

BARNT GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

80 Hewell Road, Birmingham, B45 8NF

0121 447 9893

exec@barntgreen.org.uk
www.barntgreen.org.uk



Minutes of the **Ordinary Parish Council** meeting held on
Monday 17 April 2023 at 7.00pm at 80 Hewell Road, Barnt Green, B45 8NF

Members present: Cllrs R Cholmondeley, C Hotham, P Perry, S Whitehand, M Roberts.

In attendance: Executive Officer, Eleanor Choudry.
Worcestershire County Councillor, Adrian Kriss (left at 7.20pm).
A representative of The Village magazine.
1 member of the public.

23/114 Apologies

O Polton, J Baldwin.

23/115 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 23/122 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.

23/116 To consider any dispensations

No dispensations had been received.

23/117 Open Session – Participation to hear from:

- a) Members of the public – Lydia Williams who has been elected as a parish councillor and will take up office on Tuesday 9th May.
- b) Supporting organisations, e.g. Safer Neighbourhood Team, Footpath Warden – None present.
- c) Worcestershire County Councillor – Adrian Kriss (Beacon division) – The dropped kerb by the Longlands has been dropped previously but is not wide enough. The cost to complete the work will be £4k. WCC have agreed to carry out works along the Hewell Lane pavement within the 2023/24 program and it was suggested that the kerb could be included in these works. Cherry Hill Road has been closed for tree cutting but may be closed again as only half of the work was completed. Cllr Hotham said that the dropped kerb by the post box on the Blackwell Road past the Social Club was marked up, coned off and temporary traffic lights installed but no work appeared to be carried out before the lights etc were removed. Orchard Croft pavement has been dropped and the drive widened but only the added area has been tarmacked. WCC used to seek 3 quotes for Highways works but now all work is sourced through Ringway. Cllr Kriss said when the new tender is renewed he wants to go back to receiving three comparison quotes to ensure the best price is obtained. Cllr Hotham mentioned the email that had been received by

councillors from WCC regarding residents having works carried out to drop kerbs outside their houses to prevent cars parking there. All dropped kerb requests should be made through Worcestershire County Council.

Cllr Cholmondeley complained return travel from Barnt Green to Worcestershire Royal Hospital on public transport had taken 5 hours! Cllr Kriss said that the county was trying to increase responsive transport which costs only £2.50 for every destination available. Cllr Kriss is to invite Mike Rouse, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Highways and Transport, to the next parish council meeting on the 15th May to discuss issues with the trains.

d) Bromsgrove District Councillor - Charles Hotham (Barnt Green & Hopwood) – No report.

23/118 To adopt previous minutes

a) To approve adoption of the minutes of the Ordinary parish council meeting held 20th March 2023, previously circulated but also attached.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 20/03/2023 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

23/119 Chairman’s Report – No report.

23/120 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) Income received	<p>First instalment of Precept £36000 received 3.4.23. Lengthsman refund £173.25 received. Cadent Gas £125 received 6.4.23.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>RESOLVED: That the receipts be noted. This item to be moved under Finance.</p> </div>
b) Shed in Bittell Road playing fields	<p>The OPC installed the new shed on Sunday 2nd April.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>RESOLVED: EO to request the return of keys for the shed that has been moved to Millennium Park.</p> </div>
c) Advertising banners	<p>Requests to display banners on the fence at the end of Hewell Road near the island.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>RESOLVED: Cllr Hotham to contact BDC Planning Department to clarify advertising rules.</p> </div>
d) Elections 4 th May 2023	<p>Current councillors have all been re-elected. Lydia Williams had put herself forward to fill the parish council vacancy and attended the meeting.</p>

e) Plusnet are closing their Business Broadband.	Switch over to BT will take place on the 18 th April. RESOLVED: Cllr Cholmondeley has signed the Direct Debit instruction. Another signatory to sign on receipt of the form.
f) First Aid Supplies	A new first aid box and supplies has been delivered for office/event use. RESOLVED: Resident First Aider, Kay Cholmondeley, has checked the first aid supplies for office/event use. A checklist has been produced. The EO to order 4 items to ensure both boxes of supplies match.
g) Lengthsman Scheme 23/24	The scheme will include a trial 6-month period to carry out works on the Public Rights of Way.
h) Residents' complaints	A complaint has been raised regarding shop bins on Hewell Road and also a complaint about items being left outside Acorns charity shop when it is closed. RESOLVED: The complaint regarding the bins has been resolved by the complainant. The EO raised the residents concerns about items being left outside the charity shop with Acorns and is awaiting a response.

23/121 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 £126.43 to top up the Monzo card to £200. See Monzo expenditure list page 6. Annual Adobe subscription debited EO's personal credit card on renewal. Refund EO. The EO has updated credit card details to the Monzo card.

RESOLVED: That the top up of the Monzo card be approved. The EO to be reimbursed for the Adobe subscription £156.89.

- (iii) Finance and GP meeting held Thursday 6th April at 10am. Quarterly financial checks were completed to 31st March 2023. The 2022/2023 budget and actual spend to date were reviewed Recommendation that £7k is transferred from the Unity Deposit Account to the Cambridge Building Society account. To be agreed.

RESOLVED: It was agreed that the parish council was in a good financial position at the end of 2022/23. £7k is to be transferred from the deposit account to the Cambridge Building Society. EO to action.

23/122 Environment & Community Wellbeing

- a) Parkers Piece Playing Field play equipment in Bittell Road playing fields. The children's play equipment is fifteen years old and decisions will need to be made as to whether the equipment is repaired or replaced. If the drainage issue cannot be fully resolved, the equipment may need to be repositioned.

RESOLVED: EO to chase onsite meeting with Richard Clewer, North Worcestershire Water Management, to discuss the minimal improvement that has been achieved following drainage works surrounding the play equipment.

- b) Bittell Road traffic speed / pedestrians crossing – No update.
c) Application for Village Green Status for the field adjoining footpath BG507. The application was refused.
d) Flood level marker post Hewell Road. The post is due to be delivered week commencing 24th April. The EO has requested the OPC to fix the post.

RESOLVED: EO to claim back cost from Worcestershire County Council.

- e) Lack of departure screens and PA system on Platform 1 at Barnt Green train station. The indicator board on platform 2 does not give information about trains on platform 1. Network Rail have stated it is West Midlands Trains responsibility to fix the potholes on Station Approach.

RESOLVED: It was agreed that a request be made to West Midlands Rail in June, prior to work commencing on the station lifts, for a departure screen and PA system on Platform 1.

- f) Wicksteed Millennium Park Inspection Report. Quotes for repairs and complete resurfacing with wetpour were circulated prior to the meeting. Quotes varied and included replacement, infill and skimming making them difficult to compare. Cllrs agreed previous infill repairs to the wetpour were costly and not long-lasting. Rospa Inspection Reports received. Cllr Hotham suggested that the safety inspections might be able to be carried out by a member of Alvechurch PC in future.

RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed that all the wetpour should be removed and replaced. Supplier RTC appeared to be best value. The EO to contact RTC to request a reference from a parish council that had wetpour installed by RTC. Costs for new replacement black wetpour to be confirmed.

The inspection reports were noted. The EO to contact Alvechurch PC regarding carrying out safety inspections in 2023/24.

- g) Reeves Tree Surgeons have met with Cllr Cholmondeley, the EO and the Manager of the Friends Meeting House regarding the pruning of the lime trees in Millennium Park that overhang the Friends Meeting House. Pollard pruning was suggested by Reeves Tree Surgeons as a way of reducing the need for ongoing management of the trees. The EO contacted Gavin Boyes, Senior Tree Officer at Bromsgrove and Redditch Councils. Gavin highlighted the disadvantages of pollarding and will inspect the trees when he is next in Barnt Green and advise the EO.
- h) Community Events – Community Walk and Brass Beatz 24th June. Cllr Cholmondeley to check that Village Vinyards are available. Warwick Butchers and Fruitfields have confirmed their attendance. Simon Richards is working on promotional material.

RESOLVED: Cllr Cholmondeley to contact Sally Tucker from Brass Beatz. The EO to source and book an ice cream van to be situated outside Barnt Green Antiques shop. The ice creams will be available to be purchased by the public.

- i) Social Eats Music and Street Food Festival Event in Bittell Road playing fields on the 16th September. The ticketed event is confirmed and will be managed by Social Eats. The area will be fenced to allow public access to the footpath.
- j) Millennium Park children’s play area – Dogs being exercised within the fenced area.

RESOLVED: The EO to purchase a ‘NO DOGS IN CHILDREN’S PLAY AREA’ sign.

23/123 Planning

- a) Responses to consultations received including:

BDC ref	Site Address	Proposal
23/00311/FUL	34 Fiery Hill Road, Barnt Green, Birmingham, Worcestershire	Proposed loft conversions with dormers front and rear
BGPC Recommendation: Barnt Green Parish Council recommends approval.		
BDC ref	Site Address	Proposal
23/00361/FUL	42 Oakdene Drive, Barnt Green, Birmingham, Worcestershire	Construction of extensions to the front and rear of the property and associated internal remodelling works
BGPC Recommendation: Barnt Green Parish Council recommends refusal on the following grounds as per the SPD Supplementary High Quality Design guidance: Item 3.1.6. the extension is not subordinate to the existing house. Item 3.1.2. there will be a detrimental effect on the street scene.		
BDC ref	Site Address	Proposal
23/00221/FUL	62 Hewell Road, Barnt Green, Birmingham, Worcestershire	Proposed new access onto classified road including dropped Kerb and alterations to boundary treatment (reduction in height of Laural Hedge from over 2m in height to 0.6m in height.
BGPC Recommendation:		

Barnt Green Parish Council recommends approval subject to lack of objection from the next-door neighbour at number 60.

23/124 Date and Venue of Next Meetings

Annual Parish Meeting, Monday 24th April 2023 7pm at The Friends Meeting House.

Annual Parish Council Meeting, Monday 15 May 2023 7pm at 80 Hewell Road.

The meeting ended at 20:40hrs

Signed:..... Date.....
Chairman, Barnt Green Parish Council 15/05/2023

Minute Item 23/121 (i) To approve the current financial position and bills paid.

March Payments Report

Barnt Green Parish Council
PAYMENTS (AWAITING AUTHORISATION) LIST

Voucher	Description	Net	VAT	Total
258	Office Energy	27.16	1.36	28.52
259	Office Energy	21.33	1.07	22.40
		48.49	2.43	50.92

Created by  Scribe

Minute Item 23/121 (i) To approve the current financial position and bills paid.
April Payments Report

Barnt Green Parish Council
PAYMENTS (AWAITING AUTHORISATION) LIST

Voucher	Description	Net	VAT	Total
1	Outdoor Parish Caretaker	544.50		544.50
2	Landline and Broadband	26.29	5.26	31.55
3	Lengthsman Work	189.00		189.00
4	Grounds maintenance at playing field	228.41	45.68	274.09
5	Online subscription Parish Online	50.00	10.00	60.00
6	Lengthsman Work	173.25		173.25
7	Move and install 2 x sheds in the playing field and Millennium Park	610.25		610.25
8	Adobe annual subscription to 30.3.24	130.74	26.15	156.89
9	Cutting Verges - Hewell Road	35.00		35.00
10	ROSPA Annual play equipment inspections	89.00	17.80	106.80
10	ROSPA Annual play equipment inspections	89.00	17.80	106.80
11	PAYE			
12	PAYE			
13	Pension contributions			
14	Salary			
15	Office stationery	30.98	6.20	37.18
16	Office stationery	-23.95	-4.79	-28.74
17	Office stationery	32.15	6.43	38.58
18	Key cutting 3 extra shed keys (Bittell Road)	50.01	10.00	60.01

Minute Item 23/121 (i) To approve the March Bank Reconciliation 2023

Monzo Reconciliation up to 31st March 2023					
Voucher	Date	Description	Supplier	Expenditure	Deposit
		Opening Balance			200.00
45	16.3.23	Office door key cut	Tonys Handyman	4.50	
46	27.3.23	Workplace First Aid Kit	St John Ambulance	41.94	
47	16.3.23	Microsoft annual subscription	Microsoft	79.99	
	21.3.23	Topup			
			Balance		73.57
			Topup Request		126.43