

BARNT GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

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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>