



# Barnt Green Parish Council

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Parish Centre on Monday 30 November 2009 at 7.00pm

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

**In attendance:** District Cllr 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
- an updated report from the RFO.
- a draft budget for 2010-2011
- a report on correspondence received.

**82/09 Apologies** – County Cllr Peter McDonald; District Cllr Ann Doyle

**83/09 Declarations of Interest**

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

**84/09 Minutes of the Last Meeting** held on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2009 were approved as a true record and were signed by the Chairman.

*No Parishioners attended the meeting.*

**85/09 Chairman's Report**

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

**86/09 District and County Councillors' Question & Answer Session**

District Cllr Deeming advised that work on establishing shared services between Bromsgrove and Redditch Councils was progressing. He advised that work on the Longbridge development had started again and that Bourneville College's move to the site had been confirmed. A meeting with St Modwen had been scheduled for 2 December.



## Barnt Green Parish Council

### 87/09 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 confirmed that a housing questionnaire had been returned to CALC. She requested that the acceptance/use of Parish Plans be added to the agenda for the next Parish Councils Forum meeting to be held in January 2010.

#### **Highways & Lighting**

The Council noted that both Andrew Gardner and Tesco had expressed an interest in contributing to the cost of repaving the area in front of their shops on Hewell Road. The Highways Group would pursue this interest. The Council was informed that the resurfacing of Hewell Road was scheduled to take place in January 2010 and that County Cllr McDonald was seeking to organise a public meeting to discuss what should happen to the speed cushions. Cllr McDonald had indicated that he would not support any alterations to the parking arrangements on Hewell Road and did not wish to have any further meetings with the Parish Council on this subject. The Parish Council noted that Cllr McDonald had not attended one of its meetings in 2009.

The Council further noted that BT had estimated the cost of strengthening the fibre optic ducting and inspection chambers on Hewell Road at approximately £50000 which made any alterations to the parking arrangements unviable.

The Council was advised that all of the Christmas lights were now installed and working. The official switch on would take place at the Carol Service on December 11.

#### **Environment**

The Council agreed to accept an offer of £920 compensation received from Severn Trent Water in respect of the expenditure incurred by the Council in attempting to rectify the leak in Millennium Park.

The Council expressed its support in principle for the installation of outdoor gym equipment on Parker's Piece. Cllrs Davies and Whitehand agreed to prepare a costed proposal and suggested location for this.

### 88/09 Community Safety

#### **Village Watch**

Cllr Banner advised that the suggestion to combine the PACT meetings with Neighbourhood Watch meetings would be discussed at the next Neighbourhood Watch meeting on January 6.



# Barnt Green Parish Council

## **Health & Safety**

Cllr Gray advised that dialogue with BDC's Environmental Health Department regarding the condition of the wheelchair ramp outside the Tony's Handyman block of shops continued. The Council noted that an elderly gentleman had recently broken his hip when falling on that stretch of footway.

## **Communication**

The Council noted that the deadline for copy for the Winter Newsletter was the first week of January 2010.

## **89/09 Governance**

### **Finance**

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

The Council received a final draft budget for 2010-11 from the Finance Group, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. The budget was accepted and the Council resolved to maintain the precept at £56,000 for 2010-2011.

### **Office**

The Council noted that its offer of £4250 annual rent for the front ground floor office at 80 Hewell Road had been accepted by the landlord. Discussions continued regarding the service charge and contribution towards the landlord's legal costs and the Council resolved to instruct its solicitor to secure the best possible deal on these costs.

### **Volunteer Party**

The Council noted that to date 26 people had confirmed their attendance at the Volunteers/Contractors Party to be held at The Victoria on December 14.

### **Carol Service**

The Council received a verbal update on arrangements for the Carol Service to be held on Friday December 11 at 3.45 in Millennium Park.

### **2011 Calendar**

The Council agreed in principle to produce a 2011 Barnt Green calendar. A request for photographs would be included in future newsletters and a quotation for printing would be sought from Heron Press. The calendars would be sold through retail outlets in the village, with any profits going to charity.



## Barnt Green Parish Council

### **Youth Council and School Governor**

The Council noted that an application for a grant from the Lottery Fund was being prepared to go towards the cost of additional adventure trail equipment on Parker's Piece.

The Council was advised that St Andrews School continued to pursue the Eco Schools initiative.

**WCALC/NALC** – the Chairman and EO had attended the Parish Conference held on November 16 at County Hall, and the Chairman had also attended the CALC AGM on November 25. A report on both of these events is included in the Chairman's report attached to these minutes.

**CPRE** – Cllr Davies reported that CPRE was seeking support for its campaign against the installation of additional pylons across the countryside.

**90/09 Correspondence Received** – a report was circulated at the meeting and a copy is appended to these minutes. The Council confirmed its support for the Sustainable Communities Act Amendment Bill and the EO was asked to write to MPs who had been successful in the Private Members Ballot, inviting their support for the Bill.

**91/09 Urgent Decisions** – none taken since last meeting

**92/09 Future Agenda Items** – none

**93/09 Date and Venue of Next Meeting** – Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2010 at 7.00pm at the Parish Centre was agreed.

The meeting ended at 9.20pm.

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Chairman                      January 25, 2010