

BARNT GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at Barnt Green Cricket Club, B45 8LN on Monday 15 November 2021 at 7.00pm

Members present: Cllrs C Hotham, J Jagger, J Nilsson, P Perry and M Roberts

In attendance: Worcs County Cllr A Kriss
Executive Officer, Tracy Bodley

21/069 Apologies

Cllrs R Cholmondeley, O Polton and S Whitehand

21/070 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.

None received.

21/071 To consider any dispensations

No dispensation requests were received.

21/072 Open Session Participation to hear from:

- a) **Members of the Public** – None present.
- b) **Supporting organisations**, Alvechurch & Wythall SNT, West Mercia Police.
Not present.
- c) **Worcestershire County Councillor** – Adrian Kriss (Beacon division)

Cllr Kriss reported that it had been a busy 4 weeks and that he had attended a site visit at a commercial trade waste facility based in Hartlebury, endorsing the education of disposing of waste correctly in order to maximise recyclable material and that burned in the incineration process producing energy to power homes within the County.

He also reported that there was an £86m bid to boost Worcestershire Bus Services in an effort to drive people to use public transport. It was estimated that 88% of Worcestershire households are multi car owners.

There has also been an increase in burglaries within the county and a plea forwarded to those who had not registered for SmartWater to do so.

Cllr Kriss updated the council on pavement resurfacing and road crossing dropped kerb near to the Barnt Green Inn with works planned to commence from the 22/23 budget.

An update was also received regarding a traffic survey on Sandhills Green to establish the speed of vehicles with reference given to concerns of lack of lighting under the bridge, the survey will provide data to gauge if it is a viable proposition to plan one-way priority on the road in order to reduce speed for safer pedestrian access.

Cllr Kriss also stated that he has requested the reinstatement of a dropped kerb at the end of Fiery Hill Road to stop vehicles mounting the kerb, in the meantime bollards will be placed there as a short-term preventative measure.

Cllr Hotham suggested that the 145-bus service, running at a loss and heavily subsidised, should not be removed as this was the only service running through Barnt Green.

Cllr Kriss left the meeting at 19:35hrs

d) Bromsgrove District Councillor - Charles Hotham (Barnt Green & Hopwood)

Cllr Hotham reported on the following:

- i) There had been several meetings held between the Head of Planning, Development and the legal team regarding the locked gate and gated public open space at the Cala development. The matter is ongoing, and he assured that as much effort as was warranted was taking place to ensure that both issues were resolved.
- ii) It was confirmed that additional funding had been approved for the use of HGV drivers to reinstate brown bin collection services commencing 16 November.
- iii) The licencing application for 'The Garrity' micro pub was being considered at a licencing committee meeting next week and several objections had been received mainly in relation to closing times and the close proximity to residential housing.
- iv) BDC were in receipt of a sewage report that identified a licence agreement for Severn Trent to discharge raw sewage into the brook behind Margesson Drive beyond Bittell Road Playing Field. This had occurred 5 times during the past year for a period of over 15 hours. It was clarified that this was half treated sewage and only occurred when all the flood defences have failed.

21/073 To adopt previous minutes

To approve adoption of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 18/10/2021.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting be approved as an accurate record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

21/063 Vice Chairman's Report

- i) Cllr Hotham stated that the council was in receipt of a meeting table and four chairs provided by the Doctor's surgery who no longer required it. The table is large enough to gather around for meetings when the new office becomes available. It was requested that a letter of thanks be forwarded to the surgery for the donation.
- ii) Judges for the Best Dressed Shop Window were requested and a proposal to ask the Chairman's sister, former Head Teacher of St Andrew's First School and Cllr Polton to carry out the duty.
- iii) There was a concern that Operation London Bridge Protocol should be refreshed in Cllrs minds given recent health concerns of the monarch with the EO confirming that she had recently discussed this with the Chairman.
- iv) The Christmas Lighting Contractor seen within the village installing the lights was asked to move the motifs round so that they were side on to the road opposed to face on as in the previous year.
- v) Cllr Hotham stated that as this was the last meeting that the EO would be Clerking, on behalf of the council he wished to express his congratulations in her new role and thanked her for her great contribution over the time spent at Barnt Green Parish Council.

21/075 Executive Officer's Report

The council was advised of decisions taken under delegated powers, updated on ongoing matters and relevant office communications were reported upon.

a) Station Lift Update	An update received on 11 November, reporting that intrusive survey work, including borehole drilling has concluded with the results included in designs for foundations, lift towers etc. Approval has been given for the safety strategy by a System Review Panel. As design continues, cost estimates will be assembled, and an approach made for funding. As previously mentioned, the intention is to secure funding while the detailed design work continues, thus avoiding a delay between finish of design and contract award.	
	<table border="1"><tr><td>RESOLVED: That the report be noted.</td></tr></table>	RESOLVED: That the report be noted.
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b) Worcestershire County Council – Publication of the Statement of Community Involvement and Local Development Scheme	<p>It was reported that following a 6 week consultation the updated SCI and consultation response can be accessed using the link provided within members papers.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the report be noted.</p>
c) Bittell Road Playing Field – Large Oak Tree Maintenance	<p>It was reported that a large branch from the oak tree had split and partially fallen. Work was carried out on 1 November 2021, however a bench was damaged in the process, this has now been replaced by the tree surgeon.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the report be noted.</p>
d) Public Realm Audit – BDC	<p>Members were notified that the BDC Leader is keen to organise visits to centres with available Parish, District, County Councillors and Officers. Members were asked if the council wished to arrange a meeting and it was suggested that improvements to signage into the village centre on Bittell Road and from the Station could be explored at this meeting.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That a meeting is requested, and suitable dates circulated to members.</p>

21/076 Finance

- a) To note the current financial position and bills for payment

RESOLVED:

- i) That the current financial position be approved.
- ii) That the list of November payments be approved.

- b) To be advised of any expenditure decisions taken by Executive Officer. It was reported of expenditure on the Christmas Lights advertising banners and the Best Dressed Shop Window postcards.

RESOLVED: That the expenditure be noted.

- c) Office Lease Renewal – There were no further updates given. A request was made to send further chase emails and a phone call to move the matter on.

- d) Welcome Back Funding - £2,000 grant funding allocation.

There was discussion over the terms of the grant and timescale to spend the money and a suggestion that the area at the rear of Millennium Park along the boundary with the Friends Meeting House could be tidied and planted with shade loving plants.

RESOLVED: That members having suitable ideas circulate accordingly to progress.

21/077 Environment & Community Wellbeing

- a) Wassail Walk – No further updates were provided, a meeting between key players yet to be organised.
- b) Food Festival – Cllr Hotham stated that the council were fully supportive of the event and local traders were also keen to take part. A suggestion that a food related circular route through the village be organised to draw in visitors, such as a 'soup loop', 'Ale Trail' or other similar food or beverage related enterprise that shops could take part in, and members of the public would sample.
- c) Village Green Update – Cllr Hotham reported that the form was near completion, and he would circulate to members for comments prior to sending out.

21/078 Planning Applications

- a) Members' response to the following consultations:
None received.

21/079 Date and Venue of Next Meeting

Next Parish Council meeting will be Monday 17 January 2022, 7pm, venue to be confirmed.

The meeting ended at 19:58hrs

Signed:..... Date.....
Chairman, Barnt Green Parish Council 17/01/2022

Minute Reference 21/076 a) To note the current financial position and bills for payment.
Bank Reconciliation 31 October 2021

Bank Reconciliation at 08/11/2021			
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2021		104,006.27
	ADD Receipts 01/04/2021 - 08/11/2021		69,459.88
			173,466.15
	SUBTRACT Payments 01/04/2021 - 08/11/2021		39,698.12
A	Cash in Hand 08/11/2021 (per Cash Book)		133,768.03
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	Cash in hand per Bank Statements		
	Petty Cash 31/10/2021	0.00	
	Cambridge Building Society 31/10/2021	64,187.34	
	Unity Bank Deposit Account 31/10/2021	67,499.35	
	Unity Bank Current Account 31/10/2021	2,081.34	
			133,768.03
	Less unrepresented payments		
			133,768.03
	Plus unrepresented receipts		
B	Adjusted Bank Balance		133,768.03
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	A = B Checks out OK		

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November payments to approve

Voucher	Code	Description	Net	VAT	Total
116	Office Running Costs	Landline and Broadband	39.27	7.85	47.12
117	Field Maintenance	Grounds maintenance at playing field	266.72	53.34	320.06
118	Community Walks & Other Events	Father Christmas Costs	74.97	0.00	74.97
119	Meeting Rooms & Refreshments	Room Hire	50.00	10.00	60.00
120	Lengthsman Charges	Lengthsman Work	180.00	0.00	180.00
121	Outdoor Parish Caretaker	Outdoor Parish Caretaker	450.00	0.00	450.00
122	Field Maintenance	Pruning of snapped tree branch at Playing Field	180.00	36.00	216.00
123	Staff Costs	Salary	1,890.07	0.00	1,890.07
124	Staff Costs	Pension contributions	243.40	0.00	243.40
125	Lights Electricity	Continuous Lighting Streetlamps	13.24	0.66	13.90
126	Lights Electricity	Dusk to Dawn Streetlamps	232.96	46.59	279.55
			3,620.63	154.44	3,775.07

DRAFT