyman block of shops.

Communication

The Council noted that copy for the Spring Newsletter is now due and that the featured organisation would be St Andrews Church which is celebrating its centenary.

125/09 Governance

Finance

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

Office

The Council noted that a revised lease relating to 80 Hewell Road had been received and that the landlord was now happy for the Council to share the premises with similar public bodies. The service charge would be a proportion of the actual costs incurred in maintaining the common areas and was unlikely to exceed £300 per annum.

The Council resolved to accept the recommendation of the working group that the lease should now be signed with a view to achieving completion on April 1st. It was agreed that an Open Day to publicise the new Parish Office would be held towards the end of April.

Administration

Cllr Gilburn confirmed that he would be stepping down from the Council on March 31st. The Chairman thanked Cllr Gilburn for his contribution to Council activities over the years. The Council agreed that a casual vacancy would be declared on April 1st. If no request for an election was received by April 22nd then the Council would fill the vacancy by co-option.

It was agreed that Cllr Gray would become a signatory to the Council's bank accounts, replacing Cllr Gilburn.

Youth Council and School Governor

Cllr Whitehand reported that there were some difficulties in motivating the Youth Council but that she would continue to look for projects that might inspire their imagination.



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WCALC/NALC – the council noted that the Chairman, EO and Cllr Whitehand had attended the CALC Bromsgrove Area meeting held on March 3. The Chairman and EO would be attending the Worcester County Parish Conference on March 30th where the EO would be giving a presentation on the Council's use of the My Parish web pages.

CPRE – the Council noted that the AGM would be held shortly.

Events

The Council agreed to drop its plans for a Big Lunch in July and instead to organise a combined event on Sunday September 5 with St Andrew's Church to celebrate its centenary.

- 126/09 Correspondence Received** – a report was circulated at the meeting and a copy is appended to these minutes.
- 127/09 Urgent Decisions** – none taken since last meeting
- 128/09 Future Agenda Items** – potholes
- 129/09 Date and Venue of Next Meeting** – Monday 26th April 2010 at 7.00pm at the Parish Office at 80 Hewell Road was agreed.

The meeting ended at 8.25pm.

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Chairman April 26th, 2010