

BARNT GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

80 Hewell Road, Birmingham, B45 8NF

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Environment Committee Meeting

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

Agenda	
E18-10	Apologies To receive apologies and to approve the reason for absence.
E18-11	Declarations of Interest - Councillors are reminded to, when applicable: a) Register of Interests: keep their register of interests updated. b) Declare Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda and their nature. c) Declare any Other Disclosable Interests in items on the agenda and their nature. d) Members' written requests for the grant of a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011) are to be submitted to the EO in advance of the meeting Councillors who have declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, or an Other Disclosable Interest which falls within the terms of paragraph 12(4) (b) of the Members' Code of Conduct, must leave the room for the relevant item(s) unless granted a dispensation.
E18-12	The meeting will be adjourned for: a) Public Question Time The time allocated is at the discretion of the chairman. Residents are invited to give their views and question the parish council on issues on this agenda or raise issues for future consideration at the discretion of the chairman. Members of the public may not take part in the parish council meeting itself.
E18-13	To approve the minutes of the previous meeting held 11/06/2018
E18-14	To be updated on previous matters and comment accordingly
E18-15	To review the council's areas of responsibility (Millennium Park, Playing Field)
E18-16	To prepare this committee's budget for 2019/2020.
E18-17	Councillors' reports and items for future agendas
E18-18	Date and venue of next meeting Monday 11 th February 2019, 80 Hewell Road.

Committee Members

Councillors: R Briggs (Chairman),
R Cholmondeley, J Jagger, H Rone-Clarke

Gill Lungley, Executive Officer
13/09/2018

**ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Membership

The committee will consist of four members of Barnt Green Parish Council. Non-voting associate members to include the Parish Footpaths Warden and Parish Tree Warden, may be appointed as required.

Quorum

Three members will constitute the minimum number required for a meeting to proceed.

Meetings

The committee will meet three times each year, on the second Monday of February, June, September at the Parish Council office at 5pm or such other time as may be required. Dates of other meetings, if required, will be agreed by committee members.

All meetings of the Environment Committee will be open to the public and clerked. Minutes will be made available within one month of the meeting.

Public participation

Members of the public will be allowed to participate during 'Open Forum' – a period of up to 15 minutes – only.

Delegated responsibilities

The Committee has delegated authority to:

- a) Authorise expenditure within the allocated budget in any one financial year
- b) Regularly monitor the council's environmental contracts including:
 - i. Parish footpath lighting provision
 - ii. Barnt Green Parish Lengthsman scheme
 - iii. Outdoor Parish Caretaker
 - iv. Grass cutting in Millennium Park and along Hewell Road
 - v. Care of Millennium Park
 - vi. Grass cutting in Barnt Green playing field
 - vii. Miscellaneous grass cutting across the parish
 - viii. Care of Commuters' Car Park
 - ix. Provision and maintenance of flower/plant containers
- c) Assist the Parish Footpaths Warden in maintaining the parish public rights of way;
- d) Monitor street cleaning, emptying of public waste bins and litter
- e) Monitor and report on highways potholes and maintenance requirements
- f) Consult and monitor public opinion on highways and environmental matters
- g) Consider and respond to consultations on highways and environmental matters

Expected actions

The committee will be expected to propose to the Parish Council recommendations such as:

- a) An itemised annual budget based on regular activities and specific planned projects;
- b) Sites identified for planting and environmental improvements;
- c) Actions for improving the parish highway network including traffic calming schemes;
- d) Actions for improving road safety for drivers and pedestrians;
- e) Plans to work with rail users, rail user representatives and rail travel providers to improve local facilities;

Recommendations will be forwarded to the full council for consideration at its next meeting.

Agreed at Barnt Green Parish Council meeting held 21/05/2018

Review date: May 2019

Guidance from <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/biodiversity-duty-public-authority-duty-to-have-regard-to-conserving-biodiversity>

Overview

As a public authority in England you have a [duty](#) to have regard to conserving biodiversity as part of your policy or decision making. Conserving biodiversity can include restoring or enhancing a population or habitat.

A public authority can be a:

- local authority including a unitary, county, district, community, parish or town council
- government department or one of their executive agencies
- non-departmental government body
- NHS Trust
- utility company
- body carrying out functions of a public character under a statutory power

See a [detailed list of public authorities](#).

Your duty to have regard for conserving biodiversity

You should be able to show your duty to have regard for conserving biodiversity if you have identified ways to integrate biodiversity when you:

- develop policies and strategies and put them into practice
- manage the planning system
- manage:
 - your land and buildings
 - woodlands and nature reserves
 - gardens, parks and public open space
 - community amenities eg sports grounds and cemeteries
 - waste and pollution
 - energy and water
 - wood and plant products
- develop infrastructure ie roads, buildings or flood defences
- make decisions about procurement
- implement economic, environmental and social programmes

See [Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services](#) as an example of evidence of how the biodiversity duty is being met.

Protected sites and species

Some sites and species are protected by:

- national law
- international law
- government policy

If you are involved in decisions on planning and development, you should refer to guidance on:

- [protected sites and species](#)
- [National Planning Policy Framework](#)
- [planning practice guidance](#) on the natural environment

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Environment Committee Meeting

Monday 11th June 2018 at 10.00am in
the Parish Council office, 80 Hewell Road, Barnt Green, B45 8NF.

DRAFT MINUTES	
Members Present In attendance	Cllrs R Briggs (Chairman), R Cholmondeley, J Jellie Sarah Milburn for Keep Bromsgrove Beautiful Gill Lungley, Executive Officer
E18-01	Apologies Apologies were received from Cllr J Jagger
E18-02	Declarations of Interest None
E18-03	The meeting was adjourned for: a) Presentation: Sarah Milburn, who runs the Keep Bromsgrove Beautiful Facebook page, was invited to speak about potential In Bloom campaigns and environmental projects her volunteer network are involved in and would like to develop. Sarah was asked to provide information for the next newsletter to see if there would be local interest in setting up regular litter-picking events and she would pass on information relating to encouraging wildflower growth to the grass verges. b) Public Question Time Not required.
E18-04	To note the Committee's Terms of Reference Terms of Reference approved by the Council 21/05/2018 were noted along with government guidance on the duty to have regard to conserving bio-diversity. As a new committee, there were no previous minutes to approve.
E18-05	To note the Committee's budget for 2018/19 The budget that was allocated as part of the council's overall budget agreed January 2018, was noted.
E18-06	Members considered as follows: a) Change to Parish Lengthsman contract Members noted the change is being imposed by the County Council's manager and requires the Lengthsman to cease clearing out drains. All blocked drains must now be reported to WCC for cleaning. It was suggested that as the county council currently appear to be able to attend to all the drains, this new ruling will cause severe delays in which case perhaps the parish council could hire a gully sucker and do the work independently.

b) **Parish Lengthsman schedule of work.**

Members referred to the previously accepted annual schedule of work which the Executive Officer would amend and forward to the Lengthsman.

c) **Drainage issues**

Both the Highways Liaison Officer and North Worcestershire Water Management (NWWM) team were aware of the need to improve the ditch on the east side of Cherry Hill Road. It had been suggested this work could be done with the aid of Community Service.

NWWM are carrying out a review of flooding 'hot spots'.

d) **Pollinator encouragement**

Cllr Cholmondeley had met with Mrs R Banner, the council's representative at a recent county Pollinators' Conference, to discuss sites for encouraging wild flower growth to aid pollinators. This is a long-term project and the possible sites include:

- Part of Barnt Green playing field, corner next to pedestrian entrance
- Fiery Hill Road / Kendal End Road junction, next to railway bridge
- Entrance to Green Bank, north side.
- Railway embankment off Blackwell Road, adjacent to last house (west).

Advice on the suitability of the sites and the types of flower would be sought, including the viability of planting a Worcestershire black pear tree in the parish.

e) **Review of specific areas of responsibility**, including Millennium Park and the Barnt Green Playing Field

Cllr Cholmondeley reported on his visit to **Barnt Green Playing Field** –

- e1 - Entrance gate is covered in too many signs with redundant cable ties;
- e2 – Hedge/weeds overhanging car park entrance;
- e3 - Hedge untidy, needs cutting;
- e4 – Weeds against the fence opposite the car parking spaces need treating;
- e5 – Some plant growth creeping over the pathway;
- e6 – Litter bin at north end of field has a broken lid and door doesn't close;
- e7 – Nettles starting to encroach pedestrian gate at north-end;
- e8 – Tree is blocking/overhanging the circular path, adjacent to stream;
- e9 – Grass needs to be strimmed beneath the play equipment;
- e10 – Dog-waste bin at south-east has no catch / unlocked front.

It was agreed to replace the bins, if possible with re-claimed bins from BDC, otherwise new.

Millennium Park appeared well kept, no issues. Local resident had offered to plant a clematis to grow up one of the trees, and to produce a planting scheme.

It was noted that the water supply is to be connected from 12/06/2018.

f) **Report from Cllr J Jellie** (Village Team representative) on village centre parking.

There had been a few responses to the survey, with the main suggestions arising:

- Move the bus stop
- Move bollards from Hewell Road pavement
- Mark out parking bays and signpost to the rear of Tesco's row of shops;
- Impose parking restrictions in Sandhills Lane and Sandhills Road;
- Increase parking capacity at the railway station.

Cllr Cholmondeley temporarily left the meeting at this point.

It was agreed to ask county councillor Peter McDonald if any funding would be available to improve car parking in the village.

	<p>g) Update on Commuters' Car Park The EO and Cllr P Perry had met the site manager at 'Foxhills' development to review the state of the car park; a record of that meeting was shared with members and is attached.</p> <p>h) Progress report on new Outdoor Parish Caretaker (OPC) The OPC is working within the requirements of the job and provides a weekly report.</p> <p>i) Approval of upkeep to bus shelter (re-varnishing and re-painting) It was agreed to ask the OPC to attend to re-painting etc at the bus shelter.</p> <p>j) Current provision of planters and hanging baskets The hanging baskets have been delivered to those shops that have agreed to care for one this year (33 baskets provided). The planters have yet to be planted out with summer bedding. The northern 3-tier planter has been re-sited to junction of Fiery Hill Road / Kendal End Road, near to the railway bridge.</p> <p>k) Condition of shops' canopy over 28-30 Hewell Road The properties' agent has reiterated that improvements to the canopy over the pavement are to be undertaken later this year.</p> <p>l) Review of footpath lighting Analysis of the project costs are to be undertaken by the Finance Committee.</p>
E18-07	<p>To be aware of various environmental matters:</p> <p>a) Abandoned vehicle, Hewell Road, has been reported to Bromsgrove DC</p> <p>b) Access to stile at top of footpath no. 500 (leads to bridge over M42) request has been submitted to the Alvechurch volunteers to repair the step. It was suggested Barnt Green could establish a voluntary footpath group to take care of local footpaths similar to the Alvechurch group.</p> <p>c) Highways improvements to include resurfacing of Sandhills Lane</p> <p>d) Resident's wish for improvements to the entrances to the parish to be in keeping with expected standards including the Fiery Hill Road / Twatling Road traffic island triangle. It was suggested this could be included as a site for wildflower planting.</p>
E18-08	<p>Councillors' reports and items for future agendas None provided.</p>
E18-09	<p>Date and venue of next meeting Monday 10th September 2018, 80 Hewell Road.</p> <p>This meeting ended at 12.05pm.</p> <p>..... Signed: Chairman</p> <p>..... Date</p>

Notes of Meeting at Commuters' Car Park, Fiery Hill Road/Butterwick Close with: Cala Site Manager Phil Brady (PB) Attending: Cllr Phil Perry, Exec Gill Lungley		
30 th May 2018, 12pm		Actions agreed
Reason for Meeting:	The Parish Council expects to assume ownership / responsibility for the car park in August 2018 and is keen to ensure the site is ready. Actual date of handover is to be established by GL.	GL contacted CALA. Richard White is no longer available, contact now is Daniel Forrester, who is on annual leave (as is PA); date to be ascertained ASAP
Points raised:		
1	Hedging exists on 3 sides (south, west and north); it is double-hedging on south and west, but only single and incomplete on north side.	PB to check planting scheme and strengthen hedging on northern boundary if on scheme.
2	There are gaps in the hedging on all sides, where plants have failed / been damaged.	PB to arrange for the gaps to be filled.
3	Weeds are growing under the hedging plants	PB to arrange for weeding.
4	BGPC would like to know what will replace the current CALA hoarding that makes up the western boundary. PB explained it will be part walling up to 1.8m where the other side is car park, and either fencing along the boundary or none (where the house bay windows overlook)	
5	How will the balancing pond be treated? PB explained it is likely to be deep and therefore fenced, but the frontage to Kendal End Road (northern boundary) will not be closed in.	
6	The Housing Association block of flats (nearest to the BGPC car park and Kendal End Road) is likely to be handed over in October; not expected to be fenced in.	

Cont/...

7	<p>BGPC is concerned that because the direction of the footpath between the car park and Fiery Hill Road runs south-west/north-east rather than north-west/south-east, it appears to favour use by residents of Butterwick Close rather than commuters. The car park is not intended to be used by residents, it is intended for use by commuters as agreed with CALA when planning permission was granted.</p>	<p>BGPC agree a footpath is required. PB agreed to retain the footpath and to arrange for it to be re-routed so that it lies between Fiery Hill Road and the car park only.</p>
8	<p>BGPC hopes to install a sign at the entrance stating 'Free Parking for Rail Users' with contact details and asked if there were any underground services to be aware of.</p>	<p>PB to check but advised installers to carry out CAT test prior to installation.</p>
9	<p>Boundary with Kendal End Road, end-part Fiery Hill Road. BGPC is keen to ensure the village entrance looks welcoming. The highways verge is a mess but unlikely to receive any attention from the county council. Would CALA be able to help with rotovating the verge at the same time as their own tract of open land immediately adjacent and sow grass seed there? BGPC also keen to see some sort of floral treatment here and wonders if CALA have any plans?</p>	<p>PB to look into what CALA plan for this site. Appreciates BGPC request for maintenance of environmental standards.</p>
10	<p>CALA are to pay a sum of £30,000 to the parish council for continued maintenance of the site. GL is to ask when this can be expected.</p>	<p>As per email to Daniel Forrester (as 'Reason for Meeting' above)</p>
11	<p>When is the handover date?</p>	<p>As 10 above.</p>