



# Barnt Green Parish Council

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Parish Centre on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2007 at 7.00pm

**Present:** Cllrs. Mr David Gilburn (vice chairman), Mrs Diane Carr, Mrs Susan Whitehand, Mr David Harding and Mr Martin Peyton.

**In attendance:** District Councillor Ann Doyle; Roger Westbury (executive officer);

**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.
- a report on correspondence received.

**55/07 Apologies** – Cllrs Judith Jagger, Tom Gray and Rick Main 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.

**56/07 Declarations of Interest**

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

**57/07 Minutes of the Last Meeting** held on 23rd July 2007 were approved and were signed by the Chairman.

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

*Road sweeping in the village*

*Mowing of verges on Fiery Hill Road*

*The generally poor condition of roads in the village*

*Parking arrangements on Fiery Hill Road*

*The chairman thanked Mr Burch for his comments and advised him that the council was fully aware of these points and that discussions were already in hand with both the District and County Councils as appropriate.*

**58/07 Chairman's Report**

The council received a written report from the Chairman. A copy will be attached to these minutes.

**59/07 District and County Councillors' Question & Answer Session**

Cllr Ann Doyle updated the council on the following matters:



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1. The Refuse and Recycling Task Group was examining the non collection of green waste in the winter months, but had had no success to date in persuading the District Council to reinstate this service. It was agreed that the Parish Council would write to the chief executive of Bromsgrove District Council expressing its concern on this matter and would seek support from other parishes in the District.
2. Cllr Doyle advised that she had also taken up with the chief executive (Kevin Dicks) the question of parish representation on the Longbridge "inner committees".
3. Cllr Doyle reported that she had supported the Parish Council's representations regarding the removal of the fencing outside 47 Linthurst Road. However the planning committee had nevertheless decided that the fencing could remain in place.
4. Cllr Doyle advised that £163,000 would become available in 106 Monies from a development in Blackwell. In view of the previous allocation of 106 monies, she suggested that this money should be used for projects across the whole of Hillside Ward and that the Parish Council should prepare a business case for funding for new play/leisure equipment in Barnt Green.

### **60/07 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 discuss with Cllr Gray the design of the proposed extension to Barnt Green Social Club.

#### **Highways & Lighting**

The council noted that a further letter had been sent to WCC Highways Department regarding outstanding issues.

The following expenditure was agreed:

- £1500 on floodlighting for Millennium Park
- £2500 for painting all lamp posts and sign poles in the village
- £4000 approx to replace a further three concrete lighting columns.

#### **Environment**

The council noted that, following discussions with council representatives, Central Trains had agreed to reduce parking charges at Barnt Green station. The new, reduced charges had come into effect on September 9 and the council had mounted an extensive media campaign to publicise these. The council agreed to monitor parking at the station and on Fiery Hill Road in order to gauge the impact of the price reduction.

Expenditure was approved for

- £1350 on trees and bulbs for Fiery Hill Road and Bittell Road.



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- £5100 on new gateway and fingerpost signs.

The council agreed that a new bench should be acquired to replace the damaged one on the corner of Bittell Road at its junction with Bittell Farm Road.

The council agreed to gauge public reaction to the proposed removal of the hedge on the Sandhills Road side of Millennium Park. An article regarding this would be included in the autumn newsletter.

### 61/07 Community Safety

**Village Watch** – the EO was asked to check whether the Neighbourhood Watch meeting planned for September had actually taken place.

**Health & Safety** – nothing to report

**Communication** – the EO advised that the deadline for copy for the autumn newsletter was September 30.

### 62/07 Governance

**Administration** – the council passed a resolution as set out in the agenda adopting the Model Code of Conduct for Parish Councils including Section 12(2)

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

The council received an Income & Expenditure account up to September 30, 2007 and a forecast expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2008. Councillors were requested to examine the figures and to consider likely expenditure for the 2008-09 year so that the precept could be set at the November council meeting.

**Youth Group** – the council noted that the Barnt Green Youth Parish Council was now in existence and was working on a draft constitution. The council further noted that an Open Meeting for the youth of the village had been arranged for November 12<sup>th</sup> and that the Youth Council would be visiting the Houses of Parliament on November 13<sup>th</sup>. A contribution up to a maximum of £200 towards travel costs for this visit was approved by the council.

The next meeting of the Youth Council is scheduled for October 8<sup>th</sup> – Cllrs Whitehand and Peyton agreed to attend.

**Office & IT** –The EO reported that agreement had been reached with Lloyds TSB for the Parish Council to store its office furniture at 67 Hewell Road. The legal documents for assigning the lease were currently with the council's solicitors.

The council noted that a third computer course run by WCC would begin on October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The council agreed the purchase of a further laptop computer for Cllr Gilburn.



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**CALC** – the council noted that the CALC AGM would take place on October 4<sup>th</sup>.  
**CPRE** – nothing to report.

**Barnt Green Festival 2007** – the council agreed that the proceeds of £1610 from the festival should be split equally between Acorns Hospice and the Barnt Green Scouts & Guides Rebuild Fund.

- 63/07 Correspondence Received** – a report was circulated at the meeting and a copy is appended to these minutes.
- 64/07 Future Agenda Items** –  
Rachel Kennet from BDC to be invited to address the council on recycling.
- 65/07 Date and Venue of Next Meeting** – Monday 29th October 2007 at 7.00pm at the Parish Centre was agreed.

The meeting ended at 8.30pm.

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Vice-Chairman

29th October 2007