



Barnt Green Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Parish Centre on Monday 26th November 2007 at 7.00pm

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

In attendance: Roger Westbury (executive officer); District Cllr Richard Deeming.

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

- the Agenda
- an updated report on planning applications
- an updated report from the RFO.
- Minutes of the Finance Group meeting held on November 5.
- Updated Asset Register and Risk Review Log
- a report on correspondence received.

78/07 Apologies – Cllrs Diane Carr and Tom Gray whose reasons for absence as noted in the attendance book were approved by the council.

79/07 Declarations of Interest

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

80/07 Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 29th October 2007 were approved and were signed by the Chairman.

The meeting was adjourned to allow four residents to address the council. They raised the following points:

They were horrified to learn that the council was considering removal of the beech hedge on the Sandhills Road side of Millennium Park.

There was a broken manhole cover at the junction of Cherry Hill Rd and Kendal End Rd.

There was concern at the planning application submitted in respect of 16 Sandhills Road.

The chairman thanked the residents for their comments.

81/07 District and County Councillors' Question & Answer Session

Cllr Richard Deeming advised the council that some funding from 106 monies should be available in the coming financial year. He reported that plans for the redevelopment of Longbridge were on track. He also said there was some concern about the use of delegated powers by Bromsgrove District Council's Planning Department and that a joint meeting with them was being sought.



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82/07 Chairman's Report

The council received a verbal report from the Chairman. Her main point was that a meeting had been held with County Cllr Peter McDonald in order to seek his help in progressing various matters with the highways Department.

83/07 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. Cllr Whitehand advised that she was investigating the possibility of applying for listed building status for 16 Sandhills Road.

Highways & Lighting

The EO and Cllr Gilburn reported on their recent meeting with WCC Highways, who had advised that some funding would shortly be available for repairs. The subject of protection for grass verges on Twatling Road and Bittell Rd had also been discussed and the County Council's recommendations were awaited.

The council expressed its concern at the brightness of the lights which had recently been installed in Millennium Park and noted that some residents had also commented on this. The EO was asked to instruct the lighting engineer to switch the lights off while alternative solutions were considered.

Environment

The EO and Cllr Main updated the council on quotations received for refurbishment and new equipment for Millennium Park and were asked to draft a grant application which could be submitted to the District Council. The EO also advised the council that he had obtained quotations for an adventure trail on Bittel Road playing field. It was agreed that the various options would be passed to the Youth Council for consideration.

The EO updated the council on comments received from residents regarding the possible removal of the beech hedge on the Sandhills Road side of Millennium Park. After considering these the council resolved to retain the hedge and to maintain it at its present height.

84/07 Community Safety

Village Watch – the EO confirmed that a Neighbourhood Watch meeting had taken place on November 13, and that minutes of the previous meeting held on September 11 had been received. The EO would request a copy of the minutes of the November meeting and would include an update on the scheme in the winter newsletter.

The EO advised that a PACT meeting for the Hillside and Linthurst wards had been held on November 15 at Blackwell Court. In view of the location, the issues raised were all related to the Blackwell and Lickey areas. The police had stated



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their intention to move future meetings around the wards with the next one planned for Lickey in April 2008.

Health & Safety – nothing to report

Communication – the EO advised that the deadline for copy for the winter newsletter was January 3rd. There had been some problems with distribution of the autumn edition and it was agreed that the list would be reviewed.

85/07 Governance

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

The council received the minutes of the meeting of the Finance Group held on November 5 and resolved to accept the recommended budget and precept for 2008-09. As a result of this there will be no increase in the parish precept which will remain at £56000.

The council also received the updated Asset Register and Risk Review Log. The EO was asked to add the recently acquired laptop computers to the Asset Register.

The council resolved to accept the recommendation from the staffing group that the executive officer's salary be increased in line with the new recommended scales agreed by NALC, and that this increase be backdated to 1 April 2007. The increase is within the forecast figure in the 2007-08 budget.

Youth Council – Cllr Whitehand reported that the Youth Council's visit to the Houses of Parliament on November 13 had been a great success. The group's views would be sought on the various types of adventure equipment that might be installed on Bittell Road Playing Field. The council noted that the next meeting of the Youth Council would take place on December 11.

Office & IT –The EO reported that Lloyds TSB would shortly be removing the safe from 67 Hewell Road. A report was still awaited from Messrs John Truslove giving an assessment of what would need to be done to the premises to bring them up to a "lettable standard".

The EO also reported that the third beginners computer course had now finished and that a follow on course was being planned for interested students.

The council was shown screen grabs for the upgrade of the Parish Council website and the EO was asked to proceed with the new design.

CALC – the EO advised that he had attended a briefing day for quality parish councils on November 14 and a review of the Lengthsman scheme on November 8 and gave a verbal report on the content.



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- 86/07 Correspondence Received** – a report was circulated at the meeting and a copy is appended to these minutes.
- 87/07 Future Agenda Items** –
None suggested.
- 88/07 Date and Venue of Next Meeting** – Monday 28th January 2008 at 7.00pm at the Parish Centre was agreed.

The meeting ended at 8.25pm.

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Chairman

28th January 2008