

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 21st January 2019 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, H Rone-Clarke

In attendance: Two representatives Amey / Severn Trent Water
Three members of the public
A representative of The Village magazine
Executive Officer, Gill Lungley and EO-in-waiting, Tracy Bodley

19/001 Apologies

S Whitehand (travel difficulties)

19/002 Declarations of Interest: Councillors were 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.
- 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.

19/003 To consider any dispensations

No dispensation requests had been received.

19/004 Adjournment of meeting to hear from:

a) Amey Customer Services representatives on behalf of Severn Trent Water to liaise regarding the improvement plans to the water main in Hewell Road

The representatives spoke to the ongoing plans for improving the water main in Hewell Road; in advance of the work planned for 6½ weeks July/August 2019 work on three trial holes will be carried out during half-term to assess the extent to which the slip-lining process can be used. Slip-lining will allow for better access during the works. Nearer to the start date Amey will arrange two local drop-in sessions for residents. Information on progress will be brought to the next parish council meeting. Clear signage and contactability with the contractors during the works was requested.

b) Members of the Public

Representation was received from residents of Cherry Hill Avenue who put forward concerns about the plans for development at 11 Cherry Hill Avenue.

It was agreed to bring forward consideration of this planning notification, log no 110 with comments as follows:

110	18/01593	11 Cherry Hill Avenue, B45 8LA	Demolition of existing house and garage and construction of new dwelling
Parish Council comment: Recommend Refusal .			

1. The parish council believes the existing building makes a significant and important contribution to the Conservation Area, thus this application is contrary to the BDC Conservation Area Policy in which 'there is a general presumption against the loss of buildings which make a positive contribution to the character or appearance of a conservation area' (BDC website, 'Work in Conservation Areas').
2. The style of the existing building is key to the Conservation Area, adding to and complementing the area's particular character. This is not maintained by the proposal thus the application does not conform to BDP20.9 'Development within or adjacent to a Conservation Area should preserve or enhance the character or appearance of the area.'
3. The Parish Council notes BDC policy BDP20.10 'The demolition of buildings or the removal of trees and other landscape features which make a positive contribution to an area's character or appearance will be resisted.'
4. Additionally, the parish council is keen to maintain a housing mix that will meet the differing needs of householder which is essential to ensure a thriving community; a (dormer) bungalow such as currently exists provides for different needs to that of the proposed new 2-storey dwelling. The local housing stock is well catered for with regard to the latter (large, family homes) whereas bungalows, although much in demand especially by those residents seeking to downsize and stay in the area, are not so readily available.
5. The height of the proposed building would be overbearing to neighbouring properties and will cause loss of light, particularly to those that lie to the north and west of it.
6. The proposed roofline will create a ridge parallel to, and south of, the road rather than the current peak, the effect of which will be to block light to the road and neighbouring properties which are downhill from this property. The effect of this will be overbearing on the street scene and detrimental to neighbouring properties.
7. The application proposes an over-development of the site. The new footprint is larger than the existing because it also incorporates the separate, stand-alone, garage. Such an action here is particularly detrimental to the area's character because it will reduce the gap between residential properties.
8. The applicant is required to provide for adequate off-road car parking relative to the number of bedrooms; the provision shown on the proposal plans does not reflect the increased number of bedrooms and would be ineffective in practice in this narrow Avenue. The resultant on-road parking would adversely affect neighbouring properties and hamper access for emergency services and large vehicles.

- c) **Supporting organisations**, eg Safer Neighbourhood Team, Footpath Warden
None present; apologies from the Safer Neighbourhood Team.
- d) **Worcestershire County Councillor** – Peter McDonald (Beacon division)
Not present.
- e) **Bromsgrove District Councillor** - Charles Hotham (Barnt Green & Hopwood)
The next meeting of BDC is imminent; savings need to be found to balance the budget and there are concerns relating to the reduction in level of New Homes Bonus funding. Funds are available for now but not for much longer and the Parish Council was asked to consider submitting an application.

The meeting resumed.

19/005 To adopt previous minutes

To approve adoption of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 19/11/2018

AGREED

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 19/11/2018 were approved an accurate record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

19/006 Chairman's Report

The Chairman reminded the meeting of the 4-yearly Parish Council elections to be held on 2nd May 2019. The elections timetable will be circulated in due course and will be available online via Bromsgrove District Council and the Electoral Commission.

19/007 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 previous council meeting.

a) Station	AS yet no response from DfT regarding progress on installation of lifts; this will be chased up. With regard to signing improvements, West Midlands Railway have no plans to upgrade the currently provided information which can be misleading. The Chairman has met with the local station manager to progress.
b) Home security	Neighbourhood Watch updates have shown an increased number of burglaries recently. The police would be asked for an update on their data reports.
c) Christmas competition	The winner of the 'Find Santa and his Helpers' Christmas window competition had been awarded a family film ticket for the Artrix.
d) Resident's questions	A local resident had recently asked about the costs relating to the display of Christmas lights.
e) Road closure	Notice had been received that Cherry Hill Road was to be closed that day for carriageway patching.
f) WorcsCALC area committee	Members were asked to consider why there was little interest in attending the Bromsgrove Area Committee meetings of the Worcs association of local councils and what could be done to make such meetings more interesting.

19/008 Finance

- (i) To note the current financial position and bills for payment
The list of payments is attached at 228, Information relating to the bank reconciliations since the previous meeting was circulated; the bank reconciliation to 31/12/2018 is shown here:

Bank Reconciliation to 31/12/2018			
Cash book	£.00	Bank Statements	£.00
Cash in hand at 01/04/2018	76,693.45	Current account	144.04
Add receipts to 31/12/2018	69,156.86	Deposit account	38,235.85
Less payments to 31/12/2018	-52,901.29	Building Society	54,801.13
	0	Pocket account	200.00
	0	Less u/payments	-432.00
	92,949.02		92,949.02

- (ii) To be advised of any expenditure decisions taken by the Executive Officer
None
- (iii) To receive budget recommendation from Finance and General Purposes Committee
The draft minutes of the recent F and GP Committee meeting were circulated (as attached) showing the recommended budget.
AGREED
To approve the budget recommendation which proposes an income of £71,418 for the 2019/20 financial year.
- (iv) To approve the precept for 2019/20 of £63,480 (Band D impact of £62.58pa)
AGREED
To approve the precept for 2019/20 of £63,480.

19/009 Committee, Working Party and Members' reports on meetings attended

- a) **Staffing Committee** report to council on appointment of new Executive Officer for ratification.

The new Executive Officer is to be Mrs Tracy Bodley who will start working for the Parish Council on 28/01/2019 for 20 hours per week; actual hours in the office have yet to be agreed.

An exit interview had been held with the outgoing Executive Officer Mrs Gill Lungley for the purpose of identifying improvements for the future.

AGREED

Staffing Committee decisions were ratified.

- b) **Finance and General Purposes Committee** meeting held 14/01/2019
As above, minute no. 19/008 iii and appended.

19/010 Events

- a) Feedback on Christmas Lights event held 01/12/2018
The event held on 01/12/2018 had been enjoyed by all attending with a good turnout; thanks to all who took part including the Starlight Project, Cats Chorus, The Town Crier, Santa (supported by Ray Yarnell) and St Andrews church congregation for their nativity characters and pavement marshals, as well as the shops that stayed open and took part in the Best Dressed Window competition.
- b) Feedback on competitions: Best Dressed Christmas window and Find Santa
The Best Dressed Christmas Window was won by Barnt Green Flooring Boutique and the Find Santa competition was won by a local resident.
- c) Feedback on Wassail Walk 27/12/2018
Approximately 50 people participated in the annual walk to a local orchard where refreshments were available and took part in a wassail to promote a good apple crop later in the year. It was hoped to hold the event again in 2019.
- d) Police Pop-Up, Thursday 24/01/2019 at the parish council office
This was noted.
- e) Fun Run 2019
The Barnt Green Chuggers have indicated they may wish to host an event in May 2019 using Barnt Green playing field as the venue – details yet to be confirmed.
- f) Event July 2019
Members are keen to hold a community event, possibly on the first weekend in July and would make contact with the Centres Manager to progress this.
- g) Flag flying days
The St George's flag and the Union flag are both stored in the parish council office with the winding key. Flags will be flown on official days such as the Queen's birthdays, St George's Day and Remembrance Day, and for major sporting events. The flag will be flown at half-mast when required following the death of the head of state etc. Cllr P Perry will be the flag marshal.

19/011 Environment & Community Wellbeing

- a) **Speeding, Sandhills Green:** to review feedback on last meeting's request
It is believed county councillor Peter McDonald is arranging speed checks for this site and he will be asked for feedback.
- b) **Parking, Fiery Hill Road:** concerns about parking on blind-bend.
County Councillor Peter McDonald will be asked to investigate these concerns.
- c) **Butterwick Close:** concerns about public safety re footpath junction with Cherry Hill Road and openness of balancing pond.
i) CALA would be asked if they have carried out risk assessments of the sites.

- ii) CALA would be asked how they intend to ensure the safety of pedestrians when using the public footpath from the estate onto Cherry Hill Road.

19/012 Planning

a) Members' response to the following consultations:

Log no.	BDC ref	Site Address	Proposal
108	18/01386	Land opposite Grosvenor Nursing Home, Aqueduct Lane	for existing use of land used as landscaping yard. Storage use.
Included for information only: BGPC not consulted, request is for Lawful Development Certificate			
109	18/01550	20 Fiery Hill Rd B45 8LG	Proposed ground floor / lower ground floor extension to side of dwelling
PC Comment: The Parish Council would approve this application subject to Tree Officer's recommendations.			
110	18/01593	11 Cherry Hill Avenue, B45 8LA	Demolition of existing house and garage and construction of new dwelling
PC Comment: As above, minute no. 19/004.			

19/013 Governance

a) **To approve the Policy Review calendar 2019/2021**

AGREED

The Policy Review calendar, as updated, for 2019/21.

b) **To review the Equal Opportunities Policy** (annual review)

AGREED

The Equal Opportunities Policy was approved without change.

19/014 Future Meetings and items for future agendas

Councillors were reminded of meetings to be attended and used this opportunity to raise items for future agendas.

a) **Environment Committee meeting 11/02/2019**, to start at 2pm.

b) **Reservoir Meeting:** Cllr Hotham is to attend this meeting which will review the quality of water.

c) **Inter-parish council meetings:** could these be resurrected perhaps half-yearly with neighbouring councils?

19/015 Date and Venue of Next Meeting

Next ordinary parish council meeting will be Monday 18th February 2019, 7pm at Barnt Green Baptist Church.

This meeting ended at 20.50hrs.

Signed:..... Date.....
Chairman, Barnt Green Parish Council 18/02/2019

Payments schedule for January 2019 showing receipts and payments since meeting held 19/11/2018.

d/d	v139	Staff pensions, October		164.90	-	164.90
d/d	v140	Office Landline and broadband, Oct/Nov		6.00	1.00	5.00
d/d	v141	Office mobile phone Oct/Nov		5.00	0.83	4.17
BACS	v142	Refuse sacks for business waste collection		87.78	-	87.78
BACS	v143	Repairs and replacement lamps		528.16	88.03	440.13
s/o	v144	Nov retainer, footpath lighting maintenance		264.00	44.00	220.00
BACS	v145a	Millennium Park grass cut, Nov 2018	-	57.00	-	57.00
BACS	v145b	Millennium Park maintenance, Nov 2018	-	240.00	-	240.00
BACS	v145c	Hewell Road verge grass cut, Nov 2018	-	56.00	-	56.00
BACS	v145d	Wildflower area preparation, GreenBank,	-	40.00	-	40.00
BACS	v146/R11	Hire of Playing field, 2nd term 2018	170.00	-	-	-
BACS	v147/R12	Hire of Playing field, 3rd term 2018	170.00	-	-	-
BACS	v148/R13	Lengthsman scheme reimbursement	1,167.50			
		sub total for month, November	1,507.50	6,423.23	639.44	5,783.79
		total for year to date	69,110.64	44,729.21	3,141.74	40,571.48
Payments for Decemb		Description	Receipts	Payments Gross	Payments VAT	Payments Net
s/o	v149	Grounds Maintenance at playing field	-	278.89	46.48	232.41
BACS	v150	Outdoor parish caretaker, Nov 2018		416.66	-	416.66
BACS	v151	Christmas Message in The Village	-	24.00	4.00	20.00
BACS	v152	Trophy for village competition	-	15.54	2.59	12.95
BACS	v153	Xmas lights installation		3,960.00	660.00	3,300.00
BACS	v154	Xmas trees installation and removal		432.00	72.00	360.00
d/d	v155	Office Landline and broadband, Nov/Dec		6.31	1.05	5.26
d/d	v156	Staff pensions, November		164.90	-	164.90
d/d	v157a	footpath lighting energy, dusk2dawn		237.82	39.63	198.19
d/d	v157b	footpath lighting energy, continuous		12.63	0.60	12.03
s/o	v158	office rent for quarter to 25/03/2019	-	1,237.50	-	1,237.50
s/o	v159	Dec retainer, footpath lighting maintenance		264.00	44.00	220.00
d/d	v160	Office mobile phone Nov/Dec		5.00	0.83	4.17
s/o	v161	Staff salaries, December		1,098.53	-	1,098.53
d/d	v162	Quarterly service charge 3months to 31/12/18	-	18.00	-	18.00
d/d	v163	Manual credit handling charge	-	0.30	-	0.30
	v164	Bank interest	46.22	-	-	-
			-	-	-	-
		sub total for month	46.22	8,172.08	871.18	7,300.90
		total for year to date	69,156.86	52,901.29	4,012.92	47,872.38
	Receipts and Payments for January 2019	Description	Receipts	Payments Gross	Payments VAT	Payments Net
	v165	Office landline, broadband for December 2019		6.00	1.00	5.00
	v166	Grounds Maintenance at playing field	-	278.89	46.48	232.41
	v167	Office service charge to 31/03/2018	-	421.28	-	421.28
	v168	bin emptying at playing field	-	1,010.09	168.35	841.74
	v169	quarterly PAYE and NI	-	661.82	-	661.82
	v170	dog waste bags	-	164.70	27.45	137.25
	v171	hire of hall, quarterly payment	-	90.00	-	90.00
	v172a	footpath lighting energy, dusk2dawn		223.38	37.23	186.15
	v172b	footpath lighting energy, continuous		12.25	0.58	11.67
	v173	Maintenance/repairs, December	-	161.70	26.95	134.75
	v174	Staff pension, December	-	164.90	-	164.90
	v175	Outdoor parish caretaker, Nov 2018		416.66	-	416.66
	v176	cash book entry, internal transfer	200	200	-	-
	v177	expenses and miscellaneous items	200.00	247.10	7.50	239.60
	v177	salary to 07/01/2019 (includes tax back)	-	441.08	-	441.08
	v178	Dismantle Christmas lights	-	2,478.00	413.00	2,065.00
	v179	Office electricity, quarterly charge	-	141.20	6.72	134.48
	v180	Jan retainer, footpath lighting maintenance		264.00	44.00	220.00
			-	-	-	-
			-	-	-	-
			-	-	-	-
		sub total for month	200.00	7,183.05	779.26	6,403.79
		total for year to date	69,356.86	60,084.34	4,792.18	54,276.17