



Barnt Green Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Parish Centre on Monday 29th October 2007 at 7.00pm

Present: Cllrs. Mr David Gilburn (vice chairman), Mrs Diane Carr, Mrs Susan Whitehand, and Mr Tom Gray.

In attendance: Roger Westbury (executive officer); Rachel Kennett (Bromsgrove District Council); Richard Peach (The Village magazine)

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

- the Agenda
- the Chairman's report
- an updated report on planning applications
- an updated report from the RFO.
- bank reconciliation statement for the quarter ended 30.9.07
- a report on correspondence received.

66/07 Apologies – Cllrs Judith Jagger and David Harding whose reasons for absence as noted in the attendance book were approved by the council. In the absence of the Chairman, the meeting was chaired by Cllr David Gilburn, vice chairman. Cllr Martin Peyton subsequently advised the council that he had been unable to attend the meeting due to a foot injury.

67/07 Declarations of Interest

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

68/07 Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 24th September 2007 were approved and were signed by the Chairman.

The meeting was adjourned to allow Mr Burch to address the council. He raised the following points:

The generally poor condition of roads in the village – Mr Burch handed to the council a copy of a quotation he had received from Ringway for resurfacing Hewell Lane.

In his opinion the white lines defining the parking spaces outside Tesco need repainting.

The chairman thanked Mr Burch for his comments.

69/07 Waste Collection & Recycling

Ms Rachel Kennett from Bromsgrove District Council gave a presentation to the meeting on waste collection arrangements for the winter period. The council advised Ms Kennett that it, along with 11 other Parish Councils, had written to the chief executive of BDC requesting that, as a minimum, a monthly green waste collection service be reinstated for the December – March period.



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Ms Kennett advised the meeting that a combined collection calendar/advice leaflet was being sent to all households in the district. She also confirmed that there was no limit on the number of recycling boxes that a household could have and that additional boxes could be ordered through the Customer Service Centre.

70/07 District and County Councillors' Question & Answer Session

No district or county councillors were able to attend the meeting, but Cllr Ann Doyle had sent notification to the meeting that she was arranging a fact finding visit to the Longbridge site for all three local Parish Councils, and that she would be submitting a motion to the District council calling for the reinstatement of the green waste collection service in the winter months.

71/07 Chairman's Report

The council received a written report from the acting Chairman. A copy will be attached to these minutes. Cllr Gilburn drew the council's attention to two items – that a PACT meeting for the Hillside ward had been confirmed for November 15th, and that he had, through the executive officer, submitted a complaint to West Mercia constabulary regarding the lack of communication from Rubery Police station.

72/07 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 agreed to attend the forthcoming workshop on the Regional Spatial Strategy on behalf of the Parish Council.

Highways & Lighting

The council received an update on correspondence with WCC Highways Department and noted that £15 million had been allocated for repairs to unclassified roads in rural areas in 2008-09.

The executive officer advised that work would begin on November 6 on replacing a further three concrete lighting columns and on installing new lighting in Millennium Park.

Environment

The meeting agreed to send a response to BDC's Refuse and Recycling Task Group's request for comments on the fortnightly collection service, stating that it was very satisfied with the current service, but would like to see the winter green waste collection service reinstated at least at a monthly frequency.

The EO was asked to order two Christmas trees for installation on Hewell Road.



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73/07 **Community Safety**

Village Watch – the EO confirmed that a Neighbourhood Watch meeting had taken place on September 11 and that the next meeting would be held on November 13.

Health & Safety – nothing to report

Communication – the EO advised that the autumn newsletter had been printed and distributed. There had been some problems with distribution and it was agreed that the list would be reviewed on the chairman's return from holiday.

74/07 **Governance**

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

The council noted that a meeting of the Finance Group had been arranged for November 5 and that a recommended budget and precept for 2008-09 would be submitted to the November Parish Council meeting for consideration.

Cllr Main was asked to prepare a draft submission for a grant from Bromsgrove District Council for funding for new play equipment and refurbishment of the park.

Youth Group – Cllr Whitehand confirmed that an Open Meeting for the youth of the village had been arranged for November 12th and that the Youth Council would be visiting the Houses of Parliament on November 13th. The group's views would be sought on the type of adventure equipment that might be installed on Bittell Road Playing Field. Funding for this would be included in the grant submission being prepared by Cllr Main.

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

The EO was asked to proceed with the upgrade of the website.

CALC – the EO advised that he would be attending a briefing day for quality parish councils on November 14.

CPRE – Cllr Main agreed to circulate a briefing on recent correspondence received from CPRE.

75/07 **Correspondence Received** – a report was circulated at the meeting and a copy is appended to these minutes.

76/07 **Future Agenda Items** –



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Budget and precept for 2008-09
Grant submission to BDC.

77/07 Date and Venue of Next Meeting – Monday 26th November 2007 at 7.00pm at the Parish Centre was agreed.

The meeting ended at 8.35pm.

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Chairman 26th November 2007