

BARNT GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

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

Members present: Cllrs R Cholmondeley, P Perry, S Whitehand, L Williams, O Pardo Roques.

In attendance: Executive Officer, Eleanor Choudry.
Worcestershire County Councillor, Adrian Kriss (left at 8.15pm).
8 members of the public (all left at 7.50pm)

23/152 Apologies

Cllr Hotham, Cllr Roberts, Cllr Baldwin.

23/153 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 Williams declared an interest in agenda item Planning 23/163 application 23/00224/FUL as she is the property owner.

Cllr Perry also declared an interest in the same planning application as he is related to the owners of the neighbouring property, Mr and Mrs Onyon, 11 Hewell Road.

23/154 To consider any dispensations

No dispensations had been received.

23/155 Open Session – Participation to hear from:

Cllr Williams and Cllr Perry left the meeting at 7.24pm.

Residents were reminded of the rules of the Standing Orders during the Public Open Session which permits 15 minutes speaking time. Due to the contentious planning application and parking discussion the Chairman allowed the session to overrun.

- a) Members of the public – Resident Rachel Banner complained about the parking in Barnt Green. On Hewell Road people are parking in the disabled spaces and on double yellow lines. Parking also occurs in the area that is designed for visually impaired people to cross the road safely. People street park when catching the train instead of using the car park. Drives are blocked and access out of driveways can be restricted. Rachel Banner suggested adding generous white lines across driveways could help. Cllr Kriss advised that H bar lines can only be implemented when there are 2 driveways before the kerb is raised. Rachel Banner said that fines were needed to prevent parking and 'No parking on pavement signs' erected. Cllr Cholmondeley explained the parish council was limited in what it can do to reduce the problem of parking in Barnt Green. Complaints had been made about parents/carers parking in Green Bank and blocking driveways when doing the school run. Cllr Hotham has contacted

the school and BDC. Complaints had also been received regarding the increase in street parking due to the Victoria pub keeping their car park gate closed until after 9am. The car park belongs to the pub for customers use and so the parish council cannot dictate what time they open the gate. Cllr Pardo Roques said the police can only issue a parking ticket if the car is caught causing an obstruction. Cllr Kriss confirmed that he has requested a residents parking scheme in the area which would prevent business employees street parking.

Mr and Mrs Onyon, residents of 11 Hewell Road (neighbouring property of No1 Poplar Drive) came to the meeting to voice their objections to planning application 23/00224/FUL 1 Poplar Drive. Mr Onyon explained that the application was sited on the boundary, and this needed to be determined. The 2-storey extension increased the size making the property overpowering, overlooking and out of character. Key considerations in the BDC High Quality Design Supplement Document included the proximity and character and consideration of the impact on neighbouring properties and the street scene. The property would create a considerable loss of outlook and overshadow causing indisputable loss of light. The main objection is the increase percentage of 60% which would make the property overwhelming and visually intimidating. Mr Onyon suggested that there were many things that could be done to improve the property without increasing the size of the property to that extent.

Cllr Williams parents spoke to directly address the concerns that Mr and Mrs Onyon had voiced. The boundary line is a wooden fence owned by Mr and Mrs Onyon so it was not understood why the boundary was deemed an issue. The boundary line is on the property deeds. The position of the extension is 12.5 metres away from the edge of number 11 Hewell Road, BDC recommend a distance of 13.7 metres. No 10 and No 17 Poplar Drive are as large if not larger than the proposed development so it cannot be considered that the extension is 'overdevelopment'. The upstairs windows will be level 5 obscured glass. The property currently looks dilapidated, and the road consists of many different types of houses without there being a specific street character.

The public comments on BDC planning portal had been read by Cllrs.

Cllr Cholmondeley brought forward the planning item on the agenda . Cllrs discussed the plan and stated that the planning proposal size was large, bulking up the property. The consideration of boundaries is not relevant for the parish council as it falls outside of the planning approval process. Windows that overlooked neighbouring properties were bathrooms and therefore not an issue. Cllr Whitehand said the amended plans submitted on 11th July seemed to address previous concerns and felt that it met regulations. Cllr Cholmondeley said it was a marginal issue with strong views from neighbours but proposed approval and the decision was unanimously agreed.

Cllr Williams and Cllr Perry returned to the meeting at 7.51pm.

- b) Supporting organisations, e.g. Safer Neighbourhood Team, Footpath Warden – None present.
- c) Worcestershire County Councillor – Adrian Kriss (Beacon division) – Following the discussion on school parking Cllr Kriss advised he will ask PCSO Stuart Taylor to send details of the Junior PCSO Scheme to St Andrews School. The scheme involves older school pupils working with the police to manage school parking and issue tickets where necessary. The Coroner's Office has been transferred from the Police Crime Commissioners responsibility to WCC. Cancer screening has increased in the area. A Public Health grant has been issued for schools to increase pupils physical and mental health and encourage more physical activity.

Living Well for Longer hopes to encourage activity in the older age groups. The bowel cancer screening campaign has been successfully escalated for 60–74-year-olds. 4.7% of adults in WCC report feeling lonely which is lower than the national figure of 6.8% as more people become involved in community activities. Vaping is on the increase in the under eighteens. The Home Office WCC Annual Assessment results were exceeded. The increase in SEND home to school transport is costly. £25 million has been delivered for carriageway improvements including surface dressings. Ringway who carry out road maintenance should be making residents aware that they can obtain a dropped kerb discount if maintenance is taking place outside their property. WCC carry out verge and hedge maintenance and grass cutting in rural areas and BDC carry out the maintenance in urban areas. All verges should be cut back 1 metre from the kerb. Cllr Cholmondeley to take a photo of Agmore Lane and Broad Lane, where verges are making driving dangerous, and send it to Cllr Kriss. The Ringway contract for dropped kerbs goes for tender in 2025. 50% of road deaths in the area are middle aged men on motorbikes who use their bikes infrequently and therefore do not have a sufficiently experienced skill set. Free advanced motorbike training is to be made available. Investment is being made in the public rights of way and cycling schemes to encourage physical activity and increase health benefits. Cllr Kriss has requested an On Demand Response Transport scheme. Network Rail are to upgrade the departure signs on the station platform. The EO had emailed Cllr Kriss regarding the lack of action from WCC Highways to replace two missing bollards on Hewell Road. The parish council owns replacement bollards that are to be used. Cllr Kriss will arrange the install.

d) Bromsgrove District Councillor - Charles Hotham (Barnt Green & Hopwood) – Apologies had been received.

23/156 To adopt previous minutes

a) To approve adoption of the minutes of the Ordinary parish council meeting held 19th June 2023, previously circulated but also attached.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 19/06/2023 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

23/157 Annual Business

i. Review of Policies:

- a) Freedom of Information
- b) Home Working Policy

RESOLVED: That the Freedom of Information and Homeworking Policy be approved.

23/158 Meetings / Training Attended – Cllr Baldwin attended CALC session ‘Off to a Flying Start’ on 21st June 2023.

23/159 Chairman’s Report – The Planning Validation Document Review will be circulated to all Cllrs. Any comments need to be submitted by the 5th September.

23/160 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) Declaration of Acceptance of Office	Cllr Pardo Roques signed the declaration.
b) Nil election forms and Registerable Interest Forms	All councillors confirmed that they have submitted their completed forms except Cllr Pardo Roques. The EO to resend to Cllr Pardo Roques for completion.
c) Worcestershire Division Boundaries	Public consultation was due to close on 24/7/23 but has been extended to 19/9/23. New electoral arrangements will come into effect at the local elections in May 2025.
d) West Mercia Police Survey 2023	Cllr Cholmondeley submitted the survey.

23/161 Finance

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

RESOLVED:

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

- (ii) To be advised of any expenditure decisions taken by Executive Officer. A request of £142.38 to top up the Monzo card to £200. See Monzo expenditure list page 6.

RESOLVED: That the top up be approved.

- (iii) The Finance Working Party carried out quarterly accounting checks on 6th July and compared the actual expenditure and income to budget.

RESOLVED: Cllr Cholmondeley and Cllr Hotham carried out the quarterly accounting checks. The actual expenditure and income were compared against the budget. The budget is on track with approximately 25% of the expected budget spent.

23/162 Environment & Community Wellbeing

- a) Bittell Road Playing Field drainage works. Awaiting commencement date.
- b) Bittell Road Playing Field children's play equipment. The EO had received 2 quotes for the refurbishment. These were noted. The refurbishment will not be arranged until the drainage works have been completed. Further quotes to be sought.
- c) Millennium Park flagpole maintenance. The EO had circulated the quotes received which were costly especially when compared with the purchase cost of the flagpole. The EO had asked Cofton Hackett PC who they had used for maintenance, but they have not yet required any.

RESOLVED: The EO to contact both District and City councils to see who they use and seek quotes

- d) Parking issues in Barnt Green, Green Bank and Sandhills Road. Discussed under the Public open session.

RESOLVED: Cllr Pardo Roques will seek a response to Cllr Hothams email to St Andrews school regarding the parking complaints.

- e) Lack of departure screens and PA on Platform 1 at Barnt Green train station. West Midland Trains responded that they will provide an update once they have heard from the Project Management Team.
- f) Millennium Park Multi Play equipment. Awaiting delivery of part to carry out repair. The supplier has requested the measurements in millimetres. The EO has asked the OPC to remeasure for accuracy.
- g) Millennium Park wetpour resurfacing. Install to commence week beginning 2nd October for 4 days.

RESOLVED: The EO to place notices on the entrance gate to the park 2 weeks prior to the works commencing which inform that the area will be closed for 4 days. The gate to be padlocked and security tape used to secure the area.

- h) Pruning of the lime trees in Millennium Park that overhang the Friends Meeting House. Quotes were circulated.

RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed the cheapest quote from CJ Tree Surgeons of £1950 be accepted. The EO to organise a date in the autumn after the bird nesting season for the works to be carried out.

- i) Community Events – Review of Community Walk and Brass Beatz 24th June. A review of the event had been circulated. Only 10 people attended the short walk and 20 on the longer walk. Other events were on over that weekend, but it was questioned whether the event was feeling stale. Events will be an agenda item for discussion following the Social Eats festival.
- j) Social Eats Music and Street Food Festival Event in Bittell Road playing fields on the 16th September. Cllr Williams confirmed she will be attending the event and will provide feedback following the event. The EO to chase advertising material.
- k) Pollinator Site. Regular strimming of area outside the low rope fence. Strim of the whole site and future planting. The Yellow Rattle that has been planted will start to suppress the grass so hopefully the other plants in the site will be visible next year. Cllr Perry advised that it takes about 4 years to establish a pollinator site.

RESOLVED: The remaining balance of the Welcome Back Fund will be used to pay towards the 4/5 strims a year along the rope fence to help make the area looked cared for. Cllr Perry will investigate when the strim of the whole area should be carried out and when more Yellow Rattle needs to be planted.

23/163 Planning

a) Responses to consultations received including:

BDC ref	Site Address	Proposal
23/00618/FUL	10 Poplar Drive, Barnt Green, Worcestershire, B45 8NQ,	Proposed single storey rear extension; single storey front bay window extension; demolition of existing single storey side extension and erection of double storey side and rear extension; alterations to side boundary.
BGPC Recommendation: Barnt Green Parish Council recommends approval		
BDC ref	Site Address	Proposal
23/00224/FUL	1 Poplar Drive, Barnt Green, Birmingham, Worcestershire	First storey and part two storey front extension and single storey rear/ side extension including garage conversion and mono pitched roof
BGPC Recommendation: Barnt Green Parish Council recommends approval.		
23/00249/FUL	37 Fiery Hill Road, Barnt Green, Birmingham, Worcestershire,	Creation of new access off Fiery Hill Road and provision of hardstanding to create driveway 3m x 9m
BGPC Recommendation: Barnt Green Parish Council recommends approval		
23/00063/FUL	29 Hewell Road, Barnt Green, Worcestershire, B45 8NL,	Proposed first floor rear extension and small ground floor extension
BGPC Recommendation: The first-floor extension for bedroom 3 extends so that the 45-degree guidance on obstructing a neighbouring window is marginally breached if it is a habitable room. Subject to that Barnt Green Parish Council recommend approval.		

23/164 Date and Venue of Next Meetings

Next Parish Council Meeting, Monday 18th September 2023 7pm at 80 Hewell Road.

The meeting ended at 20:55hrs

Signed:..... Date.....
Chairman, Barnt Green Parish Council 18/09/2023

Agenda Item 23/161 (i) To approve the current financial position and bills paid.

Income received

8	30.06.2023	£359.99	£0.00	£359.99	30.06.2023	Credit interest	Unity Bank
7	30.06.2023	£60.00	£0.00	£60.00	30.06.2023	Room Hire	Conexus Tuition

Agenda Item 23/161 (i) To approve the current financial position and bills paid.

June Payments Report

Voucher	Description	Net	VAT	Total
59	Summer planting - planters	£708.33	£141.67	£850.00
60	Petty cash top up	£176.34	£0.00	£176.34
63	Street Light Energy	£154.85	£7.74	£162.59
66	Office Rent	£1,625.00	£0.00	£1,625.00
67	Street Light Energy	£24.64	£1.23	£25.87
68	Office Energy	£14.95	£0.75	£15.70
69	Office Energy	£24.25	£1.21	£25.46
70	Office Hire	£43.59	£2.18	£45.77
71	Bank Service Charge	£18.00	£0.00	£18.00

Agenda Item 23/161 (i) To approve the current financial position and bills paid.

July Payments Report

Voucher	Net	VAT	Total	Description
78				PAYE
77				Pension contributions
76				PAYE
75				Salary
74	£24.31	£1.22	£25.53	Street Light Energy
73	£228.41	£45.68	£274.09	Grounds maintenance at playing field
72	£350.00	£0.00	£350.00	Entertainment - Community Walk
65	£692.71	£0.00	£692.71	Office service charge 1.4.22 to 31.3.23
64	£148.95	£29.79	£178.74	Dog bags
62	£325.00	£0.00	£325.00	Printing of the Bulletin newsletter
61	£10,335.00	£2,067.00	£12,402.00	Millennium Park wetpour install
79	£30.00	£6.00	£36.00	Councillor Training

Agenda Item 23/161 (i) To approve the June Bank Reconciliation 2023

3 July 2023 (2023-2024)

Barnt Green Parish Council

Prepared by: _____ Date: _____
Name and Role (Clerk/RFO etc)

Approved by: _____ Date: _____
Name and Role (RFO/Chair of Finance etc)

	Bank Reconciliation at 30/06/2023		
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2023		110,006.54
	ADD		
	Receipts 01/04/2023 - 30/06/2023		38,043.34
			148,049.88
	SUBTRACT		
	Payments 01/04/2023 - 30/06/2023		19,971.96
A	Cash in Hand 30/06/2023 (per Cash Book)		128,077.92
	Cash in hand per Bank Statements		
	Petty Cash 30/06/2023	0.00	
	Cambridge Building Society 30/06/2023	71,785.55	
	Unity Bank Deposit Account 30/06/2023	55,464.01	
	Unity Bank Current Account 30/06/2023	828.36	
			128,077.92
	Less unrepresented payments		
			128,077.92
	Plus unrepresented receipts		
B	Adjusted Bank Balance		128,077.92
	A = B Checks out OK		

Agenda item 23/161 ii) To be advised of any expenditure decisions taken by EO.

Monzo Reconciliation up to 4th July 2023					
Voucher	Date	Description	Supplier	Expenditure	Deposit
		Opening Balance			200.00
8	26.06.23	Printer Ink High Usage All Colours	Cartidge Save	142.38	
					142.38
		Topup			
			Balance		57.62
			Topup Request		142.38