



Barnt Green Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Parish Centre on Monday 19th May 2008 at 7.00pm

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

In attendance: Roger Westbury (executive officer)

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

- a. the Agenda
- b. the Council's Scheme of Delegation
- c. an updated report on planning applications
- d. an updated report from the RFO.
- e. a report on correspondence received.

12/08 Appointment of Chairman

Mrs Judith Jagger was re-elected as Chairman for the year 2008-09 and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

13/08 Apologies – Cllrs David Gilburn and Susan Whitehand whose reasons for absence as noted in the attendance book were accepted by the Council. Cllr Martin Peyton had advised the Chairman that he would be late in arriving for the meeting, but in the event did not appear.

14/08 Election of Vice-Chairman

David Gilburn was re-elected as Vice Chairman for the year 2008-09.

15/08 Declarations of Interest

- (a) The requirement to keep the Register of Interests was noted. Cllr Gray requested an amendment form in order to register a new interest.
- (b) No interests were declared by Members.

16/08 Standing Orders

The Council resolved to review its Standing Orders at its next meeting.

17/08 Code of Conduct

The Council noted the need to adhere to the new Code of Conduct which it had accepted at its meeting in September 2007.



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18/08 Scheme of Delegation and Members of Committees

The Council resolved to accept the Scheme of Delegation without amendment. It was agreed that the EO would circulate the proposed list of members of committees and this would be considered at the Council's next meeting.

19/08 Terms of Reference

The Council resolved to approve the Terms of Reference of the Working Groups without alteration.

20/08 Financial Regulations

The Council agreed to delegate the review of its Financial Regulations to the Finance Support Group which would report back to the Council. The Council resolved to accept an increase in the figure in regulation 6.4 regarding payments of essential invoices prior to the next scheduled Council meeting, from £75 to £250.

21/08 Nominations to the Worcestershire CALC Area Meeting

Cllrs Jagger and Main were nominated as the Council's two representatives at CALC Area Meetings.

22/08 Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 28th April 2008 were approved and were signed by the Chairman.

No Parishioners attended the meeting.

23/08 District and County Councillors' Question & Answer Session

No District Councillors or County Councillor were able to attend the meeting.

24/08 Chairman's Report

The Chairman did not submit a written report but advised the Council that she and the EO had attended a Parish Council Seminar hosted by Bromsgrove District Council which was designed to establish better working relationships between the three tiers of local government. It is hoped that a Parish Council Charter or Concordat will result from the second seminar due to be held on June 20.

25/08 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 noted that its Planning Committee was recommending refusal of an application in respect of 30 Orchard Croft.



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The Council noted that there were no grounds for objecting to the proposed installation of a fence around St Andrews School, but that the school had agreed to specify the least obtrusive solution.

Highways & Lighting

The council noted that the missing bollard outside the Post Office in Hewell Road had been damaged by a Royal Mail vehicle. It was agreed that this would be pursued with WCC Highways.

The Chairman reported that the grass triangles at the Twatling Road/Fiery Hill Road and Bittell Road/Bittell Lane junctions would be mowed shortly.

Environment

The Council noted that Colin Biggs had been asked to draw up a detailed scale drawing of the planned changes to Millennium Park. The first stage would include relaying the path and installing underground cabling for the proposed new lighting. New benches and planting would follow later in the year.

The Council further noted that repainting of the Millennium Arch would be included in the refurbishment plan.

The EO was asked to investigate the replacement of the spring closure on the gate at the entrance to the playground.

The Council agreed that two benches from Millennium Park would be moved to Parkers Piece once the new benches had been ordered. The Council agreed that a sign explaining the origin of the "Parker's Piece" name should be erected at the entrance to the playing field.

Cllr Main reported that he was pursuing various suppliers of adventure playground equipment for the field.

The Council noted that a positive meeting had taken place with the deputy headteacher at St Andrews School regarding the possibility of the school becoming involved in the "Make Barnt Green Greener" campaign.

26/08 Community Safety

Village Watch – the Council noted that PC Lee Radford was the new police officer with day to day responsibility for Barnt Green.

Health & Safety – it was agreed that the EO would discuss the findings of the recent RoSPA safety inspections with Cllr Gray.

Communication – the EO was asked to ensure that the Council's website was up to date.



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27/08 Governance

Finance - The RFO circulated an updated report, a copy of which is appended to these minutes. Payments were approved. The Council also approved payment of an invoice from Diane Malley for £100 in respect of the Council's internal audit. The invoice had arrived too late to be included on the RFO's report.

The Chairman agreed to draft a letter of thanks to Mrs Wilson who had donated £1000 to the Council towards the cost of installing new benches in Millennium Park in memory of her late father.

The Council noted that the internal auditor's report had been received and that there were no issues arising as a result of the audit.

The council resolved not to pay basic allowances to councillors for the year 2008-09, but agreed to make an allowance of £400 available for the chairman's use.

Youth Council – Nothing to report

Office & IT –the Chairman reported that she had spoken to Messrs Truslove regarding the likely level of rent for 67 Hewell Road and that a figure of £5000-6000 per annum had been quoted.

The EO was asked to speak to IGB regarding updates to the anti-virus software on Councillors' laptops.

School Governor – nothing to report.

WCALC/NALC – the Council noted that the next CALC Area Meeting had been scheduled for June 4.

CPRE- nothing to report.

Barnt Green Festival 2009 – Cllr Carr was asked to set a date for the 2009 Festival as soon as possible.

28/08 Correspondence Received – a report was circulated at the meeting and a copy is appended to these minutes.

29/08 Future Agenda Items –
None suggested

30/08 Date and Venue of Next Meeting – Monday 30 June 2008 at 7.00pm at the Parish Centre was agreed.

The meeting ended at 8.25pm.

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Chairman June 30, 2008