

BARNT GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the **Ordinary Parish Council** meeting held on
Monday 15th April 2024 at 7.00pm at 80 Hewell Road, Barnt Green, B45 8NF

Members present: Cllrs R Cholmondeley, C Hotham, S Whitehand, L Williams, J Baldwin, M Roberts, O Pardo-Roques.

In attendance: Executive Officer, Eleanor Choudry.
Worcestershire County Councillor, Adrian Kriss.
Barnt Green Sports Club, James Flynn and Mike Dickenson (left at 7.35pm)
1 member of the public.

24/244 Apologies – Cllr P Perry, Richard Peach, The Village.

24/245 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 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.

24/246 To consider any dispensations
No dispensations had been received.

24/247 Open Session – Participation to hear from:

- a) Members of the public.

James Flynn (Lead on Padel) and Mike Dickenson (Development Committee) from Barnt Green Sports Club explained how they wanted the club to move forward. Currently there are 885 members, it is run by volunteers with one employee. The club is owned by the members. The land was donated by the Earl of Plymouth many years ago. They want to generate more income to replace the clubhouse that is at its end of life and will need demolishing and rebuilding in future. The Sports Club Strategy includes researched information, it demonstrates that in 20 years' time there will be financial headroom, growth in membership and increased income for long term sustainability. Participant trends are changing and the club want to be on the front foot. Padel is fast growing, flexible, easy for beginners and seniors. The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) will fund 60% of the project value, repayable over 5 years interest free. The funding is 99.5% signed off. Pay and Play model will give gate access technology so anyone can book, not just members, and this can be rolled out to tennis, badminton etc. It currently costs £260 p.a. to be a member. Expected profit will be £40-£50k p.a. which will fund the redevelopment of the clubhouse. There are currently no other Padel courts in Worcestershire. Professional acoustic and lighting reports were gained costing over £4k. Both reports demonstrate that residents will not be affected by lighting and only 3 to 4 houses will be affected minimally by noise. The club are happy to put in mitigation measures if necessary although the reports state that no mitigation is required. The courts need to be

- very accessible to encourage play and play. A grass bank that has built up will be removed to make way for further car parking spaces. See agenda item 24/256 b).
- b) Supporting organisations, e.g. Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT), Footpath Warden. None present.
- c) Worcestershire County Councillor – Adrian Kriss (Beacon division). The funds have been allocated for the dropped kerb at The Longlands but the work start date has not yet been agreed. Funds will be used to erect a new right turn sign when approaching Lindhurst New Town from Barnt Green on the Blackwell Road. A No Through Road sign will be erected at the beginning of Poplar Drive cul de sac, the cost will be paid from the Highways fund. Foster carers are being recruited as well as buddy foster carers, there is a desperate shortage. Up to £1k a week can be earned and positive impacts on children’s lives can be made. The EO to add the recruitment posters to the notice boards.
- d) Bromsgrove District Councillor - Charles Hotham (Barnt Green & Hopwood). The 182/183 bus service has improved with 6/7 journeys from Redditch to Bromsgrove. WCC Cllr Kriss is considering H road marking lines along Sandhills Road to try to reduce parking. BDC Centres Action Plan has been agreed. The Shopwatch scheme has been launched to reduce crime. Buildings that are not currently ‘listed’ can be added as part of the Local Heritage Strategy. A grant has paid for the solar panels installed on Parkside.

24/248 To adopt previous minutes

- a) To approve adoption of the minutes of the Ordinary parish council meeting held 18th March 2024, previously circulated but also attached.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 18/03/2024 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

24/249 Meetings / Training Attended – The EO attended Lengthsman Scheme training 25th March 2024.

The EO attended Canva training on the 19th March 2024.

The EO attended CALC Employment Changes training on 11th April 2024.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

24/250 Annual Business – None.

24/251 Consultations- None.

24/252 Chairman’s Report – The parish council spring Bulletin contained an article that referred to the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) John Campion. As he is standing for election in May Bromsgrove District Council stopped the deliveries of the Bulletin to Barnt Green residents as the article was deemed to be advertising an election candidate. Therefore residents will receive a flyer with details of the Annual Assembly that is to be held on the 22nd April. This was advertised in the Bulletin. The EO has also ordered a banner for Hewell Road also advertising the Assembly.

24/253 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.

<p>a) Station Lift Update from Network Rail</p>	<p>In our last update about our project to upgrade Barnt Green station, we showed you some of the ground investigation work that was taking place to help with the designs for the new lifts which will provide step-free access to all platforms.</p> <p>We're pleased to confirm that the architectural designs have now been approved and we will be attending the parish annual meeting on 22nd April to speak to local residents about the designs and to answer any questions or queries you have about the scheme.</p> <p>Our design work will continue into the spring when we expect to provide a more detailed update on the project, including a better idea of when we expect our engineers to start construction on site.</p> <p>We hope to be able to provide an update soon on when we expect our engineers to start construction on site and as soon as we have confirmed timings, we'll be carrying out local engagement with passengers and the community.</p> <div data-bbox="635 790 1417 969" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>RESOLVED: That the report be noted. Cllr Cholmondeley received confirmation in a personal capacity that if the station lift funding financial control period was moved it would not have an effect on the delivery of the project.</p> </div>
<p>b) Barnt Green Annual Parish Meeting</p>	<p>The meeting is to be held on Monday 22nd April 2024 at the Friends Meeting House, 6 Sandhills Road, B45 8NR. Reports from local representatives along with a presentation from Network Rail about the station lifts will be delivered.</p> <div data-bbox="635 1189 1398 1256" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>RESOLVED: That the report be noted</p> </div>
<p>c) West Mercia Police Crime Commissioner Safer Roads Fund</p>	<p>The EO made an application for a solar powered VAS to be installed at Fiery Hill Road following 4 accidents happening in the space of 4 weeks. The application was supported by WCC Cllr Kriss and West Mercia Police Safer Neighbourhood Team. We are waiting to hear if the application was successful.</p> <div data-bbox="635 1496 1401 1563" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>RESOLVED: That the report be noted</p> </div>
<p>d) Equan EVC Declaration regarding registration of lease</p>	<p>The declaration has been mislaid by the solicitors and therefore the lease needs to be signed again. The lease is to be exactly the same except for BMM Energy Solutions Limited (the contractor) will no longer need to be a party to the lease as the works have been completed.</p> <p>The EO contacted Cala for the new certificate but this needs to now be issued by Foxhills Management Company as Cala have sold the land. The EO contacted Foxhills but was told that a Deed of Covenant is required from Equans (previously Engie Solutions). The EO awaiting a response from BDC solicitor.</p> <div data-bbox="635 1989 1385 2107" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>RESOLVED: The BDC solicitor is in contact Foxhills Management. The PC await a response.</p> </div>

e) BDC Precept	<p>The first precept instalment for 2024.25 was paid early into the financial year 2023.24. As this will increase the external audit costs CALC have contacted BDC and asked them to refund the affected parish councils with the increase of the audit cost.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>RESOLVED: That the report be noted.</p> </div>
f) Homeless Man.	<p>A man has pitched a tent in Millennium Park and has been seen begging outside Tescos. BDC advised that he be reported to streetlink.org.uk who may be able to offer assistance. Both Streetlink and MAGS visited him and gave him additional sleeping bags. West Mercia SNT also made contact.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>RESOLVED: Cllr Hotham to ask BDC for information regarding a byelaw to stop overnight camping in Millennium Park.</p> </div>

24/254 Finance

- (i) To note the current financial position, income and bills for payment. See page 5 of the agenda.
- (ii) To be advised of any expenditure decisions taken by Executive Officer. See Monzo expenditure list page 7 of the agenda. A top up of £288.38 is requested to top up the Monzo card to £500.
- (iii) The two councillors that authorise the online monthly payments are to be named in the minutes.

RESOLVED:

- i) That the current financial position be approved.
- ii) That the list of payments be approved.
- iii) Cllr Cholmondeley and Cllr Hotham authorised the online payments for March 2024.

- (iv) The Finance Committee met on the 4th April 2024. The quarterly financial checks to 31st March 2024 were carried out by Cllr Williams. The budget to 31st March 2023/24 (attached) was inspected. Cllrs recommend the following:
 - i. £20k be transferred from Unity Deposit Account to the Cambridge Building Society to earn a higher rate of interest.
 - ii. The EO to be authorised to transfer money between Unity Bank accounts and the Cambridge Building Society.
 - iii. Cllr Williams be added as a fourth signatory to help with the punctuality of the online payment authorisations.

Recommendations to be agreed.

RESOLVED:

- i) That the 20k transfer from the Unity Deposit Account to the Cambridge Building Society is approved. The EO to action.
- ii) The EO is authorised to move money between the Unity Trust Bank accounts and The Cambridge Building Society is approved.
- iii) Cllr Williams to be added as a 4th signatory at Unity Trust Bank is approved.

24/255 Environment & Community Wellbeing

- a) Bittell Road Playing Field children's play equipment. Cllrs Cholmondeley, Hotham and the EO met with Sovereign Play for the first of 3 quotes for replacement equipment.

RESOLVED: It was agreed that the play equipment in Bittell Road playing fields is time expired. Further quotes for replacement equipment are being sought with the intention to situate the new equipment nearer to the gym equipment where the ground is drier.

- b) Millennium Park flagpole cleaner.

RESOLVED: Cllrs Cholmondeley, Hotham and Perry used the flagpole cleaning equipment with great success!

- c) Lack of departure screens and PA on Platform 1 at Barnt Green train station.

RESOLVED: When a station lift installation date is agreed the PC will contact West Midland Trains and make the request again for the screens and PA system.

- d) Millennium Park wetpour resurfacing. The parts of the wetpour that reacted to the weather will be replaced with a green pattern. A date in April/May to be arranged when rain is not forecast.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

- e) Pollinator Site update. Cllrs Perry and Cholmondeley cleared the weeds at the base of the pear trees. Both pear trees had blossom. The volunteer group have removed more dandelions and knapweed and will be planting the wildflower seeds in the next week or so.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

- f) The Longlands, new pedestrian crossing update. See agenda item 24/247 c).
- g) Flooding risk from village stream which runs through Sandhills Road. Cllr Hotham delivered the letters notifying property owners of their riparian responsibilities. The letters were written jointly from the PC and North Worcestershire Water Management (NWWM).

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

- h) Biodiversity. Funding is available from the Coronation Heritage Living Fund for a community orchard.

RESOLVED: Cllr Roberts to investigate the possibility of a community orchard in part of the alcove in Bittell Road playing fields.

- i) Hedge on Hewell Road and trees covering streetlamp in Green Bank and other areas. Along the railway side of Hewell Road after Station Approach to the corner of Green Bank there are various hedges/trees that are blocking the streetlamps. The Environment Committee and EO met onsite on the 8th April to discuss work required.

RESOLVED: The EO to seek quotes for the work which is to be carried out at the beginning of September when the bird nesting season has finished. Proposed works will be discussed with affected residents.

- j) Wicksteed Park Inspection reports. The OPC has completed the 'moderate risk' repair to the multi play equipment highlighted on the report. He has advised that 2 posts and the rope bridge parts need replacing due to wear and cracks in the wood making the items potentially unsafe.

RESOLVED: Cllr Hotham and Pardo-Roques will check the play equipment. The OPC to check the rope bridge in the shed and if it is not the correct one the EO will order a new replacement.

- k) Rospa Play Safety Inspection Reports. Attached.

RESOLVED: Two pieces of gym equipment requiring a repair have a 'moderate risk'. The EO to ask the OPC to quote for a repair. If OPC is unable to repair the fault the EO will ask the suppliers.

24/256 Planning

- a) Bromsgrove District Plan Update – Consultation Summer 2024. The Parish Council and public will be consulted on the Plan. A public meeting will then be held to discuss the options.

RESOLVED: The EO to circulate updates to PC Cllrs prior to the PC meetings.

- b) Responses to consultations received including:

BDC ref	Site Address	Proposal
24/00277/FUL	Barnt Green Sports Club , Margesson Drive, Barnt Green, Worcestershire,	Installation of 3 uncovered Padel Courts on vacant land adjoining existing tennis courts
<p>Cllr Cholmondeley had produced a detailed report stating that the Acoustic Report by Peninsular Acoustics appeared flawed. The points raised were discussed.</p> <p>BGPC Recommendation: Barnt Green Parish Council recommend approval subject to clarification of the queries on the attached report. (Cllr Cholmondeleys report about the Acoustic Report).</p>		

24/257 Date and Venue of Next Meetings

Next Parish Council Meeting, Monday 20th May 2024 7pm at 80 Hewell Road.

The meeting ended at 20:30hrs

Signed:..... Date.....
Chairman, Barnt Green Parish Council 20/05/2024

Agenda Item 24/254 (i) To approve the current financial position and bills paid.

March Income Report

40	31.03.2024	£37,750.00	£0.00	£37,750.00	Precept first half early for 2024.25	Bromsgrove District Council
39	31.03.2024	£276.25	£0.00	£276.25	Credit interest	Unity Bank
38	31.03.2024	£125.00	£0.00	£125.00	Professional Fees - Lease on Millennium Park (Cadent Gas)	Cadent Gas
37	31.03.2024	£207.84	£0.00	£207.84	Lengthsman refund	Worcestershire County Council
36	31.03.2024	£207.84	£0.00	£207.84	Lengthsman refund	Worcestershire County Council
35	31.03.2024	£200.00	£0.00	£200.00	Term 3 of hire of playing field	Total Football

March Payments Report

234	31.03.2024	£18.00	£0.00	£18.00	Bank Service Charge	Unity Bank
233	31.03.2024	£249.99	£0.00	£249.99	Petty cash top up	Eleanor Choudry (Eleanor Choudry)
232	31.03.2024	£49.89	£2.49	£52.38	Office Energy	Positive Energy

April Income report

1	30.04.2024	£17.50	£0.00	£17.50	Office Hire	Conexus Tuition
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April Payments Report

15	30.04.2024	£288.38	£0.00	£288.38	Petty cash top up	Eleanor Choudry (Eleanor Choudry)
14	30.04.2024	£140.00	£0.00	£140.00	Outdoor Parish Caretaker	Andlin Cleaning
13	30.04.2024	£612.00	£0.00	£612.00	Outdoor Parish Caretaker	Andlin Cleaning
12	30.04.2024	£50.00	£10.00	£60.00	Online subscription Parish Online	GeoXphere - Parish Online
11	30.04.2024	£29.27	£5.85	£35.12	Office landline, broadband & calls	BT
10	30.04.2024	£25.55	£1.28	£26.83	Street Light Energy	YU Energy
9	30.04.2024	£177.39	£8.87	£186.26	Street Light Energy	YU Energy
8	30.04.2024				Employers NI	HMRC
7	30.04.2024				Pension contributions	NEST
6	30.04.2024				PAYE	HMRC
5	30.04.2024				Salary	Salaries
4	30.04.2024	£207.84	£0.00	£207.84	Lengthsman Work	Bromsgrove District Council
3	30.04.2024	£207.84	£0.00	£207.84	Lengthsman Work	Bromsgrove District Council
2	30.04.2024	£228.41	£45.68	£274.09	Grounds maintenance at playing field	Neil Hosking (Hosking Ground Maintenance)
1	30.04.2024	£188.00	£37.60	£225.60	ROSPA Annual play equipment inspections	ROSPA

Agenda Item 24/254 (i) To approve the March Bank Reconciliation 2024

Bart 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 31/03/2024		
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2023		110,006.54
	ADD		
	Receipts 01/04/2023 - 31/03/2024		127,855.58
			237,862.12
	SUBTRACT		
	Payments 01/04/2023 - 31/03/2024		94,203.57
A	Cash in Hand 31/03/2024 (per Cash Book)		143,458.55
	Cash in hand per Bank Statements		
	Petty Cash 31/03/2024	0.00	
	Unity Bank Current Account 31/03/2024	1,550.43	
	Unity Bank Deposit Account 31/03/2024	68,406.77	
	Cambridge Building Society 31/03/2024	73,501.35	
			143,458.55
	Less unrepresented payments		
			143,458.55
	Plus unrepresented receipts		
B	Adjusted Bank Balance		143,458.55
	A = B Checks out OK		

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Agenda Item 24/254 (ii) To be advised of any expenditure decisions taken by Executive Officer

Monzo Reconciliation up to 3rd April 2024					
Voucher	Date	Description	Supplier	Expenditure	Deposit
		Opening Balance			500.00
41	08.03.24	Adobe Acrobat subscription	Adobe	156.89	
42	16.03.24	Microsoft subscription	Microsoft	79.99	
43	02.04.24	Wildflower seeds for pollinator site	Landlife Wildflowers	51.50	288.38
			Balance		211.62
			Topup Request		288.38