



Barnt Green Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Parish Centre on Monday 27th October 2008 at 7.00pm

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

In attendance: Roger Westbury (executive officer)

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

- a. the Agenda
- b. Chairman's Report
- c. an updated report on planning applications
- d. an updated report on outstanding highways matters
- e. an updated report from the RFO.
- f. A bank reconciliation statement as at 30.9.08
- g. an updated income and expenditure account.
- h. Report from St Andrews School Governor and BGYPC
- i. a report on correspondence received.

70/08 Apologies – None received. Cllr Peyton did not attend the meeting, but had not given an apology to the executive officer.

71/08 Declarations of Interest

- (a) The requirement to keep the Register of Interests was noted. The executive officer thanked Councillors Jagger, Harding and Gray for submitting their interests on the correct form that complies with the Local Government Act 2000 section 81(1) and the Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2007. He advised that no form had been received from Cllr Peyton.
- (b) No interests were declared by Members.

72/08 Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 29th September 2008 were approved and were signed by the Chairman.

The meeting was adjourned to allow Rachel Miller and Steve Read to address the council on the subjects of Christmas lighting and the Christmas festival. The executive officer was asked to confirm the costings for the supply and installation of the revised lighting scheme.

73/08 District and County Councillors' Question & Answer Session
No county or district councillors were able to attend the meeting.



Barnt Green Parish Council

74/08 Chairman's Report

The council received a written report from the Chairman, a copy of which will be appended to these minutes.

75/08 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 permission had been granted for the installation of security fencing at St Andrews School.

Highways & Lighting

The council received an updated report on outstanding highways matters, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

The council noted that combined Neighbourhood Watch/Smartwater signs were being installed on the welcome signs. The possibility of obtaining larger signs was being investigated.

The council discussed the revised Christmas lighting scheme and accepted that the upfront cost would be higher than the original proposal, but that the overall cost would be the same or lower over a three year period. The EO was asked to confirm the costings and to detail the breakdown between purchase/hire and installation costs.

A quotation of £437.50 from Mr T Molloy to remove the existing festoon lights and fittings was accepted by the council.

Environment

The council noted that the new lantern had now been installed in Millennium Park and that the bulb planting should commence shortly.

The EO tabled a quotation of £1100 for two replacement litter bins for the Park. This was considered to be too high and the EO was asked to obtain alternative quotations, and to include a new dog litter bin.

A quotation of £1322 from Playdale to install the adventure trail on Parkers Piece was approved by the council.

The EO was asked to obtain a quotation for raising the level of the pillars on the Millennium Arch to improve access for repair vehicles.

76/08 Community Safety

Village Watch - the council noted that a PACT meeting had been held recently at Lickey School, but that no Barnt Green issues had been raised. The EO and Cllr



Barnt Green Parish Council

Gilburn reported that they had met with PC Willetts and she had raised the issues of parking and burglary as being of most concern to Barnt Green residents.

Health & Safety – nothing to report.

Communication – the council noted that there had been a positive response to the new style colour Newsletter and accepted a quotation from The ASK Group of £1180 (less £50 discount) plus £48 delivery to produce 1000 copies of each of four newsletters over the next 12 months.

77/08 Governance

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

The council received an initial draft budget for 2009-10 and after some discussion voted by a majority to maintain the precept at the current level for the coming year. The finance group will present a final draft budget for approval at the November meeting of the council.

The council approved a proposal to split its reserves between a further two banks and the EO was asked to open savings accounts at HSBC and Lloyds TSB for this purpose.

The council received a bank reconciliation statement for the six months ended 30 September 2008, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

Administration

The council rejected a proposal to change the name of the Parish Council by replacing the word "Parish" with an alternative such as "Village". This decision would be reviewed in six months time.

The council agreed to fund a six month trial membership of the SLCC for the EO at a cost of £64.50.

Cllrs Jagger and Gray agreed to assist the EO in the preparation of the council's submission for reaccreditation of its Quality Parish status.

Youth Council – The Council received a report on the activities of the Youth Parish Council, a copy of which will be appended to these minutes.

Office & IT – nothing to report.

School Governor – the council received a report from the council's representative on the Board of Governors of St Andrews School, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.



Barnt Green Parish Council

WCALC/NALC – the council noted that there was a need to pass a resolution adopting the Freedom of Information Act model publication scheme. This would be included on the agenda for the next council meeting.

The council noted that NALC had recommended implementation of an increase in the EO's salary of 2.45 per cent backdated to April 2008. The award has been referred to arbitration.

CPRE – the council recorded its thanks to the local CPRE branch for its support for its efforts to protect the local environment from the implementation of the Longbridge Action Plan.

78/08 Correspondence Received – a report was circulated at the meeting and a copy is appended to these minutes.

79/08 Festivals

The council noted that arrangements were well in hand for the Christmas festival to be held on December 7th.

80/08 Future Agenda Items –

Quality Parish Status reaccreditation.
Freedom of Information Act model publication scheme.

81/08 Urgent Decisions

None taken since last meeting.

81/08 Date and Venue of Next Meeting – Monday 24th November 2008 at 7.00pm at the Parish Centre was agreed.

The meeting ended at 8.35pm.

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Chairman

November 24, 2008