

BARNT GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the **Ordinary Parish Council** meeting held on
Monday 17th March 2025 at 7.00pm at 80 Hewell Road, Barnt Green, B45 8NF

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

In attendance: Executive Officer, Eleanor Choudry
WCC Cllr A Kriss (left at 7.25pm)
Richard Peach, The Village Magazine

2 member of the public

24/381 Apologies None.

24/382 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.

24/383 To consider any dispensations None declared.

24/384 Open Session – Participation to hear from:

- a) Members of the public. A resident said they were very concerned regarding cars parking on Hewell Road and Sandhills Road. The cars are parking where there are sections of 'bobbly pavement' or tactile pavement which is used to warn pedestrians that are visually impaired. Another concern was an old oak tree on the Bittell Rd/Lane junction which has a dead branch that is overhanging the road. The resident also mentioned the pond or 'swale' on the Cala development that contains dead vegetation. Whilst it's empty at the moment it does need to be maintained.

RESOLVED: WCC Cllr Kriss agreed to meet the resident to discuss adding bollards to prevent cars parking and blocking the tactile pavement. Cllr Kriss will arrange the removal of the dead branch in the oak tree if required.

The EO to contact Remus Management Company to check who is responsible for the maintenance of the swale.

Alan Bailes introduced himself as an Independent candidate in the forthcoming WCC elections. Alan is currently a district councillor for Alvechurch South. He said its important to listen to villagers first rather than party politics. He is a Chartered Transport Planner and has carried out numerous rail and parking studies and traffic impact assessments for developments.

- b) Supporting organisations, e.g. Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT), Footpath Warden. None present.

c) Worcestershire County Councillor – Adrian Kriss (Beacon division) The pre-election period starts on the 27th March so Cllr Kriss will no longer be Barnt Green’s county councillor. The Longlands dropped kerb will be done shortly. Unfortunately there was not any funding for the pedestrian crossing on Bittell Road. The mini roundabout cannot be raised due to bus use. People can report careless drivers to Operation Snap. It is most important that residents vote in the forthcoming elections as those voted in will be responsible for the change from district and county councils to a unitary authority. Cllr Cholmondeley thanked Cllr Kriss for all his hard work and for doing his best for Barnt Green.

d) Bromsgrove District Councillor - Charles Hotham (Barnt Green & Hopwood). BDC held an extraordinary meeting to discuss the way forward regarding devolution. The county could either be split into a north/south divide or it could become one unitary authority. A unified report will be sent to central government by November and the change will happen in the next 2/3 years. Money will be saved in the long term. WCC Cllr Kriss said that he had been informed that Worcestershire boundaries will not change. The Strategic Plan is progressing although it is thought consultation dates will slip. Meetings are being held to decide an acceptable plan. The market hall site will be made up of offices, shops and community spaces. John Lynch has been appointed as the new Chief Executive and Robert Watson as Deputy Chief and Section 151 Officer.

24/385 To adopt previous minutes

a) To approve adoption of the minutes of the Ordinary parish council meeting held on 17th February 2025, previously circulated but also attached.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 17/02/2025 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

24/386 Meetings / Training Attended None.

24/387 Governance arrangements – None.

24/388 Consultations- None.

24/389 Chairman’s Report – Nothing to report that is not on the agenda.

24/390 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	No update received. Site preparation has commenced.
b) Sale of 80 Hewell Road / Redecoration of office	No update has been received regarding the sale or the damp.
c) Outdoor Parish Caretaker (OPC)	The OPC has fixed the faulty tap in Millennium Park and is arranging the clearing of the fallen tree in Bittell Rd playing fields. The new rope bridge has been installed in Millennium Park.
d) Bollards	Paul Rimell has collected 2 bollards for replacement outside Oulshams and the school on Hewell Road.
e) Christmas lights Switch On 29/11/25	Santa has confirmed his attendance on 29/11/25.

24/391 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. See Monzo expenditure list page 8 of the agenda. A top up of £169.59 is requested to top up the Monzo card to £500.

RESOLVED: That the top up be approved.

- (iii) The EO is in the process of applying for the Unity MultiPay Card.

RESOLVED: Cllr Cholmondeley signed the application form.

- (iv) The two councillors that authorise the online monthly payments are to be named in the minutes.

RESOLVED: That Cllr Cholmondeley and Perry authorised the February payments.

- (v) Cllr Williams to confirm she has bank access.

RESOLVED: Cllr Williams confirmed she can access the bank account.

24/392 Environment & Community Wellbeing

- a) The EO is in the process of organising KIWA to carry out the structural testing on streetlamp columns in Barnt Green.

RESOLVED: A revised quote had been received as the supplier had miscalculated the cost of the number of streetlamp columns. The additional cost was £200. The EO to organise.

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

RESOLVED: The EO had contacted West Midlands Rail but had not received a response.

- c) Pollinator Site update.

RESOLVED: The volunteer group are to get matching paint to apply to the replaced posts. The OPC has concreted the posts into the ground.

- d) The Longlands, new dropped kerb update.

RESOLVED: Work will start week commencing 31st March 2025.

e) Biodiversity.

RESOLVED: Cllr Perry had checked the trees in the Community Orchard, and they are all budding. A plan will need to be made regarding watering in the warmer months. The EO to email Gavin Boyes, Senior Tree Officer BDC, to ask if Cllr Whitehand can be notified of tree works in the conservation area.

f) Barnt Green Parish Council Community Car Park.

RESOLVED: Following discussion it was agreed that further signage would not currently be required in the car park. If needed it will be reconsidered.

g) Barnt Green flag flying. Update on St Andrews school flag flying on Thursday 8th May, VE Day.

RESOLVED: The EO to contact resident Danny Bromage to ask if he would give a short talk regarding his life as an ex-serviceman at the VE Day flag flying event. Cllr Perry to request a meeting with Mrs Barnes, Headteacher of St Andrews First School, as the school is keen to be involved in the event.

h) Barnt Green Community Events.

RESOLVED: Cllr Tucker to contact Danny Bromage to arrange a follow up meeting, including Cllr Williams, to plan future events in Barnt Green.

24/393 Planning

- a) Bromsgrove District Plan Update. See agenda item 24/384 d).
- b) Barnt Green parish councillor planning meeting.

RESOLVED: The EO to contact Mike Dunphy, Strategic Planning Manager at Bromsgrove District Council to request a meeting. Cllr Cholmondeley, Whitehand, Williams and Roberts to attend.

- c) Responses to consultations. None received.

24/394 Date and Venue of Next Meetings

Next Parish Council Meeting, Monday 14th April 2025 7pm at 80 Hewell Road.

The meeting ended at 19:59hrs

Signed:.....
Chairman, Barnt Green Parish Council

Date.....
14/04/2025

Agenda Item 24/391 (i) To approve the current financial position and bills paid.

February Income Report

27	28.02.2025	£231.25	£0.00	£231.25	28.02.2025	Lengthsman refund	Worcestershire County Council
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February Payments Report

228	28.02.2025	£6.00	£0.00	£6.00	28.02.2025	Bank Service Charge	Unity Bank
227	28.02.2025	£57.12	£2.86	£59.98	28.02.2025	Office Energy	Pozitive Energy
226	28.02.2025	£196.20	£9.81	£206.01	28.02.2025	Office Energy	Pozitive Energy

March Income Report

28	31.03.2025	£1,000.00	£0.00	£1,000.00	Electric Charging Point Rent	Equans EV Solution
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March Payments Report

241	31.03.2025	£169.59	£0.00	£169.59	Petty cash top up	Eleanor Choudry
240	31.03.2025	£6.00	£0.00	£6.00	Bank Service Charge	Unity Bank
239	31.03.2025	£49.00	£2.45	£51.45	Office Energy	Pozitive Energy
238	31.03.2025	£140.63	£7.03	£147.66	Office Energy	Pozitive Energy
237	31.03.2025	£177.69	£8.88	£186.57	Street Light Energy	YU Energy
236	31.03.2025	£24.13	£1.21	£25.34	Street Light Energy	YU Energy
235	31.03.2025	£228.41	£45.68	£274.09	Grounds maintenance at playing field	Hosking Ground Maintenance
234	31.03.2025	£882.00	£0.00	£882.00	Outdoor Parish Caretaker	Andlin Cleaning
233	31.03.2025	£277.50	£0.00	£277.50	Lengthsman Work	Bromsgrove District Council
232	31.03.2025				Pension contributions	Pension contributions
231	31.03.2025				Employers NI	HMRC
230	31.03.2025				Salaries	Salaries
229	31.03.2025				PAYE	HMRC

Agenda Item 24/391 (i) To approve the February Bank Reconciliation 2025

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 28/02/2025		
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2024		143,458.55
	ADD Receipts 01/04/2024 - 28/02/2025		68,212.68
			211,671.23
	SUBTRACT Payments 01/04/2024 - 28/02/2025		104,728.41
A	Cash in Hand 28/02/2025 (per Cash Book)		106,942.82
	Cash in hand per Bank Statements		
	Petty Cash 28/02/2025	0.00	
	Unity Bank Current Account 28/02/2025	3,238.86	
	Unity Bank Deposit Account 28/02/2025	9,393.03	
	Cambridge Building Society 28/02/2025	96,114.36	
			108,746.25
	Less unrepresented payments		1,803.43
			106,942.82
	Plus unrepresented receipts		
B	Adjusted Bank Balance		106,942.82
	A = B Checks out OK		

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Agenda Item 24/376 (ii) To be advised of any expenditure decisions taken by Executive Officer

March 2025 Monzo Payments

Monzo Reconciliation up to 4th February 2025					
Voucher	Date	Description	Supplier	Expenditure	Deposit
		Opening Balance			500.00
40	12.02.25	Tea/coffee for planning meeting, hand wash/toilet rolls	Tesco	12.70	
41	08.03.25	Adobe subscription renewal	Adobe	156.89	
					169.59
			Balance		330.41
			Topup Request		169.59