

# BARNT GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the **Ordinary Parish Council** meeting to be held on  
**Monday 20 March 2023 at 7.00pm at 80 Hewell Road, Barnt Green, B45 8NF**

**Members present:** Cllrs R Cholmondeley, C Hotham, O Polton

**In attendance:** Executive Officer, Eleanor Choudry

## **22/102 Apologies**

Cllr P Perry, Cllr S Whitehand, Cllr J Baldwin, Cllr M Roberts, WCC Cllr A Kriss.

**22/103 Parish Councillor Vacancy** - No interest has been received.

**22/104 Declarations of Interest:** Councillors are 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 22/099 c) 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.

## **22/105 To consider any dispensations**

No dispensations had been received.

## **22/106 Open Session – Participation to hear from:**

- a) Members of the public – None present.
- b) Supporting organisations, e.g. Safer Neighbourhood Team, Footpath Warden - PC Matthew Dunton from the Safer Neighbourhood Team emailed the following report: 18/03/2023 Unfortunately within BARNT GREEN, there were 1x Burglary , 2 x attempt Burglary and a criminal damage. West Mercia Police successfully arrested two individuals for these offences. In line with this, the following crime prevention advice:

- Make sure all windows, doors and entry points are secure.
- Where possible, move any objects from fences and gates that could be used to assist someone climbing over.
- Do not leave bins where, they could be used to climb on or place them in a position, where it could also indicate that you are out.
- I know the nights are getting lighter; however security lighting is a great deterrent.
- Reviewing where possible, to consider installing CCTV and alarm systems.

A reminder in regard to keyless car thefts at the moment; please advise individuals if they have a keyless car. To consider purchasing a faraday pouch, the pouch stops the signals from the key fob being intercepted. An additional important note, please place spare keys in the pouch also.

Cllr Polton mentioned that parking on pavements within Barnt Green was common and caused a problem for people with pushchairs and wheelchairs etc. The EO

will inform the police.

- c) Worcestershire County Councillor – Adrian Kriss (Beacon division) – Not present. Cllr Hotham advised the requested dropped kerb by Blackwell Road near the post box had been marked up for works.
- d) Bromsgrove District Councillor - Charles Hotham (Barnt Green & Hopwood) – The Peer Challenge Review has been carried out over the last 10 days. The report is due to be published on Friday.

**22/107 To adopt previous minutes**

- a) To approve adoption of the minutes of the Ordinary parish council meeting held 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023, previously circulated but also attached.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 20/02/2023 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

**22/108 Chairman’s Report** – Cllr Cholmondeley completed a questionnaire regarding the National Trust project called 8 Hills Regional Park. The aims are to create a robust landscape that boosts nature, recreation, active travel and sustainable farming whilst accommodating potential housing growth. The park is bigger than a country park but smaller than a national park. The ‘8 Hills’ are Clent Hill, Frankley Beeches, Romsley Hill, Waseley Hill, Beacon Hill, Cofton Hill, Wast Hill and Weatheroak Hill.

**22/109 Executive Officer’s Report**

To be advised of any decisions taken under delegated powers, receive updates to ongoing matters and list any relevant office communications since the last council meeting.

a) Station Lift update from Network Rail	Leanne Brooks, Network Rail, confirmed that the main works for the station lift installation will begin in Autumn 2023.
b) Hewell Lane	Resident complained about uneven and gravelly footpath. Difficult for elderly and people that use scooters. WCC have confirmed that the area has been assessed and works are due to commence in 2023/24.
c) Income received	None received.
d) Shed in Bittell Road playing fields	The OPC has removed the shed in Bittell Road playing field and installed it in Millennium Park. The new shed is to be installed in Bittell Road playing fields on Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> March.
e) Review deposit account interest rate currently paying 1.5%	The Unity Bank required minimum of £2 million for the account giving 2.21% interest. <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;">RESOLVED: The EO to check interest rates in 3 months’ time.</div>
f) Elections 4 <sup>th</sup> May 2023	Cllrs present completed their nomination papers. Cllr Hotham will deliver the papers from the Cllrs present to Bromsgrove District Council, Parkside by Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> April 4pm. The EO to contact absent Cllrs.

g) Plusnet are closing their Business Broadband.	<p>Advised to switch over to BT. 24-month contract £27.95 unlimited broadband including line rental. Currently cost is £25.82.</p> <div data-bbox="694 190 1412 331" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px auto; width: fit-content;"> <p>RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed to switch to BT on a 24-month contract at a cost of £27.95 for unlimited broadband and line rental.</p> </div>
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**22/110 Finance**

- (i) To note the current financial position and bills for payment. See page 4 of the agenda.

RESOLVED:

- a) That the current financial position be noted.
- b) That the list of payments be approved.

- (ii) To be advised of any expenditure decisions taken by Executive Officer. A request of £14.60 to top up the Monzo card to £200. See Monzo expenditure list page 6.

RESOLVED: That the top up of the Monzo card be approved.

- (iii) Dates for the quarterly meetings of the Finance and GP Committee previously circulated are: Thursdays 10am - 6<sup>th</sup> April, 6<sup>th</sup> July, 5<sup>th</sup> October, 11<sup>th</sup> January and 4<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

RESOLVED: Meetings dates were agreed.

**22/111 Environment & Community Wellbeing**

- a) Parkers Piece Playing Field play equipment. Cllr Polton sent a photo to the EO of the standing water around the play equipment.

RESOLVED: The EO to ask for further advice from Richard Clewer.

- b) Bittell Road traffic speed / pedestrians crossing. No update received.
- c) Application for Village Green Status for the field adjoining footpath BG507. WCC Law Team are reviewing the advice they received from the Counsel and will send an update soon.
- d) Welcome Back Fund Grant – The balance of the fund is £221.

RESOLVED: To ringfence the balance of £221 that is held by the contractor for future spend on the pollinator site/purchase of fruit trees.

- e) Flood level marker post Hewell Road.

RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed to purchase a flat flood level marker and ask the OPC to fix it in the middle of the bridge on the same side of the road as The Victoria pub. The EO to organise.

- f) Wicksteed Millennium Park Inspection Report. Quotes for repairs and complete resurfacing with wetpour in progress.

RESOLVED: The EO to investigate eligibility for funding from a Biffa grant.

- g) Reeves Tree Surgeons have completed the works to reduce the crown of the Oak tree in Bittell Road playing fields and to prune the lime trees in Millennium Park that overhang the Friends Meeting House. Cllr Cholmondeley and the EO have a meeting tomorrow at the Friends Meeting House with the Operations Manager to discuss the pruning that was carried out and potential ongoing maintenance.
- h) Community Events – Community Walk and Brass Beatz 24<sup>th</sup> June. There will be 2 walks this year, a 4 mile and 8-mile walk. Banners are to be ordered at the end of April.
- i) Social Eats have confirmed that they will host a Music and Street Food Festival Event in Bittell Road playing fields on the 16<sup>th</sup> September. Event will start at 12 noon until 10pm. Managed completely by Social Eats including security, parking wardens, promotion etc. Discussion took place regarding a firework display. Cllrs agreed to consider this at a future date.

## 22/112 Planning

- a) Responses to consultations received including:

BDC ref	Site Address	Proposal
<b>23/00158/FUL</b>	25 Margesson Drive, Barnt Green, Birmingham, Worcestershire	Single storey extension to bring the kitchen in line with the window at the front of the property. This would allow for the house to be in line and mean we could put in place a porch into the house as well as maximise the
BGPC Recommendation: Barnt Green Parish Council recommends approval.		
BDC ref	Site Address	Proposal
<b>23/00242/FUL</b>	51 Sandhills Road, Barnt Green, Birmingham, Worcestershire	Single storey side extension. Alterations to existing rear extensions. Replacement rear dormer window.
BGPC Recommendation: Barnt Green Parish Council recommends approval.		

## 22/113 Date and Venue of Next Meetings

Next Parish Council Meeting, Monday 17 April 2023 7pm at 80 Hewell Road.

The meeting ended at 19:34hrs

Signed:..... Date.....  
Chairman, Barnt Green Parish Council 17/04/2023

Minute Item 22/110 (i) To approve the current financial position and bills paid.  
February Payments Report

**Barnt Green Parish Council**  
**PAYMENTS (AWAITING AUTHORISATION) LIST**

<b>Voucher</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Net</b>	<b>VAT</b>	<b>Total</b>
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245	Street Light Energy	81.80	4.09	85.89
246	Street Light Energy	17.62	0.88	18.50
		<b>99.42</b>	<b>4.97</b>	<b>104.39</b>

Minute Item 22/110 (i) To approve the current financial position and bills paid.

### March Payments Report

#### **Barnt Green Parish Council PAYMENTS (AWAITING AUTHORISATION) LIST**

<b>Voucher</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Net</b>	<b>VAT</b>	<b>Total</b>
247	Annual playground inspection - Millennium Park	120.00	24.00	144.00
249	Tree work on playing field and Friends Meeting House	1,025.00	205.00	1,230.00
254	PAYE			
250	Grounds maintenance at playing field	228.41	45.68	274.09
252	Pension contributions			
253	Salary			
255	PAYE			
248	Outdoor Parish Caretaker	498.00		498.00
256	Landline and Broadband	28.45	5.69	34.14
251	Office Rent	1,625.00		1,625.00
257	Petty cash top up	14.60		14.60

Minute Item 22/110 (i) To approve the February Bank Reconciliation 2023

## Bart Green Parish Council

Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Name and Role (Clerk/RFO etc)*

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Name and Role (RFO/Chair of Finance etc)*

	<b>Bank Reconciliation at 28/02/2023</b>		
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2022		109,011.70
	<b>ADD</b> Receipts 01/04/2022 - 28/02/2023		86,383.26
			195,394.96
	<b>SUBTRACT</b> Payments 01/04/2022 - 28/02/2023		80,256.78
<b>A</b>	<b>Cash in Hand 28/02/2023</b> (per Cash Book)		<b>115,138.18</b>
	Cash in hand per Bank Statements		
	Petty Cash 28/01/2023	0.00	
	Cambridge Building Society 28/01/2023	64,785.55	
	Unity Bank Deposit Account 28/01/2023	46,651.26	
	Unity Bank Current Account 28/02/2023	3,701.37	
			<b>115,138.18</b>
	Less unrepresented payments		
			115,138.18
	Plus unrepresented receipts		
<b>B</b>	<b>Adjusted Bank Balance</b>		<b>115,138.18</b>
	<b>A = B Checks out OK</b>		

Minute item 22/110 ii) To be advised of any expenditure decisions taken by EO.

Monzo Reconciliation up to 13.3.23					
Voucher	Date	Description	Supplier	Expenditure	Deposit
		Opening Balance			<b>200.00</b>
<b>44</b>	23.2.23	Toilet cleaner, toilet rolls, handwash, A4 notepad, A5 notepad	Tesco	14.60	
			Balance		185.40
			<b>Topup Request</b>		14.60