



Barnt Green Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Parish Office on Monday 25th October 2010 at 7.00pm

Present: Cllrs. Mrs Judith Jagger (chairman), Mrs Diane Carr (vice chairman), Mr Tom Gray, Mr Alun Davies, Mrs Susan Whitehand, Mrs Rachel Banner, and Mrs Doreen Hawkley.

In attendance: County Councillor Peter McDonald, District Councillors Ann Doyle and Richard Deeming; Roger Westbury (executive officer)

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

- a. the Agenda
- b. a report from the Chairman
- c. an updated report from the RFO.
- d. Bank Reconciliation statement for half year ended 30 September 2010
- e. Statement of income and expenditure against budget for year to 1 October 2010.
- f. A report on correspondence received

70/10 Apologies – None received

71/10 Declarations of Interest

- (a) The requirement to keep the Register of Interests was noted.
- (b) No interests were declared by Members.
- (c) The Chairman reminded councillors of their duty to uphold the Code of Conduct and to debate matters in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders.

72/10 Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 27th September 2010 were approved and were signed by the Chairman.

No Parishioners attended the meeting.

73/10 Chairman's Report

The Chairman presented a written report, a copy of which will be appended to the signed minutes of the meeting. The report updated the Council on Highways matters and Disabled Access to the office.



Barnt Green Parish Council

74/10 District and County Councillors' Question & Answer Session

District Cllr Doyle informed the Council that the planning application for the erection of a domestic wind turbine on High House Drive had been rejected by BDC Planning Committee. Cllrs Doyle and Deeming advised that the rendering plant at Hopwood would shortly be in a position to commence operations. The Councillors would be maintaining a watching brief on the plant to ensure that it complied with the terms of its licence.

Cllr Deeming advised that travellers had recently been moved on from the Longbridge area.

County Cllr McDonald informed the Council that cutbacks at Worcestershire County Council had started with cuts totalling £43.5 million across most departments including adult and community services, education and transport.

He also advised that the parking arrangements on Fiery Hill Road would shortly revert to the scheme that was in operation five years ago.,

75/10 Infrastructure Planning & Conservation

There were no applications or decisions to report on for the month, although Cllr Whitehand said she would be keeping a close eye on the rendering plant at Hopwood in particular with regard to its operating hours. She agreed to draft a piece for the Winter Newsletter asking residents to monitor the plant and report any concerns to BDC.

Highways & Lighting

See Chairman's report.

Environment

Cllr Banner advised the Council that WCC Countryside Services had requested that Parish Councils monitor the condition of horse chestnut trees in their area and report any cases of disease

The Council agreed to include an article in the Winter Newsletter asking residents to suggest any significant trees in the Parish that warranted a Tree Preservation Order.

The Council noted that additional spring bulbs would be planted by the railway embankment during the first week of November.

Cllrs Banner and Davies agreed to assess what trees should be thinned out in the copse at the bottom of Parker's Piece.

The executive officer confirmed that the additional adventure trail equipment had been installed on Parker's Piece. Councillors agreed to inspect the play area at Lickey End to determine what equipment would be suitable for installation in Millennium Park.



Barnt Green Parish Council

Community Safety

Village Watch – the Council noted that W Mercia Police would be holding a Mobile PACT Surgery at the Parish Office on October 28

Health & Safety – see Chairman's report. Cllr Davies was appointed head of the Health & Safety Group following Cllr Gray's resignation from this position. The EO agreed to request the loan of some training videos dealing with disability issues from BDC.

Communications – the executive officer advised that the layout for the Winter Newsletter was current being designed.

76/10 Governance

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

The Council received a Bank Reconciliation Statement for the half year ended 30 September 2010. A copy is attached to these minutes.

The Finance Group agreed to meet during the first week of November to prepare a draft budget and recommended level of precept for 2011-2012. These would be presented to the Council for approval at the next Parish Council meeting to be held on November 29.

Administration – the Council noted that a response had been sent to DCLG outlining its objections to the proposal to introduce a veto on excessive increases in Parish Council precepts.

The Council agreed to a move of one spinal point up the salary scale for the EO, backdated to 1st April 2010, in accordance with his contract of employment.

The Council considered the proposed list of WCC Services where it was felt that County and Parish Councils could work together. The EO was asked to send the Council's response to the County Council.

Youth Council – the Council noted that the Youth Council would be taking a stall at the Scouts' Bonfire Event on November 6th in order to raise its profile..

School Governor – nothing to report.

WCALC/NALC – the Council noted that CALC was organising training sessions for Councillors in the New Year.

CPRE- nothing to report.



Barnt Green Parish Council

Events – Cllr Carr advised the Council that she had started making arrangements for the 2011 Barnt Green Festival to be held on 11 June. The date for the 2010 Christmas Carol Service had been fixed as December 10 and the Volunteers Party had been confirmed for December 15th at The Green Olive on Hewell Road.

A visit to The House of Commons including a meeting with Sajid Javid MP has been arranged for April 4th 2011 and a coach has been booked. This will be given wide coverage in the Winter Newsletter and will be open to all residents, families and friends.

- 77/10 Urgent Decisions** – none taken since last meeting.
- 78/10 Correspondence Received** – a report on correspondence received which was not covered by the agenda was circulated at the meeting and a copy is attached to these minutes.
- 79/10 Future Agenda Items** – a Barnt Green calendar and Christmas cards using the work of local photographers.
- 80/10 Date and Venue of Next Meeting** – Monday 29 November 2010 at 7.00pm at the Parish Office was agreed.

The meeting ended at 8.25pm.

.....
Chairman November 29, 2010