

BARNT GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at Barnt Green Parish Council, 80 Hewell Road, B45 8NF on Monday 21 March 2022 at 7.00pm

Members present: Cllrs R Cholmondeley, C Hotham, J Nilsson, S Whitehand, P Perry, O Polton, M Roberts

In attendance: Worcs County Cllr A Kriss (left meeting at 19:30hrs)
Executive Officer, Eleanor Choudry

21/098 Apologies

Cllr J Jagers resignation was received today due to ill health. The resignation was accepted and thanks were given to Cllr Jagger for her contribution to the council.

21/099 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 declared an interest in agenda item 21/106 d) as he is a Trustee of Cock's Croft, the adjoining woodland. Cllr Hotham cannot comment on any planning applications due to his role as D Cllr at BDC and the possibility that he could be on the Planning Committee.

21/100 To consider any dispensations

No dispensation requests were received.

21/101 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)
The budget has been passed at WCC. Highways continued effectively throughout Covid with all funding allocations and gritting maintained. The 3-year planned budget for Highways includes the uplift to the Lengthsman Scheme enabling access to more trained Lengthsman and a higher budget. 5046 local streetlamps have been changed to LED with 1044 awaiting. It costs £6million to replace 20,000 streetlamps with money saving LED lights. Cllr Kriss wants to be made aware of any areas in the parish with bats as 'bat friendly' LED lights can be used. C Cllr Kriss is to visit Barnt Green with Hannah Davies, WCC Highways and Transport Liaison Engineer, and will make Hannah aware of the bats that are on the opposite side of Fiery Hill railway. There is an extra £25 million for adult social care and an extra £11 million for railway and additional bus services. £146 million over 3 years is available to improve pavements. C Cllr Kriss to be made aware of any problems with pavements in the parish. The Hewell Road pavement is poor and Butterwick Close pavement is level with the road, it may need to have a kerb installed. A child was hit by a car near the Bittell Road playing fields and residents have asked for a pedestrian crossing. Cllr Hotham said that the island had already been raised and thought that the area had been previously assessed but not met the criteria. Any previous assessments need to be investigated. Traffic speed data does not show that traffic travels faster than 32mph. All accidents need to be

reported to ensure that the areas accident history is recorded and considered. A Platinum Jubilee budget is available, applications can be made to C Cllr Kriss.

- d) **Bromsgrove District Councillor** - Charles Hotham (Barnt Green & Hopwood)
The budget setting has been very difficult due to the governments one year settlement and reserves of £500k have been used to balance the budget. Previously ear- marked reserves have to be transferred to general reserves. The finance vacancy level at BDC is 33% causing a delay in financial information. The Warmer Homes Grant is available for E grade homes with some income restrictions. Further meetings are planned to reduce the sewage discharge at the bottom of Fiery Hill to zero by 2030.

21/102 To adopt previous minutes

- a) To approve adoption of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 17 January 2022.

RESOLVED:

- i) That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17 January 2022 be approved as an accurate record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

21/103 Chairman's Report

Rachel Banner at 14 Sandhills Road is holding an Open Garden Day on bank holiday Monday 18th April at 2pm in aid of the Red Cross for Ukraine. Thanks to Cllr Hotham and Cllr Perry and spouses for helping to decorate the parish council office. The telephone and internet move was problematic, GJH Electrical moved the cabling to ensure a stable internet connection. The utilities had been moved to a penal tariff by the landlord but Cllr Cholmondeley managed to agree a 6 month deal for both gas and electricity with Pozitive Energy with a 50% and 75% reduction in cost respectively. The electricity for streetlights remains with SSE. Due to the penal charge the energy cost will have increased by approximately £1500. A resident requested more SmartWater due to the date expiring. All the SmartWater in the parish office has expired. Cllrs agreed that residents will need to purchase their own supply of SmartWater in future.

21/104 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 | <p>Leanne Brooks, Network Rail, sent a report to explain that she will be taking over from Richard Dugdale in April. Leanne reported that the designs are progressing well, with site visits being undertaken with our contractors. We have been one of the first projects to be allocated Fire Engineering resource following a new contract framework being set up, which means we can progress confidently on our fire safety requirements in line with the recent standard changes. We are in good communication with the DFT and regularly attend meetings with their representatives to provide updates ahead of our formal business case submission, in which we are aiming for in the coming month.</p> <p>Cllr Cholmondeley explained that Hewell Road will need to be dug up for the electric to be taken up to the station. If there are no major snags then the DfT should approve by the end of March and the Smethwick team scheduled to come to Barnt Green in August.</p> <p>RESOLVED: The PC to send a thank you email to Richard Dugdale for all his help with this project. That the report be noted.</p> |
|------------------------|---|

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|--|---|
| b) 80 Hewell Road Premises | The office move is now complete. The broadband/phone contract is ASDL as fibre is unavailable. The EO agreed a 24-month contract at £19.68 + VAT with 2 months free with Plusnet. The utilities are now supplied by Pozitive Energy in a 6-month contract. RESOLVED: That the report be noted. |
| c) NJC new rates of pay applicable from April 2021 | The LGA agreed new pay scales. The backdated pay for the previous EO Tracy Bodley is to be added to the payments. The increase in rate of pay for the current EO will be added to payroll. RESOLVED: That the report be noted. |
| d) Meeting dates for 2022/23 | Meeting dates had been circulated. RESOLVED: That the report be noted. |
| e) Agreement of 22/23 Lengthsman Scheme | The Agreement for 22/23 had been received with an increased budget of £2171.32. RESOLVED: The EO to sign the 22/23 contract. |

21/105 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 March payments be approved.

- b) To be advised of any expenditure decisions taken by EO. The Monzo card had been set up and a £200 payment listed for use for adhoc stationery etc.

RESOLVED: That the transfer of £200 to the Monzo card will be authorised.

21/106 Environment & Community Wellbeing

- a) Platinum Jubilee Celebrations on Sunday 5th June 2022 at Bittell Road Playing Field. It was noted that a request for a road closure in Sandhills Road had been submitted, presumably by residents. Cllr Cholmondeley to ask shop owners about hanging bunting along the shop fronts. The new Vicar and family are to be invited to the celebrations. The main event will be a family picnic on the Bittell Road playing field. St Andrews school have been invited to take part. Cllr Polton is attending a Governors meeting and will ask whether the school want to be involved possibly making jubilee crowns. The PC entertainment budget is £1500 p.a. It was decided that £750 could be used for this event for bunting, portaloos etc. Village Vineyards and Greg Hunt are interested in providing food. Cllr Cholmondeley to ask if the Indian restaurant Deedar would want to be involved. Ideas also include an ice cream van, 1950's toys e.g. hula hoops, skipping ropes, hopscotch. Cllr Hotham proposed that the PC request £500 from C Cllr Kriss budget for community events. This could be spent on a children's entertainer/bouncy castle/Punch & Judy/music.

RESOLVED: That quotes be sought and then an application for the community events funding be made.

- b) Blossom Walk Saturday 7th May 2022. Greg Hunt will organise the walk with Simon Richards. The walk will start in Millennium Park. Banners and flyers are to be ordered.

RESOLVED: The PC to support at a cost of £150 for flyers/banners.

- c) Brass Beatz in Millennium Park on Saturday 2nd July 2022. Greg Hunt is providing apple cider/juice. Village Vineyards are to provide food. The Citizens Advice Bureau will have a stall and a percentage of the retailers takings will probably be donated to the CAB. The PC expect a grant application from CAB and £500 is budgeted. Brass Beatz attend free of charge. Cllr Cholmondeley and Cllr Hotham will attend the event.

RESOLVED: £500 donated to Citizens Advice Board as agreed at budget setting.

- d) An application for village green status for the field adjoining footpath BG507 was submitted on 12th January and is progressing to the next stage.
- e) Welcome Back Fund – An application for £2000 has been made to include the boundary laurel trees at the rear of Millennium Park at a cost of £800 and £1200 for further planting in Millennium Park or Parkers Piece. The Outdoor Parish Caretaker has agreed to water the laurel trees. The PC could plant a Platinum Jubilee oak tree instead of the oak bush in Parkers Piece or a Worcester black pear. Options will be discussed at the next meeting.
- f) Food Festival 2022 – It was reported that this would not go ahead due to the other agreed events. This will be considered again in 2023.
- g) An application is in progress for £903.41 from Barnt Green Medical Trust to repair the play area bridge and wetpour surface in Millennium Park. The repair would be carried out by Wicksteed Ltd. The BGMT grant criteria that needs to be met is to support health and well-being. The play equipment at Parkers Piece was discussed due to the area being very wet and muddy making it unusable. The EO had spoken to Tom Curwell, WCC Water Management Engineer, and he has agreed to meet our chosen contractor to discuss options. The EO will arrange 3 quotes and then arrange a meeting with Tom Curwell and the preferred contractor. A further application could then be made to BG Medical Trust for funding.

RESOLVED: Support the application to BG Medical Trust for £903.41. The EO to seek 3 quotes for works to resolve the wet/muddy area surrounding the play equipment at parkers Piece.

21/107 Planning Applications

- a) Members' response to the following consultations:

| BDC ref | Site Address | Proposal |
|---|---|--|
| 22/00227/FUL | Land To The Rear Of 55 61, Fiery Hill Road, Barnt Green, Worcestershire | Outline Application for the Erection of One Dwelling (Includes Details of Access, Appearance, Layout and Scale) All other matters reserved |
| <p>BGPC Recommendation: Recommend approval subject to the application complying with building regulations regarding the driveway access.</p> | | |

RESOLVED: The EO to produce planning information including BDC planning decisions to distribute to all councillors. The Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) to be sent to all councillors. A BDC planning session to be arranged in future.

21/108 Date and Venue of Next Meeting

Next Parish Council meeting will be 11 April 2022, 7pm, Barnt Green Parish Council Office.

The meeting ended at 20:52hrs

Signed:..... Date.....
Chairman, Barnt Green Parish Council 11/04/2022

Minute Reference 21/105 a) To note the current financial position and bills for payment. Bank Reconciliation 28 February 2022

| | | | |
|------------------------------|---|------------|-------------------|
| A | Bank Reconciliation at 28/02/2022 | | |
| | Cash in Hand 01/04/2021 | | 104,006.27 |
| | ADD Receipts 01/04/2021 - 28/02/2022 | | 71,220.35 |
| | SUBTRACT Payments 01/04/2021 - 28/02/2022 | | 175,226.62 |
| | Cash in Hand 28/02/2022 (per Cash Book) | | 59,706.67 |
| B | Cash in hand per Bank Statements | | |
| | Petty Cash | 31/01/2022 | 0.00 |
| | Cambridge Building Society | 31/01/2022 | 64,187.34 |
| | Unity Bank Deposit Account | 31/01/2022 | 49,002.74 |
| | Unity Bank Current Account | 31/01/2022 | 2,329.87 |
| | | | 115,519.95 |
| Less unrepresented payments | | | 115,519.95 |
| Plus unrepresented receipts | | | |
| Adjusted Bank Balance | | | 115,519.95 |
| A = B Checks out OK | | | |

Minute Reference 21/105 a) To note the current financial position and bills for payment.

March payments to approve

Barnt Green Parish Council
PAYMENTS LIST

15 March 2022 (2021-2022)

| Voucher Code | Date | Minute | Bank | Cheque No | Description | Supplier | VAT Type | Net | VAT | Total |
|--------------|------------|--------|----------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 168 | 02/03/2022 | | Unity Bank Current A | Direct Debit | Dusk to dawn footpath lighting | SSE | S | 210.93 | 42.18 | 253.11 |
| 169 | 02/03/2022 | | Unity Bank Current A | Direct Debit | Street Light Energy | SSE | L | 12.50 | 0.62 | 13.12 |
| 170 | 08/03/2022 | BACS | Unity Bank Current A | | Grounds maintenance at playi | Hosking Ground Maintenance | S | 266.72 | 53.34 | 320.06 |
| 171 | 08/03/2022 | BACS | Unity Bank Current A | | Office Rent | John Truslove | E | 1,625.00 | | 1,625.00 |
| 172 | 08/03/2022 | BACS | Unity Bank Current A | | Lengthsman Work | Bromsgrove District Council | X | 180.00 | | 180.00 |
| 173 | 09/03/2022 | BACS | Unity Bank Current A | BACS | Salary | Tracy Bodley | X | 358.00 | | 358.00 |
| 174 | 10/03/2022 | BACS | Unity Bank Current A | BACS | Rerouting broadband line to fr | GJH Electrical | S | 150.00 | 30.00 | 180.00 |
| 175 | 15/03/2022 | BACS | Unity Bank Current A | BACS | Outdoor Parish Caretaker | Andlin Cleaning | X | 450.00 | | 450.00 |
| 176 | 15/03/2022 | BACS | Unity Bank Current A | | Petty cash top up | Eleanor Choudry | X | 200.00 | | 200.00 |
| 177 | 15/03/2022 | | Unity Bank Current A | | Refuse sacks | Bromsgrove District Council | X | 98.80 | | 98.80 |
| Total | | | | | | | | 3,551.95 | 126.14 | 3,678.09 |

