

BARNT GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the **Ordinary Parish Council** meeting held on
Monday 14th April 2025 at 7.00pm at 80 Hewell Road, Barnt Green, B45 8NF

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

In attendance: Executive Officer, Eleanor Choudry

BDC Cllr Alan Bailes

2 member of the public

25/394 Apologies C Hotham, S Whitehand, O Pardo-Roques, WCC Cllr Kriss.

25/395 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.

25/396 To consider any dispensations None declared.

25/397 Open Session – Participation to hear from:

- a) Members of the public. A resident attended the meeting regarding cars parking near areas of tactile pavement which is used to warn pedestrians that are visually impaired. The resident had also attended the March meeting with the same concerns and was to meet WCC Cllr Kriss following that meeting. Unfortunately the meeting had not taken place, and the resident wanted the issue to be treated as a priority. Following discussion it was agreed that Cllr Cholmondeley will meet with the affected residents and consider what actions are possible. The actions will be discussed and agreed by the parish council and recommended to the County Council for action as appropriate.
- b) Supporting organisations, e.g. Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT), Footpath Warden. None present.
- c) Worcestershire County Councillor – Adian Kriss (Beacon division). Apologies received.
- d) Bromsgrove District Councillor - Charles Hotham (Barnt Green & Hopwood). Apologies received.

25/398 To adopt previous minutes

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

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 17/03/2025 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

25/399 Meetings / Training Attended - None.

25/400 Governance arrangements - None.

25/401 Consultations- None.

25/402 Chairman's Report – Complaints have been received regarding cars parking on the junction at Fiery Hill Road and Twatling Road. West Mercia Police are monitoring the situation and suggested having double yellow lines painted near to the junction. Whether a property near the junction is being used for business purposes is being investigated.

25/403 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	See Appendix 1.
b) Sale of 80 Hewell Road	The property agent advised that Suffolk Life Annuities Limited purchased 80 Hewell Road on 6/3/25. RESOLVED: To be noted.
c) Outdoor Parish Caretaker (OPC)	The OPC has quoted £200 to clear a fallen tree in Bittell Rd playing fields. To be agreed. RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed the payment of £200 to clear the fallen tree.
d) Cricket Club Grant Application	A request for £440 for a baby changer unit for the newly installed disabled toilet has been received and circulated prior to the meeting. To be decided. RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed the grant payment of £440 for the baby changer unit. This will be on the May agenda for payment.
e) West Mercia Police Community Charter	Increased police presence was requested this quarter due to the recent burglaries. RESOLVED: To be noted.

f) Barnt Green Annual Parish Meeting	To be held on Monday 28 th April at 7pm at Barnt Green Baptist Church. Reports from local representatives will be presented. RESOLVED: To be noted.
g) Branded 4 U	Annual defibrillator electricity payment of £75. To be agreed. RESOLVED: That the payment of £75 be paid.
h) Request for additional streetlight	There is currently no light between Bittell Court and just before Margesson Drive. The pavement is narrow, a resident has complained that when walking to the Sports Club they have to walk in the road at night to avoid slipping off the kerb. Cllr Cholmondeley visited the area a couple of times in the evening. The purpose of the streetlights in Barnt Green is not to have fully lit pavements as in an urban environment. The lamps act as guiding lights only. The property hedges cast a shadow over this stretch of pavement and the pavement is not sufficiently wide for 2 people to walk alongside. There would be substantial costs for the installation of a new streetlight. RESOLVED: The EO to ask the property owners along that stretch of pavement to cut back their hedges. The EO to ask WCC for their considerations for additional streetlights and get an estimate of the full cost of installation.

25/404 Finance

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

RESOLVED: 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 £137.12 is requested to top up the Monzo card to £500.

RESOLVED: That the top up be approved.

- (iii) The Finance Committee met on the 7th April 2025. The quarterly financial checks to 31st March 2024 were carried out by Cllr Williams. The budget to 31st March 2024/25 (attached) was inspected.

RESOLVED: The accounts were in order. To be noted.

- (iv) The EO is in the process of applying for the Unity MultiPay Card. The Monzo card has expired.

RESOLVED: Unity Trust Bank has requested additional forms to be completed for the Multipay Card. The Monzo card has been renewed until the Multipay card is set up.

- (v) 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.

25/405 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: The structural testing is complete. The EO has sent details of the Christmas motif lights that are hung on the streetlamps for assessment.

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

RESOLVED: Cllr Cholmondeley had met with West Midlands Trains Stakeholder Group who confirmed that revised departure screens will be in situ by the end of August. Network Rail to supply electricity to Platform 1.

- c) Pollinator Site update.

RESOLVED: The Volunteer group have trimmed around the pear trees; tidied; raked; repainted the fence posts; patched up the hole left by the driver. A new volunteer has joined the group who is a trained horticulturist.

- d) The Longlands, new dropped kerb update.

RESOLVED: The EO to check if the work has been completed.

- e) Biodiversity.

RESOLVED: The newly planted trees are in bud.

- f) Maintenance of the 'swale'. Remus maintains the swale at the Cala home development on behalf of Foxhills Management Ltd and the area will be assessed and reviewed in the next few weeks.

RESOLVED: To be noted. Cllr Perry confirmed the correct terminology for the area is a 'balancing pond' rather than a 'swale'.

- g) RoSPA Annual Inspection Reports (attached).

RESOLVED: The EO to discuss any low risks with the OPC and rectify if necessary.

- h) Barnt Green flag flying. Update on St Andrews school flag flying on Thursday 8th May, VE Day and Remembrance Day 11am on 11th November. Discuss St Andrews Day and the purchase of a Scottish flag. A Cllr to volunteer to join the schools Centenary Planning Committee for their celebration in January 2027.

RESOLVED: Cllr Perry met with Mrs Barnes, Head Teacher of St Andrews First School and the Deputy Head, Mrs Rowan. Cllr Perry will assist the school with flag flying on VE Day, 8th May. Resident Rachel Banner will ask residents that remember VE Day to contact the school if they would like to meet pupils and talk about their memory of VE DAY etc. Cllr Williams will fly the flag on Kings Coronation Day 6th May. Cllr Roberts will fly the flag on 23rd April St Georges Day. Flag flying to be a constant item on the agenda. Cllr Pardo Roques to be asked to join the Centenary Planning Committee at the school for their celebration in 2027.

- i) Barnt Green Community Events.
The idea to hold a summer event was discussed but as the Social Eats event is in August another event would need to be in June/July and it was agreed that there was not time to organise and advertise another event.

RESOLVED: Resident Danny Bromage has drafted an invitation to Barnt Green businesses to discuss the Christmas lights switch on event which will be held on the 29th November 2025. The meeting will be held at the parish council office and plans for the event will be discussed with those that would like to be involved.

The EO to contact Social Eats again regarding the free tickets for residents in Margesson Drive and ask that they be delivered to Cllr Williams with plenty of time prior to the event so that she can distribute them to residents.

25/406 Planning

- a) Bromsgrove District Plan Update – No update.
b) Barnt Green parish councillor planning meeting. Cllrs Cholmondeley, Roberts, Whitehand and the EO met with Mike Dunphy, Strategic Planning and Conservation Manager, BDC and Jody Wu, Senior Planning Officer on Thursday 10th April.

There are huge demands for councils to find more housing with 12,000 new homes needed from 2028/2043 and only 3,000 in supply, so a 9,000 shortfall. 89% of land in Barnt Green is greenbelt. A consultation is due in June which will run for 6 weeks. Individuals can reply and BDC will hold an open session with Barnt Green and Lickey and Blackwell parish councils. The formulae to calculate the house numbers mean that Bromsgrove will have to take proportionately more houses than Birmingham due to house prices being lower in Birmingham. Mike Dunphy said there will be a greenbelt barrier between

Birmingham and Barnt Green. Formal comments made through the consultation process will be taken into account, but social media comments will not but will be monitored. Barnt Green does not have a Neighbourhood Plan, and it is thought that Neighbourhood Plans will not have much influence. Part of the policy is that there will be an increase in cycling/walking in future if it is made easier to travel in this way.

BDC Cllr Alan Bailes advised the parish council to start gathering their evidence now instead of waiting for the consultation.

RESOLVED: Cllr Roberts agreed that the parish council needed to start talking to the school, Alvechurch Middle School, GP surgery etc to gain evidence.

c) Responses to consultations received including:

BDC ref	Site Address	Proposal
25/00287/FUL	23 Margesson Drive, Barnt Green, Worcestershire, B45 8LR	Two storey front extension
BGPC Recommendation: Barnt Green Parish Council recommends approval.		

25/407 Date and Venue of Next Meetings

Barnt Green Annual Parish Meeting, Monday 28th April 2025 7pm at Barnt Green Baptist Church.

Next Parish Council Meeting, Monday 19th May 2025 7pm at 80 Hewell Road.

The meeting ended at 20:27hrs

Signed:..... Date.....
 Chairman, Barnt Green Parish Council 19/05/2025

Agenda Item 25/404 (i) To approve the current financial position and bills paid.

March Income Report

31	21.03.2025	£20.00	£0.00	£20.00	31.03.2025	Office Hire	Conexus Tuition
30	11.03.2025	£30.00	£0.00	£30.00	31.03.2025	Office Hire	Conexus Tuition
29	31.03.2025	£75.28	£0.00	£75.28	31.03.2025	Credit interest	Unity Bank

March Payments Report

243	31.03.2025	£37.10	£1.86	£38.96	31.03.2025	Office landline, broadband & calls	BT
242	31.03.2025	£1,625.00	£0.00	£1,625.00	31.03.2025	Office Rent	John Truslove

April Income Report

3	30.04.2025	£125.00	£0.00	£125.00	Professional Fees - Lease on Millennium Park (Cadent Gas)	Cadent Gas
2	30.04.2025	£200.00	£0.00	£200.00	Playing Field Hire	Total Football
1	30.04.2025	£39,250.00	£0.00	£39,250.00	Precept	Bromsgrove District Council

April Payments Report

18	30.04.2025	£115.00	£0.00	£115.00	Grounds maintenance at Millennium Park and Longlands	John S Bishop
17	30.04.2025	£612.00	£0.00	£612.00	Outdoor Parish Caretaker	Andlin Cleaning
16	30.04.2025	£88.28	£4.41	£92.69	Office Energy	Positive Energy
15	30.04.2025	£42.85	£2.14	£44.99	Office Energy	Positive Energy
14	30.04.2025	£75.00	£0.00	£75.00	Reimbursement to Branded for U for defibrillator electricity	Branded-4U
13	30.04.2025				PAYE	HMRC
12	30.04.2025				Salaries	Salaries
11	30.04.2025				Employers NI	HMRC
10	30.04.2025				Pension contributions	Pension contributions
9	30.04.2025	£25.43	£1.27	£26.70	Street Light Energy	YU Energy
8	30.04.2025	£174.21	£8.71	£182.92	Street Light Energy	YU Energy
7	30.04.2025	£6.00	£0.00	£6.00	Bank Service Charge	Unity Bank
6	30.04.2025	£228.41	£45.68	£274.09	Grounds maintenance at playing field	Hosking Ground Maintenance
5	30.04.2025	£196.00	£39.20	£235.20	ROSPA Annual play equipment inspections	ROSPA
4	30.04.2025	£22.50	£4.50	£27.00	Online subscription Parish Online	GeoXphere - Parish Online
3	30.04.2025	£1,304.16	£260.83	£1,564.99	Jubilee Bollards x 6	Glasdon UK Ltd
2	30.04.2025	£32.47	£6.49	£38.96	Office landline, broadband & calls	BT
1	30.04.2025	£234.33	£46.87	£281.20	Office insurance 31.10.24 to 30.10.25	John Truslove

Agenda Item 25/404 (i) To approve the March 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 31/03/2025		
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2024		143,458.55
	ADD		
	Receipts 01/04/2024 - 31/03/2025		60,337.96
			212,796.51
	SUBTRACT		
	Payments 01/04/2024 - 31/03/2025		110,583.19
A	Cash in Hand 31/03/2025 (per Cash Book)		102,213.32
	Cash in hand per Bank Statements		
	Petty Cash 31/03/2025	0.00	
	Unity Bank Current Account 31/03/2025	-6.00	
	Unity Bank Deposit Account 31/03/2025	6,104.96	
	Cambridge Building Society 31/03/2025	96,114.36	
			102,213.32
	Less unrepresented payments		102,213.32
	Plus unrepresented receipts		
B	Adjusted Bank Balance		102,213.32
	A = B Checks out OK		

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Agenda Item 25/404 (ii) To be advised of any expenditure decisions taken by Executive Officer

March 2025 Monzo Payments

Monzo Reconciliation up to 31st March 2025					
Voucher	Date	Description	Supplier	Expenditure	Deposit
		Opening Balance			500.00
1	18.03.25	Stamp for Unity Bank Multipay card application	Post Office	1.65	
2	11.03.25	Paper Mate ballpoint pens	Amazon	5.49	
3	11.03.25	A4 white copier paper	Amazon	24.99	
4	16.03.25	Microsoft	Microsoft	104.99	137.12
			Balance		362.88
			Topup Request		137.12

Appendix 1

Barnt Green Lifts – Update for Parish council 14 April 2025

Summary of progress

The Barnt Green Lifts project aims to improve accessibility at Barnt Green Station by providing step free access to all platforms via a compliant accessible route. The project will install three new lifts alongside the existing station footbridge allowing all passengers to use all platforms going forward.

On site works have started in January and are progressing according to programme. Recent weeks have seen preparation activities undertaken such as placement of temporary stop boards to keep passenger movements away from the work site, set up of the site compound, delivery of various materials, set up of the water filled barriers and start of excavations for the lift motor rooms and foundations. Placement of the electrical supply unit has also been decided and National Grid has been engaged to install the new unit over the summer. This sets the project up well to bring the new lifts into service later this year.

The project will continue at pace over the coming weeks where it will install piling mats ahead of piling works, building of the lift foundations and installation of the foundation for the electrical unit. Later in the summer we will see delivery and assembly of the lifts themselves.

We appreciate that the current work causes disruption at the station and thank the local residents for their patience. I am sure this project will bring great benefits to the local community.

Please, if there are any questions or concerns, feel free to get in touch.

Simon Harding

Simon.harding@networkrail.co.uk

Pictures

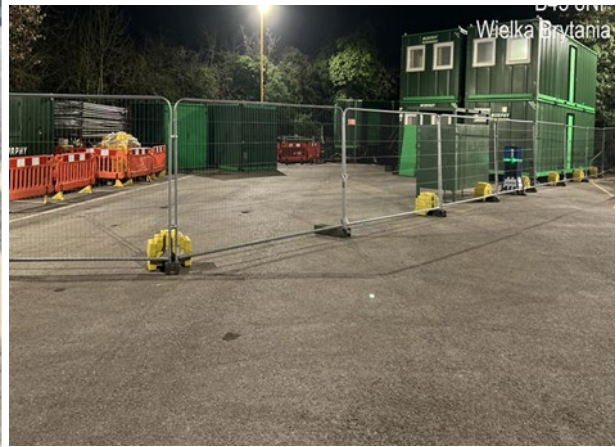
Platform 1 and 2 shortening and set up of water filled barriers to allow the works to be completed safely and away from passengers. This has been done through movement of the stop boards and installation of anti-trespass 'Hedgehogs'.



Existing station fencing on platform 4 removed and water filled barriers installed to prepare the working area for the excavation of the lift motor room foundations



Firey Hill Road closure and installation of traffic management in preparation for platform 1 works



Temporary disabled car parking spaces installed



Excavations and installation of foundation have started in preparation for the lift motor rooms.

