



Barnt Green Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Parish Office on Monday 26th September 2011 at 7.00pm

Present: Cllrs John Jagger (Vice Chairman), Mrs Rachel Banner, Mrs Susan Whitehand, Charles Hotham and Edwin Gumbley.

In attendance: Roger Westbury (executive officer); Julia Waters (Barnt Green Neighbourhood Watch)

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

- the Agenda
- an updated report on planning applications
- notes on a Special Meeting of the Parish Council held on August 15
- an updated report from the RFO.
- A report on expenditure v. budget for the half year to 30.9.11.

55/11 Apologies – Apologies had been received from Cllrs Alun Davies, Mark Astle and Doreen Hawkey whose reasons for absence as noted in the Attendance Book were approved by the Council. Apologies had also been received from County Cllr McDonald and District Cllrs Deeming and Dudley.

56/11 Declarations of Interest

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

57/11 Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 1st August 2011 were approved and were signed by the Vice Chairman.

The Vice Chairman adjourned the meeting at this stage to allow Mrs Julia Waters, Chairman of Barnt Green Neighbourhood Watch, to address the Council. She advised that the scheme was active and had 24 co-ordinators, but more were needed. The Council agreed to do all it could to publicise the scheme and invited Mrs Waters to provide an article on Neighbourhood Watch which could be added to the Council website and included in the next Newsletter. She was also asked to supply a flyer which could be circulated with the next issue of the Parish Council Newsletter.

58/11 Infrastructure

Planning & Conservation

The Council received a report on recent planning applications and noted that the application for an extension to the Parish Centre at St Andrews Church had been



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refused. The Council also noted that the temporary portakabin at the side of the Parish Centre was due to be removed.

The Planning Group advised that it had recommended refusal of the application for a single storey side extension at 22a Orchard Croft as it would be visually intimidating and would result in a loss of natural light.

Cllr Banner reported that she had met with the owners of 29 Bittell Road who had sought the support of the Parish Council in their dealings with Birmingham City Council over an extension to their property. The Planning Group recommended that the Council remained neutral on this matter but would submit comments on any planning application as and when it was submitted. The Council accepted this recommendation.

The Council received notes of the Special Meeting held on August 15 to discuss the proposed development at Fiery Hill Road. The Council noted that a draft response to the application for outline planning permission for the site had been received from the Council's planning consultant and agreed to meet on October 3 to discuss this further. As site notices had only been posted on Fiery Hill Road on September 23, the deadline for submissions was now assumed to be October 14. The EO was asked to confirm this with BDC's Planning Department (since done and confirmed).

Cllr Whitehand reported on recent problems with drainage on Fiery Hill Road and it was agreed that a letter should be sent to Severn Trent Water asking for a full report on this matter and requesting an assessment of the likely impact on the drainage system of a further 88 dwellings in Fiery Hill Road.

Allotments. The EO reported that he had received a response from BDC regarding the petition for the provision of allotments and that this was deemed to be a decision for the Parish Council. The Council resolved to defer further discussion on this matter until a future meeting.

Highways & Lighting

The Highways Group reported that the County Council was reluctant to install double yellow lines on Hewell Road as such parking restrictions could not be enforced. The Council asked if the No Waiting times could be extended from 6pm until 8pm and the Group agreed to take this up with the County Council Highways Department.

Cllr Hotham asked if a cheaper alternative supplier could be identified for the provision of power to the street lights in the village. The EO agreed to look into this.



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Environment

The Council noted that Viva had again been judged the winner of the prize for best maintenance of its hanging basket with a further five businesses being highly commended. The recipients of baskets next year would be culled based on their performance this year, and quotations for larger 14" baskets would be sought.

The Council recorded its thanks to Burcot Garden Centre for the quality of plants supplied for the Hewell Road planters.

The Environment group advised that it had decided not to plant any additional bulbs this autumn, but would identify any areas requiring more planting in the Spring. The Group also advised that some additional hardcore was required by the stream at the bottom of the Bittell Road Playing Field.

The EO was asked to seek quotations for repainting the signposts in the village before this work was undertaken.

Cllr Jagger reported on the problem of rail squeal and advised that it was a maintenance issue and that pressure should be put on Network Rail to implement the previously proven solution. Cllr Hotham agreed to take up with Bromsgrove District Council the possibility of reinstating the Noise Abatement Order relating to this problem.

The Council noted that one possible solution to the parking problems in the village caused by the high charges at the station car park was for the Council to take responsibility for this site. It was agreed that this would be deferred until a future meeting.

The Council noted that the weeds in the gutters on Hewell Road had been sprayed but not removed. The Council agreed to form a working party to deal with this and the work would be undertaken on Saturday 8 October at 10.30am. All Councillors are urged to attend if at all possible.

59/11 Community Matters

Village Watch – the Council looks forward to an improved relationship with the Neighbourhood Watch scheme now that a new chairman has been appointed.

Help for Traders - the Council agreed to consider this at the next meeting. Possible areas of assistance are the revival of the Chamber of Trade and advertising in the Newsletter.

Health & Safety – nothing to report.



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Communications – the Council noted that the autumn newsletter had been printed and distributed. Cllr Astle and the EO had looked into the possibility of increasing the size of the Newsletter from 4 to 6 pages and taking paid for advertising to cover the cost. The EO advised that a move to a 6-page format would increase the cost from £240 to £365. Two pages of advertising could be offered at a cost of £50 per quarter page, generating an income of £400. The Council agreed to publicise this in the Winter Newsletter with a view to producing the first expanded issue containing advertising in Spring 2012.

60/11 Governance

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

The Council received a report on expenditure v. budget for the six months to 30 September 2011. It was agreed that further discussion on the budget for 2012-2013 would be held at the next meeting with a view to finalising the budget and precept at the November meeting.

Youth Council – Cllr Whitehand reported that the Youth Group had disbanded and that work was required to resurrect it.

School Governor – Cllr Whitehand advised that she wished to stand down as the Council's representative on the St Andrews School governing body and the EO was asked to ascertain if Cllr Astle would be interested in taking on this role.

WCALC/NALC – Cllr Jagger and the EO had attended the CALC Area Meeting held on 7 September where a discussion had taken place on the role of CALC and what Parish Councils expected from their subscriptions. There had been general agreement that CALC provided a valuable source of advice, information and training but that CALC could do more to improve the buying powers of Parish Councils by negotiating discounts with major shared suppliers.

Cllr Jagger and the EO agreed to attend the CALC AGM to be held on October 13.

CPRE- Cllr Whitehand had attended the latest CPRE branch meeting and advised that CPRE would be responding to the application for outline planning permission for the Fiery Hill Road site, outlining its objections to the proposed development.

Events – the Council agreed to hold the Volunteers Thank You Party on Wednesday 14 December at The Victoria. Cllr Whitehand was asked to discuss a date for the Carol Concert with St Andrews School.



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Administration – the EO advised that the Worcestershire Agreement would be officially launched on October 18 at the Parish Councils Conference. Parish Councils would be invited to sign up to the Agreement and the EO was requested to circulate a copy to all Councillors.

- 61/11 Urgent Decisions** – none taken since last meeting
- 62/11 Correspondence Received** – the EO advised that a thank you letter had been received from the League of Friends of the Alexandra Hospital thanking the Parish Council for its generous donation from the Barnt Green Festival proceeds. The Council resolved that it was unable to assist with a request for a donation received from WRVS.
- 63/11 Future Agenda Items** – training for new councillors (to include Power of Well Being); support for local traders; station car parking; Barnt Green parish boundaries.
- 64/11 Date and Venue of Next Meetings** – Monday 31st October 2011 at 7.00pm at the Parish Office was confirmed.

The meeting ended at 9.40pm.

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Chairman

31 October, 2011