

BARNT GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

80 Hewell Road, Birmingham, B45 8NF

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www.barntgreen.org.uk



Public notice of Parish Council meeting

Monday 15th October 2018 at 7.00pm

at Barnt Green Baptist Church hall, Bittell Road, B45 8LX

Parish Councillors are hereby summoned to attend.

The meeting is open to the press and members of the public who are welcome to attend all or part of the meeting but may only speak during the adjournment of the meeting (agenda item 18/146b below) to put questions or raise concerns regarding matters on this agenda or for future consideration. There is no expectation on the council to respond to any comments made at this time.

Meeting Agenda

18/143 Apologies

To receive apologies from absent members and record the reason for absence.

18/144 Declarations of Interest: Councillors are reminded that to ensure transparency and retain public confidence in the council's decisions they are required to -

- a) Keep their Register of Interests form up to date;
- b) Declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI) and any Other Disclosable Interests (ODI) in agenda items and the nature of those interests.

18/145 To consider any dispensations

Written requests for the council to grant a dispensation to a councillor (as per Localism Act 2011, s33) must be with the Executive Officer before the meeting starts

18/146 Adjournment of meeting to hear from:

- a) **Representatives of Bromsgrove District Council's District Local Plan team to talk about the Issues and Options consultation. NB there will be an opportunity to spend more time on this at this venue on Saturday 27th October, 10am - midday**
- b) **Members of the Public**
- c) **Supporting organisations, eg Safer Neighbourhood Team, Footpath Warden**
- d) **Worcestershire County Councillor – Peter McDonald (Beacon division)**
- e) **Bromsgrove District Councillor - Charles Hotham (Barnt Green & Hopwood)**

The meeting will resume to allow for the following business:

18/147 To adopt previous minutes

To approve adoption of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 17/09/2018 Draft copy attached, pages 3 – 7.

18/148 Chairman's Report

The Chairman will provide a report.

18/149 Executive Officer's Report

To be advised of any decisions taken under delegated powers since the last meeting and receive updates to ongoing matters and a list of office communications since the last council meeting. See page 8.

18/150 Finance

- (i) To note the current financial position and bills for payment; see page 9.
- (ii) To be advised of any expenditure decisions taken by the Executive Officer.

- (iii) To consider acceptance of £300 from Barnt Green Chuggers in respect of the cancelled Fun Run in March 2018.
- (iv) To approve the purchase of:
 - (a) a flagpole and 2 flags for Millennium Park including delivery and installation @ £1196.04. Minute no. 18/136c refers.
 - (b) 2no. gazebos @ £249.99 each which would be used to support outdoor events such as the community walks.
 - (c) reference book 'Local Council Administration' 11th edition, £103.99.
 - (d) 2no fire extinguishers (1 x water, 1 x CO2) for the parish council office, £42.39.

18/151 Committee, Working Party and Members' reports on meetings attended

- a) **Environment Committee** meeting held 20/09/2018 (pp 10 – 12), with updates on:
 - aa) Wildflower planting to encourage natural pollinators
 - ab) Purchase of Worcester Black Pear (£17.50 + guard) & decision on where to plant
 - ac) Winter bedding plants now ordered
 - ad) Shops canopy 28 – 30 Hewell Road, improvements delayed to mid-2019
- b) **Finance and General Purposes Committee** meeting held 08/10/2018
Draft minutes attached, pp 13-14.

18/152 Events

- a) Annual Community Walk 22/09/2018, feedback
- b) Police Pop-Up, Thursday 11/10/2018 at the parish council office
- c) Best Christmas Window competition: winner to be announced on 01/12/2018
- d) Other 2018 events: Christmas Lights-On 01/12/2018, Wassail Walk 27/12/2018

18/153 Environment & Community Wellbeing

- a) To consider whether to support the 'We Don't Buy Crime' initiative, as presented at last month's meeting, and if so, to agree a strategy for forward progress. The discounted cost per item, dependent on 70% uptake, is £8.90 + VAT. If agreed, then to include in any leaflet drop the questionnaire relating to AgeUK discussed at last month's meeting (minute no. 18/138a). See pp 15 - 19

18/154 Planning

- a) To respond to the following consultations, details can be viewed online via: <http://publicaccess.bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk/online-applications/>

Log no.	BDC ref	Site Address
102	18/01105	40 Oakdene Drive B45 8LQ
Proposed development: Two storey rear extension		

18/155 Future Meetings and items for future agendas

Councillors will be reminded of meetings to be attended and may use this opportunity to raise items for future agendas.

18/156 Date and Venue of Next Meeting

Next ordinary parish council meeting will be Monday 19th November 2018, 7pm at Barnt Green Baptist Church

Council Members: R Cholmondeley (Chairman), C Hotham (vice-Chairman), R Briggs, J Jagger, J Nilsson, P Perry, H Rone-Clarke, S Whitehand

 Gill Lungley
Executive Officer
09/10/2018

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**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting
held at Barnt Green Baptist Church lounge, B45 8LU
on Monday 17th September 2018 at 7.00pm**

DRAFT

Barnt Green Parish Council adopted the General Power of Competence, June 2015

Members present: Cllrs R Cholmondeley (Chairman), C Hotham (vice-chairman), R Briggs, J Jagger, J Nilsson, P Perry, H Rone-Clarke.

In attendance: Two members of the public
Mick Simpson, We Don't Buy Crime
A representative of The Village
Executive Officer, Gill Lungley

18/128 APOLOGIES

Apologies received and noted from Cllr S Whitehand

18/129 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were reminded of the need to keep the Members' Register of Interests up to date and, in keeping with the Members' Code of Conduct, were asked to declare either any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI) or Other Disclosable Interests (ODI) where relevant.

- Cllr Hotham has a standing declaration in his role as a member of the district council's planning committee; any comments made at parish council meetings on planning matters are made prior to possession of the full facts and would not amount to pre-determination.

18/130 CONSIDERATION OF DISPENSATION REQUESTS

No dispensation requests had been submitted in advance of this meeting.

18/131 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING to hear from:

a) Mick Simpson, Project Manager, We Don't Buy Crime initiative

West Mercia Police, supported by the Police and Crime Commissioner, seek to proactively reduce the likelihood of residents falling victim to burglaries and theft of property. To do this they promote the use of SmartWater (other products are available, but SmartWater is the product available to WMP). Mick Simpson provided details of the product, how and where it is used and its cost.

b) Members of the public

Pam and Alfred Eves (Troop Aid) were invited to talk about their idea to commemorate the centenary of WWI Armistice by creating a memory board to be added to by the community. Starting with a visit to the school and engaging the pupils, their parents and grandparents before moving to a specific venue at a time and place to be agreed for wider community participation.

c) Supporting Organisations:

Simon Richards, Footpath Officer had sent apologies.

d) Worcs County Councillor: Peter McDonald, Beacon division had sent apologies.

e) Bromsgrove District Councillor: Charles Hotham, Barnt Green & Hopwood ward:

- The District Council's Issues and Options 8-week consultation will concentrate on the methodology to be used in the Green Belt review and is not an opportunity to identify sites for future development.

- The PiP (Planning in Principle) is a newly introduced 2-stage mechanism for planning applications to be considered for any small housing developments of up to 9 houses. The first stage is for the planning authority to provide, or not, an 'in principle' permission; the second (costlier) stage is for the developer to provide technical details of the application. Parish Councils are consulted but have a shorter period (17 days) in which to respond.
- Coun Hotham has submitted a motion to the next meeting of the District Council to consider adopting unitary status, to be in the form of either a county-wide unitary authority, or two Worcestershire unitary authorities (a north and south).

DRAFT

18/132 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of meeting held 28/08/2018, agreed a true record, were signed by the Chairman.

18/133 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Cllr R Cholmondeley

- a) The annual community walk will take place on 22nd September and the Chairman hopes for good weather and that it will go well.
- b) Pleased to see the rail public right of way footbridge installation work has started; completion of work is expected by Jan/Feb 2019.

18/134 UPDATES AND DECISIONS taken by the Executive Officer (EO) since last meeting

- a) Barnt Green station Letter sent to West Midlands Trains asking for improved signage regarding timetable screens at platform 1 and better access to a ticket machine.
- b) Network Rail Public Right of Way footbridge installation work has started; access road is being installed off Bittell Farm Road.
- c) Pollinator support The site is to be prepared; an explanatory letter will be sent to nearby residents. Mrs Banner has requested the installation of an interpretation board, subject to BGPC approval of costs.
- d) Office The premises have been inspected by the landlord's Fire Safety Officer. The overall summary for the three suites is 'tolerable'. The dry-powder type of fire extinguisher in the office is not suitable for an enclosed space and will be removed (it is suitable for use at outdoor events).
- e) Fun Run Barnt Green Chuggers had provided a summary of this year's event. Detail of whether to accept part of the funding raised will be discussed at the next parish council meeting.
- f) Parliamentary constituency boundaries The boundaries suggested during the consultation are to be recommended to Parliament for adoption. If adopted then Barnt Green will become part of the Redditch constituency.
- g) List of visitors to the parish council office and correspondence received was available to view.
- h) Reports to WCC - Broken manhole cover, pavement Kendal End Road (outside parish): WCC have referred to Severn Trent Water for attention.
With regard to overhanging hedges it was believed that the district council has delegated powers to deal with these when causing an obstruction.
- i) Items actioned and awaiting response - Barnt Green cricket club are yet to provide pictures of benefit of grant funding. Despite promise to provide the information the Club has provided nothing to date.
- Christmas tree removal on corner Hewell Road/Sandhills Road; the Lengthsman is to action this.
- Wayleave at Millennium Park.
- i) Items carried forward • Community bus
• Blackwell Road litter bin
• Upper Bittell reservoir valve works (record for archive)
• Commuters' car park

18/135 FINANCE REPORT

- i) *Current financial position* – bank reconciliation to 31/08/2018 was noted:

Bank Reconciliation to 31/08/2018			
Cash book		Bank Statements	
Cash in hand at 01/04/2018	76,693.45	Current account	1,214.65
Add receipts to 31/08/2018	36,336.45	Deposit account	28,583.24
Less payments to 31/08/2018	-28,330.88	Building society	54,801.13
	0	Pocket card	200.00
	0	Less u/p payments	0
	84,699.02		84,799.02

The imbalance of £100 (due to a recording error) will be corrected in next month's accounts. See page 212 for the record of receipts and payments for the month to date.

ii) **Expenditure decisions taken by Executive Officer:** None

DRAFT

iii) **To receive and note the external auditor's report following the annual audit**

The external auditor, PKF Littlejohn, has provided an unqualified opinion which has been published on the parish council's website and notice board:

"On the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met."

iv) **To consider providing a grant to Citizens Advice Bromsgrove & Redditch**

- **AGREED**

A grant of £200 would be provided to Citizens Advice Bromsgrove & Redditch.

18/136 COMMITTEE, WORKING PARTY and MEMBERS' REPORTS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED

- a) Bromsgrove Area Worcs County Association of Local Councils meeting 12/09/2018. Presentations had been given by Mike Dunphy for Bromsgrove District Council's Local Plan, Issue and Options Consultation; Sarah Knight for Clinical Commissioning Group Neighbourhood Teams.
- d) Village Team Meeting held 13/09/2018. The current retail economic situation was discussed; there are real concerns about the suggestion the mains water pipe is to be replaced which may involve road closures for a considerable period of time. If this is to occur the Council will contact WCC Highways and Commercial officers. Plans for the Christmas lights-on event and possibilities for 2019 summer event were also discussed.
- e) WWI Armistice Centenary Working Party
 - i. Flagpole.
 - **AGREED**
 - The preferred supplier is Flagpole Express who would be asked to visit site as soon as possible to ensure suitability.
 - ii. Memory Board
 - **AGREED**
 - The suggestion to create a community memory board was not supported.
 - iii. Other suggestions
 - Plant a Worcester Black Pear tree.
 - Install a commemorative bench in the playing field.
 - Install a tree trunk seat in the playing field.
 - Install a drinking fountain in Millennium Park.

18/137 EVENTS

e) **Preparations for the Annual Community Walk 22/09/2018**

Plans were in hand for this event involving 3 different walks of 8 miles, 5 miles and 3 miles and refreshments and live music afterwards in Millennium Park.

f) **Dates of other 2018 events:** Christmas Lights-on 01/12 and Wassail Walk 27/12.

b) AgeUK questionnaire

- AGREED

To issue a questionnaire to all parish houses, with the six questions advised by AgeUK to all residents at the same time as a questionnaire relating to SmartWater, if agreed at the council's next meeting on 15/10/2018.

c) Budget delegation of up to £600 to Environment Committee to decide on replacement bollards in Hewell Road

- AGREED

To delegate decision-making and funding of up to £600 to the next meeting of the Environment Committee regarding replacement bollards in Hewell Rd.

d) Newsletter

The most recent Bulletin had been distributed; items were required for the parish council's next contribution to The Village for the November issue.

18/139 PLANNING

a) Response to consultation:

18/01120 / log no 101	32 Fiery Hill Road B45 8LG
Demolition of flat roof garage, new side two storey extension front gable raised and replacement rear first storey extension and ground floor orangery which would be permitted development.	
PC Comment: The Parish Council would approve this application.	

b) Format of consultation with Bromsgrove District Council on their 8-week District Plan Review Issues and Options Consultation

- AGREED

To request a Saturday morning exhibition at a venue in Barnt Green and to ask about what is involved (format, timings etc) in the proposed workshops.

18/140 ADMINISTRATION, GOVERNANCE AND CONSULTATIONS

a) Associate school governor

It was noted that Cllr J Nilsson would represent Barnt Green Parish Council on the St Andrews Church of England Barnt Green First School governing body.

18/141 FUTURE MEETINGS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

a) Environment Committee meeting 20/09/2018, 2pm

b) Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting 08/10/2018, 10am

18/142 Date and Venue of Next Parish Council Meeting

The next meeting is on Monday 15th October 2018, 7pm: Barnt Green Baptist Church.

This meeting ended at 21:10hrs

Signed: Chairman, Barnt Green Parish Council

Date 15th October 2018

Minute no. 18/135 (1)

Extract from parish council spreadsheet to show receipts and payments, part September 2018.

		subtotal for the month	4,869.12	5,320.07	305.59	5,014.48
		total for year to date	36,336.45	28,330.88	1,829.24	26,501.64
Sep-18		Description	Receipts	Payments Gross	Payments VAT	Payments Net
s/o	v087	August retainer re footpath lighting		- 364.00	- 44.00	- 320.00
s/o	v087	August retainer re footpath lighting		264.00	44.00	220.00
BACS	v089	Hire of meeting venue		90.00	-	90.00
BACS	v090	Publicity for community walk		219.00	29.00	190.00
s/o	v091	Grounds Maintenance at playing field	-	278.89	46.48	232.41
BACS	v092	Annual Audit		360.00	60.00	300.00
BACS	v093	Newsletter printing		250.00	-	250.00
d/d	v094a	Dusk to dawn footpath lighting energy		245.05	40.84	204.21
d/d	v094b	Continuous footpath lighting energy		12.88	0.61	12.27
BACS	v095	Outdoor parish caretaker, August 2018		416.66	-	416.66
d/d	v096	Office mobile phone	-	5.00	0.83	4.17
BACS	v097a	Millennium Park grass cut, August 2018	-	114.00	-	114.00
BACS	v097b	High street verges cut, August 2018	-	56.00	-	56.00
d/d	v098	Staff pensions		168.14	-	168.14
s/o	v099	Staff salaries		1,098.53	-	1,098.53
d/d	v100	Office landline and broadband		35.19	5.86	29.33
d/d	v101	Quarterly bank charges		18.00	-	18.00
				-	-	-
				-	-	-
		subtotal for month	-	3,267.34	183.62	3,083.72
		total for year to date	36,336.45	31,598.22	2,012.86	29,585.36

DRAFT

<p>a) Barnt Green station</p>	<p>West Midlands Trains response to BGPC asking for improved signage regarding timetable screens at platform 1 and access to the ticket machine is: <i>"We currently have no plans to install an electronic information screen on platform 1. The reason that we have taken this decision is due to the frequency of the service being as low as it is at present. We also have no plans to relocate the ticket vending machine current in-situ for the same reasons and no plans to install another. We will continue to monitor patronage of services from platforms 1 and 2 at Barnt Green and assess options as necessary in future."</i></p>
<p>b) Barnt Green Cricket Club</p>	<p>Grant for Refurbishment of Outdoor Practice Net Area - Barnt Green Cricket Club</p> <p>As requested please see below a couple of photographs that I have recently taken of the practice net area at the cricket club.</p> <p>The £500 grant that we received from Barnt Green Parish Council went towards the refurbishment of the four lanes of nets. The work was undertaken before the start of last season (i.e. during the early part of 2017) by a specialist firm and this involved the relaying of the under-beds of the impact area of the lanes, the relaying of the artificial all weather surface around the wicket areas and the replacement of all the netting.</p> <p>As explained at the time of the application this a vital facility for the club and it is used by club members (the vast majority of which are juniors) regularly and especially on Friday night junior training sessions (which were very well attended again this season). This facility is also very important for game preparation for players on match days with the ground hosting a number of senior and junior (both girls and boys) county matches during both the 2017 and 2018 seasons. The club's first team has also managed to maintain its position in the Birmingham and District Premier League (which is the top tier of club cricket).</p> <p>Please let me know if you require any further information.</p> <p>On behalf of the club I would like to thank you again for the grant and we hope that the parish council might one day consider a further grant assistance application from the club provided the case can be demonstrated for its importance in helping Barnt Green's Cricket Club's objective of providing facilities for and promoting the local community's participation in and/or the enjoyment of the game of cricket.</p> 
<p>c) Visitors to the parish council office and correspondence received from which members are to identify any items for further discussion at future meeting(s). To be advised at the meeting.</p>	
<p>d) Items actioned and awaiting response</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Christmas tree removal on corner Hewell Road/Sandhills Road; the Lengthsman is to action this. - Wayleave at Millennium Park.
<p>i) Items carried forward</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community bus • Blackwell Road litter bin • Upper Bittell reservoir valve works (record for archive) • Commuters' car park • Railway PRow (public right of way) footbridge – installation work has started

Current financial position (bank reconciliation to 30/09/2018)

Bank Reconciliation as at 30/09/2018			
Cash in hand at 1 April 2018			
Unity Bank current account	2,240.80		
Unity Bank deposit account	21,173.41		
Cambridge Building Society	54,801.13		
Opening bank balances		£78,215.34	
Add pockit	200.00		
Less unrepresented cheques	-1,721.89		
Opening Cash Book balance		£76,693.45	
Add receipts between 1 April - 30 Sept 2018	36,361.14		
Less payments between 1 April - 30 Sept 2018	-33,273.42		
Cashbook balance at 30 Sept 2018		£79,781.17	A
Cash in hand per bank statements at 30 Sept 2018			
Unity Bank current account	3,345.64		
Unity Bank deposit account	22,607.93		
Cambridge B/S	54,801.13		
Pockit	200.00		
Less unrepresented cheques, as list below	1,173.53		
Bank balances at 30 Sept 2018		£79,781.17	B
		£0.00	

Bills for payment approval (updated list to be provided at meeting)

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Environment Committee Meeting

Thursday 20th September 2018 at 2pm in
the Parish Council office, 80 Hewell Road, Barnt Green, B45 8NF.

DRAFT MINUTES	
Members Present	Cllrs R Briggs (Chairman), R Cholmondeley, J Jagger
Members not present	Cllr H Rone-Clarke
In attendance	Gill Lungley, Executive Officer
E18-10	Apologies No apologies received.
E18-11	Declarations of Interest None
E18-12	The meeting was adjourned for Public Question Time Not required at this point in the meeting, however a member of the public arrived during the meeting to comment on concerns regarding the amount of leaf-fall in Fiery Hill Road and the apparent reluctance of anyone to take responsibility for it.
E18-13	To approve the minutes of the meeting held 11/06/2018 Following amendment, the minutes of the meeting held 11/06/2018 were approved and signed. The amendment was to minute number E18-06(a) the word 'able' in the second paragraph to 'unable'.
E18-14	Update on previous matters a) Lengthsman scheme: this is working well with the Lengthsman having divided the parish into 4 so that each sector is attended to once a month. b) Drainage issues: Thomas Curwell, officer for North Worcestershire Water Management will attend the parish council meeting on 19 th November to report on the current situation. c) Pollinator encouragement: working with Rachel Banner, the site of open land off Green Bank Drive has been identified as the most promising to start the scheme. Arrangements had been made with a contractor to clear the grass and rotovate prior to sowing a wildflower seed selection, following which the area is to be appropriately fenced to prevent parking, and interpretation boards to be installed. d) Black Pear Tree: WCC officer would be asked advice on suitability.

- e) **Playing Field:** issues raised at the last meeting had been dealt with:
- Entrance gate has now been tidied of spare cable ties etc.
 - The hedge and weeds at the car park entrance have been cut back;
 - Weeds against the car park fence have been treated;
 - Footpath plant creep – not believed to be a problem;
 - Damaged litter bins at both north-end and south-east have been removed;
 - Nettles at north pedestrian gate have been removed;
 - Tree on path by the stream has been removed;
 - Grass under the play equipment and benches has been strimmed;
 - One new litter bin has been installed near to the south pedestrian entrance.
- f) **Millennium Park:** no issues of concern. Members asked if it would be possible to install a drinking fountain now that there is a water supply available (the tap is kept locked to prevent loss of water).
- g) **Village Centre Parking**
 Cllr Jagger had visited all the shops to ask about their parking provision; it would appear that most are well catered for and do not use on-road parking. There is therefore no demand for workers' parking spaces at the Social Club. Also, the survey would imply that the people who use on-road parking are customers, residents, visitors and/or commuters.
 The Council would ask if the station car park could be laid out differently to accommodate more cars and if land to the side of the railway could be used.
- h) **Commuters' car park**
 No further progress to report.
- i) **Bus shelter**
 The Outdoor Parish Caretaker (OPC) had refreshed the internal structures over the summer.
- j) **Planters and hanging baskets**
 The summer planting had done well this year with the extra watering provided by the OPC and support from admin staff, whereas the hanging baskets had suffered from the high temperatures in June/July. Members would like to see more trailing plants in the tiered planters.
 It was agreed to order the winter bedding plants via Where Next Association.
- k) **Canopy over shops 28-30 Hewell Road**
 The restaurant had been flooded earlier in the year and was undergoing complete refurbishment, following which the landlord was intending to carry out external repairs and decoration.
- l) **Review of footpath lighting**
 Members would prefer the option of replacing all lights (from sodium to LED) in one go and to do this after Christmas.
- m) **Stile to footpath no. 500**
 The footpaths officer at Worcestershire County Council would be contacted for support to enable better access at the top of the hill both sides of M42 footbridge.
- n) **Sandhills Lane resurfacing**
 Work is to start on resurfacing Sandhills Lane and Bittell Lane on 28/09/2018.
- o) **Village Entrance improvements**
 Residents have asked for environmental improvements to the approaches to the village entrances; parish councillors are keen to see how the pilot site for wildflower planting at Green Bank proceeds before identifying further sites.

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Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting
Monday, 8th October 2018 at 10am at 80 Hewell Road B45 8NF

DRAFT MINUTES

Members present	Cllrs R Cholmondeley (Chairman), C Hotham, P Perry
In attendance	Gill Lungley, Executive Officer
F18-08	Apologies Cllr J Jagger
F18-09	Declarations of Interest No declarations of interest received.
F18-10	The meeting will be adjourned for Public Question Time No requirement to adjourn the meeting.
F18-11	To approve the minutes of this committee meeting held 09/07/2018 The minutes of the meeting held 09/07/2018 were approved and signed.
F18-12	Members considered the following business: a) Transfer of funds from deposit account to Building Society Account AGREED to transfer £10,000 from the bank deposit account to the Cambridge Building Society (CBS) account as soon as possible. To also: aa) add Cllr P Perry to the list of CBS signatories; ab) check interest rate at CBS ac) consider what is offered by alternative instant-access accounts. b) Review of half-year performance against budget Adjustments were made to the projected outturn on lines 9 (office running costs) and 18 (grants / donations) and accepted. Members noted: - New office reference book is now available. The 11 th edition of Local Council Administration (Charles Arnold-Baker) ed. Paul Clayden for £103.99. c) Review of the Council's level of risk The Risk Review Log for the year ended March 2018 was presented and noted. Members agreed to: ca) undertake a more formal inspection of the physical assets annually; cb) carry out a quarterly check of salary/HMRC/NI/pension payments;

We Don't Buy Crime

Town's and Villages



"We Don't Buy Crime" is a West Mercia Police project that seeks to address the issue of acquisitive crime throughout the force areas of Shropshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire.

The project is funded by the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner

We are aware that acquisitive crime, including burglary, robbery and theft harms our communities. A person's home and possessions often carry an emotional attachment and when crime interferes with this it can have a long lasting impact on its victims.

West Mercia Police are committed to protecting people from these crimes.

'We Don't Buy Crime' demonstrates this commitment, by taking an innovative approach to reducing and disrupting the market for stolen goods and protecting your home and possessions by making them less attractive to the would-be criminal.

We will be working with second-hand goods retailers to develop a process where every trader in second-hand goods adopts best practice and commits to working with its local police to identify stolen goods and tackle crime. Information about these dealers will be recorded on a unique, **'We Don't Buy Crime'**, database which will assist in identifying which dealers are at more risk of receiving stolen property. The stores will be displaying the **'We Don't Buy Crime'** logo which will be increasing awareness and impact of the project.

A key tool provided by the Portal is that it allows police officers to send stolen property email alerts to stores across the West Mercia force area. We are therefore seeking to work more efficiently and effectively to protect our communities.

We are forming partnerships with local businesses and communities with a common goal of reducing crime. We are working with a local business, SmartWater, to make use of the latest technologies to fight crime, by ensuring that property in homes is marked appropriately and that signage is displayed accordingly.

By working with partners we are looking to property mark as many households as possible to create **"We Don't Buy Crime"** towns and villages to significantly reduce the risk of burglaries.

Why use Smartwater to protect homes and possessions?

This approach is supported by a variety of academic research. For example, when interviewing burglars about the best deterrent, Smartwater outscored all other forms of crime deterrent.

Security measure	Score out of 10
SmartWater	8.3
High visibility police patrols	7.4
Ink-dye tags	7.2
Access control systems	6.9
Window grills	6.7
CCTV	6.2
Burglar/intruder alarms	6.0
Cased merchandise	5.9
Electronic tagging	5.0
Security guards/Store detectives	4.9
Property marking	4.8
Mirrors	3.9
Perimeter fencing	3.8

The above highlights the impact that marking property with Smartwater and displaying the warning signage can have. There are a number of reasons for the above deterrent effect including that property is less attractive, as it carries a greater risk of recovery and difficulty in property disposition.



All Police officers will now have a UV light to detect the presence of Smartwater. And can be used when arresting or stopping and searching suspects.

Second Hand stores also have UV lights which they can use to establish whether property is marked and possibly stolen

What is Smartwater?

- Water based solution - Code + Fluorescence + Polymer
- Unique forensic code made of up to 31 Rare Metal Compounds
- Invisible to naked eye - GREEN / YELLOW under UV light
- Can be analysed down to a billionth part, (Pin Head)

Smartwater comes in small container with an applicator brush. Only a small amount of clear liquid needs to be applied to an item and left to dry and then the property is marked. Each bottle of Smartwater is unique which enables the police/ Smartwater to identify the owner of property and therefore return it if stolen, link it to any associated crime and prosecute offenders.

What is a We Don't Buy Crime Town?

"We Don't Buy Crime" towns and villages are where every residential property has the opportunity to mark their possessions free of charge with Smartwater and street signage is put up (large warning signs at the key entry and exit routes and smaller repeater signage throughout the Town). The purpose of this is to let any would-be criminal know that if they commit crime they are likely to a) get caught and b) not be able to profit from their crime i.e. second-hand shops and the wider public won't buy stolen property.

Cleobury Mortimer has become the first **"We Don't Buy Crime"** Town where over the space of two weeks 1,200 homes have been protected with Smartwater. This was only made possible by working in partnership with local people to achieve a shared goal of protecting the community from harm.

In the short period of time that Cleobury Mortimer has been a We Don't Buy Crime Town the Parish Council have been inundated with messages of thanks. Many people have stated that they felt the Parish Council in partnership with the Police had made a real difference in making the town safer and even enhancing community spirit.



The Launch of Cleobury Mortimer as a We Don't Buy Crime Town



Local Volunteers and the police conducting joint visits to residents

Interim Results

1. **Cleobury Mortimer** in Shropshire became a “We Don't Buy Crime” Town in November 2015 with 1,200 homes protected with Smartwater.

In the two years prior to Cleobury Mortimer becoming a “We Don't Buy Crime Town” 14 domestic burglary offences were reported. In the two and a half years since the installation there has been 2 recorded domestic burglary offences within the “We Don't Buy Crime” boundary area. Many people have stated that they felt the LA in partnership with the police had made a real difference in making the town safer and enhancing community spirit.

2. **Higher Heath** became a ‘We Don't Buy Crime Village’ in February 2016. Since taking up this initiative the village has reported an 80% reduction in domestic burglary offences.

3. **Leegomery** is an area of Telford & Wrekin that became a ‘We Don't Buy Crime’ area in July 2016. Domestic burglary offences have reduced by 46% since the scheme began.

4. **Sutton Hill** is another high crime area in Telford and Wrekin and became a ‘We Don't Buy Crime’ area in July 2016. There has been a 50% reduction in Domestic Burglary in this area since the scheme began.

As well as being able to monitor the reported and recorded acquisitive crime in your area (as in the examples above) we are also utilising the expertise of Warwick University who are evaluating and supporting ‘We Don't Buy Crime’ having raised over £30,000 of academic funding.

Does this particular approach work elsewhere?

A similar scheme adopted elsewhere identified the following benefits:

- A reduction in burglary by over 80%
- A significant reduction in both robbery other criminal offences
- Analysis evidenced that crime was not displaced and that a diffusion of benefits was found out to 750M from the areas using Smartwater
- Survey sent 6 months after distribution found more than half of respondents reporting feeling safer as a result of their property being treated with Smartwater.

We believe that by creating a “**We Don't Buy Crime**” town/village, we will be able to significantly reduce not only acquisitive crime but also the fear of crime.

Potential Cost of Property Marking in your Community

The cost involved in implementing this scheme includes the property marking kits (offered at a reduced rate agreed as part of ‘We Don't Buy Crime’) at **£8.90** (+ vat) and the associated signage. In areas where housing associations own properties they have agreed to fund the marking of their homes and as a number of homes are vacant or already have Smartwater then these can be discounted.

Based on our previous experience we would recommend that those interested in adopting this initiative make their cost prediction on approximately 75% of the homes in the area will be marked.

West Mercia Police would also fund many hundreds of hours of additional police time to coordinate the role out of the project. We would seek to utilise local volunteers, special constables and Police Cadets, getting the community involved. This approach has worked incredibly well in all the areas so far and was identified to have brought the area together and enhanced the sense of community.

West Mercia Police would also fund covert activity utilising Smartwater technology. For example, when the Town of Ludlow suffered from a series of commercial burglaries the offenders were caught within days of the deployment of covert Smartwater technology (see BBC new report: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-shropshire-35299940>).

We would also be utilising the expertise of Warwick University who are evaluating and supporting **'We Don't Buy Crime'** having raised over £30,000 of academic funding.

This will, hopefully, not only provide your community with information with regards to crime reduction but also provide information with regard to the fear of crime and general levels of public satisfaction in the community.

Potential Savings

With reducing crime can come some significant savings for those in your communities. By reducing crime rates the cost of home and car insurance can fall significantly. Not only this but many members of the public have either no insurance or insurance excesses that they have to pay when they are victims of crime By preventing the crime in the first place we can save members of the community significant amounts of money and the distress of becoming a victim of crime. Most importantly we believe we can work together to make your community an even more desirable place to live.

We Don't Buy Crime Smartwater Roll Out

