

BARNT GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

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**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting
held at Barnt Green Baptist Church lounge, B45 8LU
on Monday 19th November 2018 at 7.00pm**

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

Members present: Cllrs R Cholmondeley (Chairman), Cllr C Hotham (vice-chairman), R Briggs, J Jagger, J Nilsson, P Perry, S Whitehand.

In attendance: Peter McDonald (WCC Beacon Division)
Two representatives Amey / Severn Trent Water
Thomas Curwell, North Worcestershire Water Management
Two members of the public
A representative of The Village magazine
Executive Officer, Gill Lungley

18/157 APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Cllr H Rone-Clarke

18/158 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.
- Cllr Hotham declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in agenda item 18/168, log no. 105 which relates to his home. He left the meeting during discussion of that item.

18/159 CONSIDERATION OF DISPENSATION REQUESTS

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

It was noted that all council members knew Cllr Hotham due to his role as a parish councillor however all agreed the interest was not sufficient enough to require declarations of 'Other Disclosable Interest'.

18/160 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING to hear from:

- a) Representatives of Amey (Sam Pedley, Customer Services) and Severn Trent Water Ltd (Rushy, Business Compensation Team)

Severn Trent Water (STW) are to replace the water main that runs under Hewell Road. Initial plans required a total road closure for 7 weeks after Christmas, but, mindful of the disruption this is likely to cause, plans have been changed to carry out the work in three phases over the 6-week summer holiday period 2019 (longer daylight working), although nothing has yet been confirmed.

STW and Amey are aware of the impact of this work and are revising the scheme to see if it can be done any easier. They will work with residents and businesses and aim to allow access whenever possible and organise appropriate delivery times.

The business compensation scheme was explained, and it was noted that over the last three years there have been similar road closures in Barnt Green which may have adversely impacted on village businesses due to the railway improvements and the CALA housing development.

Amey and STW are keen to keep the parish council updated on progress and will continue to attend public meetings and will hold a public drop-in session two weeks prior to the start of work; they will also seek to publish the information more widely.

b) Worcs County Councillor: Peter McDonald, Beacon division

1. Keen to ensure Hewell Road remains open during the (above) works
2. Concerns about the threat to the library service and possible closure of local branches.

c) Thomas Curwell, Water Management Engineer

The North Worcestershire Water Management team are mainly concerned with looking at the surface water drainage throughout Barnt Green and are spearheading an awareness campaign about ownership of drainage. The government provides support to insurance providers, the Flood Re scheme, and underwrites schemes to homeowners in areas at risk of flooding.

Considerable work has already been undertaken to the culvert alongside the driveway to the scout hut, but funding is difficult because it is unregistered land. The ideal would be to install a headwall and grille to reduce the amount of debris that enters the culvert which runs under the houses on the east side of Blackwell Road between the scouts' driveway and the railway bridge. Currently the homeowners are being asked to contribute to the cost. Ownership of the ditch to the rear of the Social Club is unclear but most likely Network Railway's; it needs to be cleaned out to alleviate flooding of the culvert and the flooding that occurs under the Hewell Road / Blackwell Road railway bridge.

There is a constant need to monitor and apply for funding to deliver these initiatives. The long term wish is to consider the whole of the village watercourse, but this is difficult due to disparate owners.

Some work is also being carried out with the Bittell Reservoir group.

d) Members of the public

Two residents of Sandhills Green spoke of their concerns about the volume and speed of traffic there, which appears to have increased since the start of improved rail service at Barnt Green station. With no footpath, pedestrians are vulnerable, and the narrowness of the road puts all road users, including cyclists, at risk.

The residents asked for the creation of a footpath (even if informal) and traffic calming interventions, such as flashing speed signs. It was believed that WCC Division Member P McDonald would arrange for speed monitoring.

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

advised that his proposal to seek unitary status within Worcestershire would be discussed by the council on Wednesday.

Coun Hotham is concerned that of the seven eating establishments in Barnt Green, two have received a hygiene rating of just one out of 5; (the other five are rated '5').

18/161 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of meeting held 15/10/2018, were agreed a true record and were signed by the Chairman.

18/162 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Cllr R Cholmondeley

With regard to the District Council's Issues and Options and Green Belt methodology consultation, the Chairman thanked the members for meeting to discuss the council's response. The aim is to meet in the new year to progress the Neighbourhood Plan.

18/163 UPDATES AND DECISIONS taken by the Executive Officer (EO) since last meeting

a) Station	BGPC has reminded DfT of the need for installation of lifts
b) Deer hunting	The local police have investigated; the shooters held the appropriate licenses and the landowner (farmer) had given permission
c) Christmas tree	The spruce on the corner of Hewell Road / Sandhills Road has been removed. An imported tree will be installed for Christmas decoration etc on 24/11/2018 at the same time as one for Orchard Croft.

d) Gazebos	Two gazebos have been purchased and are stored in the parish council office. Part-payment of £300 has been requested from the Chuggers.
e) Flagpole	The flagpole has been installed in Millennium Park. Two flags have been purchased (Union flag and St George flag). Members agreed to the purchase of a plaque to be installed on a gate pillar near to the flagpole stating “The flagpole in this park was installed to commemorate the centenary of the First World War Armistice. Barnt Green Parish Council 11th November 2018. A memorial to the fallen can be found at St Andrew’s church”
f) Reference book	The EO took the opportunity to purchase the parish councils’ ‘bible’ “Arnold-Baker on Local Council Administration” 11 th edition, at recent Clerks’ Conference, thereby saving postage costs.
g) Fire extinguishers	The office now has fire-fighting equipment in the form of a CO ² extinguisher and a foam extinguisher. The powder extinguisher is for use only outdoors and is kept out of sight in the office. The landlord also purchased a foam extinguisher for use in the shared porch area; therefore the EO placed an order for 3 extinguishers, one of which was paid for by the landlord.
h) Smart Water	This initiative is to be progressed after Christmas but advance notification is to be sent out with information on the AgeUK questionnaire. Members agreed to progress this initiative.
i) Job vacancy	The position of Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer is being advertised until 30/11/2018; adverts placed in local free paper (Bromsgrove and Redditch Advertisers), online via WMJobs and in the weekly WorcsCALC update with additional in Post Office window and noticeboards and BGPC website. Interviews will be held w/c 3/12/18. Cllrs R Cholmondeley and P Perry would be on the interview panel.

18/164 FINANCE REPORT

i) *Current financial position* – bank reconciliation to 31/10/2018 was noted as follows:

Bank Reconciliation to 31/10/2018			
Cash book		Bank Statements	
Cash in hand at 01/04/2018	76,693.45	Current account	339.55
Add receipts to 31/10/2018	67,603.14	Deposit account	50,827.93
Less payments to 31/10/2018	-38,305.98	Building society	54,801.13
	0	Pocket card	200.00
	0	Less u/p payments	-178.00
	105,990.61		105,990.61

An excerpt from the spreadsheet to show payments and receipts for the month to date is attached at page 224.

- (ii) **The following expenditure decisions** taken by the Executive Officer were noted:
- Purchase order for 2 x Christmas trees @ £180 each for delivery, installation and removal;
 - Purchase order for 1 x printer @ £149 + inks.
 - Purchase of dog-waste bags @ 156 + VAT (5 x 800)
 - Christmas Message in The Village @ £20
- (iii) **Draft budget for 2019-20** and proposals for capital expenditure. Following consideration at the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting to be held on 14/01/2019, the draft budget for will be presented for approval at the Parish Council meeting on 21/01/2019 and for the 2019/20 precept to be agreed. Capital items for 2019/20 included replacements of bollards in village centre and a running track/pathway at Barnt Green playing field.

18/165 COMMITTEE, WORKING PARTY and MEMBERS' REPORTS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED

- a) **Staffing Committee** meeting held 16/10/2018.
The draft minutes of this meeting, held to agree procedure for appointment of new Clerk, were noted.
- b) **Village Team** meeting held 01/11/2018
The meeting had been held to discuss the Lights-On event for 01/12/2018.
- c) **Local Plan Issues and Options working party** meetings held 06/11/2018 and 12/11/2018 to discuss the current consultation by Bromsgrove District Council. Members agreed the proposed submission detailing the parish council's position.
- d) **West Midlands Executive Rail** Cllr R Cholmondeley had attended a meeting where matters relating to lack of screens, single ticket machine and inadequate car park layout were raised; he would continue to seek a solution to these matters.

18/166 EVENTS

- a) **Police Pop-Up**, Thursday 15/11/2018 at the parish council office
This had not been well advertised and consequently attracted no external visitors. The Safer Neighbourhood Team are keen to continue to maintain a monthly visit. In the New Year this could be tied in with the Smart Water roll-out.
- b) **Best Christmas Window** competition: winner to be announced on 01/12/2018 and presented with a Cup. The two appointed councillors would judge the windows on 29th or 30th November.
- c) **Christmas Lights-On**, Saturday 01/12/2018. Two entertainment groups, the Star Project and Cats Chorus, will be singing from 4pm and the event will be visited by the Bromsgrove Town Crier and Father Christmas.
Members agreed a donation to Ray Yarnell of £50 to Macmillan and £10 to cover the cost of children's sweets.
- d) **Wassail Walk** 27/12/2018. Two walks of 5 miles and 3 miles will include a stop off at Bittell Farm Road orchard for wassailing, mulled wine and bonfire.

18/167 ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY WELLBEING

- a) **Hewell Road Bollards**
AGREED
To replace the three missing bollards at a potential cost of £200 each, to match existing style as closely as possible and if possible to re-site the bollard on the corner of Hewell Road with car park to rear of 26 Hewell Road.
- b) **Speeding Sandhills Green**
The residents who had written to the parish council asking for consideration of this matter had spoken earlier in the meeting, viz. minute no. 18/160(d); members would review for next meeting.
- c) **Protocol** following death of the sovereign (or other senior member of royal family)
For noting: the Executive Officer would produce a procedure for the council to follow.

18/168 PLANNING

- a) Response to consultation:

Log no.	BDC ref	Site Address	Proposal
103	18/01129	81 Bittell Road B45 8LX	2-storey rear kitchen & bedroom extension with new porch to front elevation

Comment submitted 13/11/2018: Rejection is recommended because the two storey rear extension is overbearing in relation to the neighbouring property at 79 Bittell Road. Furthermore, the plans show no windows in 79 Bittell Road, but it is probable that the 45 degree code would also be breached. We recommend that the plans should show that the code is not being breached.			
104	18/01330	39 Fiery Hill Rd B45 8JZ	Demolition of existing garage, double storey side extension, single storey rear extension & detached garage. Relocate existing vehicle access & driveway
Comment submitted 13/11/2018: Approval is recommended subject to the submission of a satisfactory Heritage Statement because the property is in the Barnt Green Conservation Area.			
ClIr C Hotham declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and left the meeting for the following item:			
105	18/01376	26 Blackwell Rd B45 8BU	Extension to existing garage roof to form a guest bedroom
Comment: The Parish Council could see no reason for objecting to this application, but as the applicant is a fellow member of the parish council there were concerns that any comment made could be seen as cronyism, despite the matter being considered after the applicant had temporarily left the meeting whilst the matter was discussed. It is noted this application is to be considered at your committee.			
106	18/01304	34 Bittell Road B45 8LY	Extension & alteration & all other associated works to facilitate the conversion of dwellinghouse into 2 independent dwellings granted planning permission under planning ref 17/00830/FUL
Comment: The Parish Council would not object to this application providing the materials used blend appropriately with street scene and existing materials.			
107	18/01400	79 Bittell Road B45 8LX	New gable roof to existing dormer bungalow and the erection of a storey and a half rear extension to provide a larger living space and a total of four bedrooms on the first floor.
Comment: The proposed development is overbearing and contravenes the 45 degree code in relation to the neighbouring property, 81 Bittell Road, which is subject to planning application 18/01129. The Parish Council made the same observation in relation to the application made for 81 Bittell Road. If the residents of both properties are satisfied with the developments proposed by their neighbours, we withdraw our concerns in relation to 81 Bittell Road and recommend the approval of the application for 79 Bittell Road as well.			

18/169 FUTURE MEETINGS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

- Possible event for 2019 could be a family treasure hunt alongside or instead of a local produce market. Would Severn Trent Water sponsor this following the water mains replacement in the summer?

18/170 Date and Venue of Next Parish Council Meeting

The next meeting is on Monday 21st January 2019, 7pm: Barnt Green Baptist Church.

This meeting ended at 21: 05hrs

Signed: Chairman, Barnt Green Parish Council

Date 21 January 2019

