



Barnt Green Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Parish Centre on Monday 26th October 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
- an updated report from the RFO.
- a draft budget for 2010-2011
- Bank reconciliation statement for the quarter ended 30 September 2009
- a report on correspondence received.

70/09 Apologies – District Cllr Ann Doyle.

71/09 Declarations of Interest

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

72/09 Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 28th September 2009 were approved as a true record and were signed by the Chairman.

No Parishioners attended the meeting.

73/09 Chairman's Report

The chairman advised that the building next to the doctors' surgery at 80 Hewell Road was being converted into offices which could be suitable for a Parish Office. She urged councillors to view the premises. Cllr Gray proposed that the Council request first refusal on the front ground floor office, subject to members being satisfied with the premises and the rent. This proposal was carried.

74/09 District and County Councillors' Question & Answer Session

District Cllr Deeming advised that work on establishing shared services between Bromsgrove and Redditch Councils was proceeding well. He confirmed that the Market Hall in Bromsgrove is to be demolished and he also informed the Council that the Planning department drop-in service was being relocated to The Hub.



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He confirmed that work was proceeding on the extension to Bromsgrove railway station. Cllr Gray advised that he had recently attended a meeting with WMPTE where the question of extending the free rail travel service to the northern and southern ends of the cross city line was raised. Centro confirmed that this was under consideration, and if introduced would mean free rail travel from Barnt Green station.

75/09 Infrastructure

Planning & Conservation

The council noted that a recommendation to refuse planning permission for change of use to a takeaway restaurant at 80 Hewell Road had been submitted to BDC Planning Department..

Highways & Lighting

The chairman confirmed that the additional Christmas lights had been delivered and would be installed in November.

The Council noted that Mr Trevor Tipper, the Council's lighting contractor, was retiring on October 31 but that his company, Ellteve Lighting, would continue to operate under the control of Mr Gareth Hodson. Mr Tipper would stay on for a period of 12 months in an advisory capacity.

The Highways Group advised that Hewell Road was likely to be resurfaced in the New Year. This work would involve the repair of the large traffic calming cushions. The Group had arranged to meet with Tesco and WCC Highways on November 3 to ascertain whether any additional road widening work could be included in the resurfacing process.

Environment

The Council noted that the new litter bins had been installed in Millennium Park. The EO was asked to pursue a response to the letter sent to Severn Trent Water on October 15 regarding the leak in Millennium Park.

Cllrs Banner and Carr advised that they had carried out a tree and hedge inspection in the village and had identified several areas where hedges were growing over the footway – particularly on Aqueduct Lane and Bittell Road. The EO was asked to instruct the lengthsman to look into this.

The Council expressed concern at the condition of the large beech tree at the junction of Hewel Road and Bittell Road and Cllr Banner agreed to ask Wade Muggleton from WCC Countryside Services to inspect this.

Cllr Carr reported that a further two shops in the village had agreed to “go green” and do away with plastic carrier bags.



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76/09 Community Safety

Village Watch

The Council noted that the PACT meeting held on October 15th had been poorly attended due to a lack of publicity. The Council agreed to help publicise the next meeting by including flyers in the Spring Newsletter. Main issues arising from the meeting were reckless driving on Sandhills Road and parking on Hewell Road. Cllr Banner agreed to look into the possibility of combining the PACT meetings with Neighbourhood Watch meetings, as was the practice in adjoining parishes.

Health & Safety

Cllr Gray confirmed that he was in dialogue with BDC's Environmental Health Department regarding the condition of the wheelchair ramp outside the Tony's Handyman block of shops.

Communication

The Council noted that the Autumn Newsletter had been printed. Members were complimentary about the quality of printing from the new supplier, Heron Press in Rubery. The EO confirmed that the price from Heron Press was £55 cheaper than the previous printer.

77/09 Governance

Finance – The Council approved payments to the SLCC of £15 in respect of the additional CilCA module on Power of Well Being that the EO is required to submit, and of £133 in respect of the EO's membership of SLCC.

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

The Council received a draft budget from the Finance Group. In view of the possibility of obtaining an office in the village in the near future, it was agreed to postpone a final decision on the budget and precept for 2010-2011 until the November meeting.

The Council received a bank reconciliation statement for the quarter ended 30 September 2009.

Administration

The Council resolved to adopt the Parish Charter as drafted by Bromsgrove District Council.

The Council noted that its Quality Parish status had been retained and agreed to request a formal presentation of the Quality Parish certificate from the chairman of the County Accreditation Panel.



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Youth Council and School Governor

The Council noted that two new members had joined the Parish Youth Council and that its chairman would be interviewed on BBC Radio WM on Thursday 29 October.

The Council was advised that St Andrews School was interested in pursuing the Eco Schools initiative.

Office - see Chairman's report.

WCALC/NALC – the EO advised that a Parish Conference would be held on November 16 at County Hall. Any members interested in attending were asked to let him know.

CPRE – nothing to report

78/09 Correspondence Received – a report was circulated at the meeting and a copy is appended to these minutes.

79/09 Urgent Decisions – none taken since last meeting

80/09 Future Agenda Items – a 2011 Barnt Green calendar
Village Carol Service to be held on December 11th

81/09 Date and Venue of Next Meeting – Monday 30th November 2009 at 7.00pm at the Parish Centre was agreed.
The Council was reminded that the Volunteers Party would be held at The Victoria on Monday December 14th. All members are welcome to attend.

The meeting ended at 8.40pm.

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Chairman November 30, 2009.