



Barnt Green Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Parish Centre on Monday 24th November 2008 at 7.00pm

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

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

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

- a. the Agenda
- b. an updated report on planning applications
- c. an updated report from the RFO.
- d. an updated income and expenditure account.
- e. a draft Publication Scheme to comply with the Freedom of Information Act.
- f. a report on correspondence received.

82/08 Apologies – Cllr Susan Whitehand whose reason for absence as noted in the attendance book was approved by the Council. Cllr Peyton did not attend the meeting and had not given an apology to the executive officer.

83/08 Declarations of Interest

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

84/08 Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 27th October 2008 were approved, subject to amending the spelling of Rachel Meller's surname, and were signed by the Chairman.

The meeting was adjourned to allow Rachel Banner and a colleague to address the Council. They complimented the Council on the refurbishment of Millennium Park.

85/08 District and County Councillors' Question & Answer Session

Cllr Deeming advised the Council that he had received several telephone calls complaining about the District Council's decision to charge for emptying green waste bins in 2009. He suggested that the Council should invite the portfolio holder for Street Scene & waste Management to a future Parish Council meeting. He also advised that Cllr George Lord, leader of Worcestershire County Council, would be willing to attend a Parish Council meeting in the New Year.



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Cllr Deeming reported that the redevelopment of Bromsgrove Town Centre was in abeyance following the decision to list Parkside School. The Parish Council registered its support for the listing of the school.

86/08 Chairman's Report

The chairman gave a verbal report and advised that to date £3200 had been pledged by traders towards the cost of new Christmas lighting for the village. The Council expressed its thanks for the donations.

87/08 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.

Highways & Lighting

The Council noted that January had been proposed for the meeting between Bromsgrove DC and Worcestershire CC Highways to discuss parking on Hewell Road. The EO was asked to propose a date w/c January 5, 2009.

The Council was advised that new bollards had been installed at the corner of Bittell Road and Bittell Farm Road, but felt that these were not adequate for purpose. It was agreed that this should be raised with WCC Highways.

The Council noted that WCC Highways had said there were no funds available for the installation of bollards to protect verges on the Twatling Road triangle, and that this was not considered a priority., The Council recorded its disappointment at this decision and resolved to take it further.

The Council recorded its appreciation to the chairman for her hard work in securing funding from traders for the new Christmas lighting scheme and noted that the lights would be installed w/c 24 November. All costings were as quoted, but an additional charge would be made to cover the cost of installing the new tree lights.

The Council recorded its thanks to Trevor Tipper of Ellteve Lighting for his work to date in preparing the new lights.

The Council expressed its disappointment that Bromsgrove DC had turned down a request for a contribution towards the cost of the Christmas lights and agreed that the chairman should write to Cllr Roger Hollingworth, leader of BDC, asking them to reconsider this decision. A contribution of £1000 was suggested as being appropriate.



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Environment

The Council approved a quotation of £4427.90 from Broxap for the installation of three new bins in Millennium Park, and of a new fingerpost sign at the junction of Sandhills Road, Sandhills Green and Sandhills Lane.

The Council also approved a quotation of £973 for the installation of a replacement lantern on the column by Millennium Park to match the other lanterns on Hewell Road.

88/08 Community Safety

Village Watch – nothing to report.

Health & Safety – the Council expressed some concerns about the slope outside the shops on Hewell Road by Tony's Handyman. It was agreed to ask Bromsgrove DC's Street Scene team to inspect the slope and comment.

A resident had commented that the new swings in Millennium Park were stiff and difficult to push. It was decided to ask Wicksteed, who installed the swings, to comment on this.

Communication – nothing to report..

89/08 Governance

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

The council received a revised draft budget for 2009-10 and confirmed its decision to maintain the precept at the current level of £56000 for the coming year. The EO was instructed to advise BDC of this decision.

The Council noted that Cllr Main was preparing a comprehensive spreadsheet on expenditure on the village environment.

Administration

Cllrs Jagger and Gray advised that they would be meeting shortly with the EO to prepare the council's submission for reaccreditation of its Quality Parish status.

The Council approved a proposal that the EO's salary should be increased in line with NALC recommendations, and backdated to April 2008.

The Council resolved to adopt the draft Model Publication Scheme for the provision of information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

Youth Council – nothing to report.

Office & IT – some progress was being made in relation to premises on Hewell Road. The Council reconfirmed its decision to pay up to £6000 per annum for premises.



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School Governor – the council noted that the next meeting of the Board of Governors of St Andrews School was scheduled for 26 November.

WCALC/NALC – nothing to report.

CPRE – nothing to report.

90/08 Correspondence Received – a report was circulated at the meeting and a copy is appended to these minutes.

91/08 Festivals and Events

The council noted that arrangements were well in hand for the Christmas festival to be held on December 7th and that the organisers had now obtained insurance for the event.

The Council noted that the main entertainers had been booked for the Summer Festival to be held in June. The first meeting of the committee would be held in January.

The chairman reminded the Council that the volunteers thank you party would be held on Tuesday December 16 at The Deli. Cllrs Jagger, Gilburn, Gray and Carr confirmed their attendance.

92/08 Future Agenda Items – None suggested.

93/08 Urgent Decisions

None taken since last meeting.

94/08 Date and Venue of Next Meeting – Monday 26th January 2009 at 7.00pm at the Parish Centre was agreed.

The meeting ended at 8.10pm.

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Chairman January 26, 2009.