

# **BARNT GREEN PARISH COUNCIL**

**80 Hewell Road, Birmingham, B45 8NF**

**0121 447 9893**

**[exec@barntgreenparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:exec@barntgreenparishcouncil.gov.uk)**  
**[www.barntgreenparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.barntgreenparishcouncil.gov.uk)**



## **Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on Monday 16th February 2026 at 7.00pm at 80 Hewell Road, Barnt Green, B45 8NF**

**Members present:** Cllrs R Cholmondeley, C Hotham (arrived 7.55pm), P Perry, M Roberts, S Tucker, O Pardo-Roques, L Williams (arrived 7.07pm).

**In attendance:** Executive Officer, Eleanor Choudry  
WCC Cllr Alan Bailes (left at 8.17pm)

3 members of the public

**25/516 Apologies** Cllr S Whitehand.

**25/517 Declarations of Interest:** Councillors are reminded that to ensure transparency and retain public confidence in the council's decisions they are required to -

- Keep their Register of Interests form up to date.
- 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.

**25/518 To consider any dispensations**  
No dispensation requests had been received.

**25/519 Open Session – Participation to hear from:**

- Members of the public. A resident wanted to know the parish council's official position on the flags that have been affixed to the lamp posts. The parish council has not consented to the flags. An email was received from a group of 140+ residents who want the flags removed. WCC will not discuss the Highways Act and their responsibilities regarding the lampposts. The resident noted that half of the Union flags are upside down. Flags will be discussed under agenda item 25/527 f). The drains are blocked at the bottom of Kendal End Road. Cllr Bailes asked the resident to email him the details, and he will action the work. Leaves in Fieri Hill Road were also mentioned, the street sweeper should be sweeping every 4 months on a rota. The resident will send a giant crossword event idea that was successful in a different area.
- Supporting organisations, e.g. Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT), Footpath Warden. None present.
- Worcestershire County Councillor – Alan Bailes (Alvechurch division) The government has approved that WCC can increase the council tax by 8.98%. Unless the council approves the budget with Exceptional Financial Support (EFS) councillors could face imprisonment for neglect of their duty. The government has agreed to write off 90% of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), £184 million. The Conservatives want a 5% increase in council tax which will result in cuts. A strategic plan for the

future has not been seen. Cllr Bailes asked for people's views. Cllr Cholmondeley said the parish council is nonpolitical and therefore shouldn't have a view. WCC is still one of the lowest council tax rates in the country. Cllr Bailes said he was still looking at getting service vehicle bays on Hewell Road to make it safer for pedestrians. He has asked for an onsite meeting with the WCC Portfolio Holder and the Director of Highways. A parish councillor will also attend the meeting when the date is confirmed.

- d) Bromsgrove District Councillor - Charles Hotham (Barnt Green & Hopwood). Conservatives are the largest group, but they have a minority administration with other parties having more councillors so there is no overall control. There are tensions between Labour and Liberal Democrats. A unitary council will be in place in 14 months, but it is not yet known whether there will be a single or north and south unitary authority. BDC wants a two unitary authority (north and south) and to provide a unified front and a smooth way forward. It is hoped that WCC will agree to the budget on the 26/2. As Independents we have pushed to get a community springboard fund for parish councils, sports clubs etc. for worthy causes and it is hoped it is a sizeable sum. The New Homes Scheme has supported many projects. There is concern about spending large amounts in Bromsgrove town centre, the Independents want the money to be spread fairly, finance is also needed outside the town centre. If WCC fails to agree to the budget on 26/2 the council tax bills will not be agreed and there could be a new level of challenge from residents. There would be dire consequences. BDC are having an emergency meeting on 6/3. The Planning Advisory Report is not good reading. A cross-party committee has been set up to try and find a way forward. The committee has met once, but it is hoped it will become more potent. It is a very difficult position with nearly 4,000 speculative applications across Bromsgrove. Under legislation because BDC do not have a 5-year land supply there has to be very good reasons to turn down these applications. Developers will have worked their way around any good reason. Cllr Cholmondeley mentioned that a resident had contacted him regarding the Cala footpath and whether if it is not used for 7 years it ceases to have a right as a footpath. Cllr Hotham will contact Worcestershire Regulatory Team.

**25/520 To adopt previous minutes**

To approve adoption of the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2026, previously circulated but also attached.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 17/01/2026 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

**25/521 Meetings / Training Attended**

21/01/26 EO attended CALC Creating and Publishing Accessible website documents.

RESOLVED: That the report is noted.

## 24/522 Annual Business –

### i. Governance arrangements:

#### a) Review of council policy:

The following policies have been circulated prior to the meeting for review:

- i) 3 Year Forward Plan Annual Review
- ii) Action Plan for year ahead 2026
- iii) Recruitment Equality Policy

The following policy is for adoption to comply with Assertion 10 of the Annual Governance Statement (AGAR):

- iv) IT Policy

RESOLVED: That policy i) is used as a rolling plan unless significant events occur. Amend to state that the PC has decided not to have a Neighbourhood Plan and update to confirm the installation and future monitoring of the lifts. Approved following amendments. Policies ii) to iv) above are approved.

## 25/523 Consultations – None received.

### 25/524 Chairman's Report – Cllr Cholmondeley met with Bakul Kumar, Chair of Lickey and Blackwell Parish Council, and Simon Richards, WCC Footpath Warden to discuss new footpaths. Following the meeting Cllr Kumar wrote to the 8 Hills Regional Park National Trust with a proposal for three new footpaths:

Area 1: Bittell Road from the end of pavement to the canal bridge

Area 2: North side of M42 from the footbridge over the motorway to Sandhills Green

Area 3: Blackwell Road, under the M42 and along the south side to the path at Linthurst.

A response is awaited.

The PC has been notified of the consultation regarding Wythalls Neighbourhood Plan. The consultation ends 26<sup>th</sup> March.

Individuals can also respond to the government consultation on local government reorganisation. See [www.transformingworcestershires.co.uk](http://www.transformingworcestershires.co.uk) for more details. The consultation closes on the 26<sup>th</sup> March.

The PC is to meet West Mercia Police, Sergeant Jackson this week to discuss crime statistics and flags on lampposts.

## 25/525 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>Station Lift Update from Network Rail</p>	<p>The lifts are currently in their fault free running period, which is essentially where the lifts are tested at full capacity as they would operate normally (meaning we have to open them to public use) but remain within the projects responsibility. In order for us to move the lifts into business as usual with the maintainer, the lifts need to have 2 weeks of no faults.</p> <p>The lifts are registered with the national register which allows them to display on trainline etc once they've been handed over.</p> <p>I have queried this process as I note the frustration with passengers assuming they are fully open now, and not this background context.</p> <p>Hopefully the lifts will be registered within the next few weeks.</p> <div data-bbox="730 618 1414 689" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 20px;"> <p>RESOLVED: That the report is noted.</p> </div>
<p>Office laptop</p>	<p>Quotes circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <div data-bbox="740 792 1410 882" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>RESOLVED: The purchase of the Asus Vivobook laptop was agreed.</p> </div>
<p>Grant Application</p>	<p>Greenbank maintenance application. Quotes circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <div data-bbox="734 1030 1410 1205" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed that the requested maintenance could be completed as a 'one off'. It was agreed to use the contractor Acer Trees. The EO to advise the Greenbank resident group.</p> </div>
<p>Abandoned car in the Commuter Car Park</p>	<p>A removal of an abandoned vehicle notice was put on the vehicle's windscreen on 20/01/26 from Bromsgrove District Council giving 15 days' notice that the vehicle is going to be removed. The vehicle is now on Fiery Hill Road by the train station.</p> <div data-bbox="740 1442 1410 1505" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>RESOLVED: To be noted.</p> </div>
<p>Sovereign</p>	<p>Bittell Road playground equipment safety inspection was completed. No action required.</p> <div data-bbox="743 1639 1410 1693" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>RESOLVED: To be noted.</p> </div>
<p>Damp wall in meeting room</p>	<p>Cement has been added to cracks on the base of the outside wall and sealant to the flat roof.</p> <div data-bbox="734 1827 1404 1890" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>RESOLVED: To be noted.</p> </div>

Damage to notice board at Bittell Road playing fields	The OPC is carrying out a repair to the metal leg of the noticeboard that has been serrated.  RESOLVED: To be noted.
Parish Council Tree Survey	Quotes circulated prior to the meeting.  RESOLVED: Following discussion Cllrs agreed to use the contractor Eden. The EO to arrange.
Total Football	Due to wet weather only two Saturday football sessions have been held in 3 months, and the February half term camp has been cancelled. Total Football advised two other local football teams are using the field without paying. Cllrs to consider a fee reduction due to the field being unusable.  RESOLVED: Following discussion Cllrs agreed to offer a 50% reduction in the terms fees.

## 25/526 Finance

- (i) To note the current financial position, income and bills for payment. See page 5 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 the Executive Officer. The expenditure list on page 9.

RESOLVED: To be approved.

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

RESOLVED: Cllr Cholmondeley and Cllr Hotham authorised the January payments.

- (iv) Cambridge Building Society transfer of funds/account.

RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed to request an immediate transfer of £5k from Cambridge Building Society to the Unity Trust current account. Signatories signed the withdrawal form and letter. The issues with Cambridge BS were discussed and Cllrs agreed to give 90 days' notice to move £60k to a similar 90-day notice account with Unity Trust Bank. The remaining Cambridge BS balance will be moved to a new provider, such as Hinckley and Rugby Building Society. This will ensure that the PC bank balances will not exceed the Financial Services Compensation Schemes (FSCS) maximum limit.

- (v) Draft Internal audit report 2025.26.

RESOLVED: To be noted.

**25/527 Environment & Community Wellbeing**

- a) The installation of the replacement streetlamp columns was carried out on 13/1. Columns will be painted when weather is warmer.

RESOLVED: To be noted.

- b) Lack of departure screens and PA on Platform 1 at Barnt Green train station. No update.  
c) Pollinator Site update. No update.  
d) Planters and tiered planters.

RESOLVED: Thanks to Cllr Hotham and his wife for emptying the soil from the tiered planter on Hewell Road. Once the other tiered planter is empty they will be advertised for sale. Cllr Perry will use the soil to extend the flower bed at the bottom of Kendal End Road. Cllr Cholmondeley and Perry will meet on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February at 10am to empty the second tiered planter. The meeting will be deferred if it's raining!

- e) Biodiversity.

RESOLVED: Cllr Perry pruned the three apple trees in Bittell Road playing fields.

- f) England Flags and Union Jacks in Barnt Green.

RESOLVED: An email had been received stating it was from 140+ Barnt Green residents. The email asked whether the Parish Council had sanctioned or provided a grant for the flags and also asked whether the PC would support the residents request to WCC and BDC for the flags to be removed. Cllrs to respond that they did not sanction or provide a grant for the flag displays. Cllrs agreed that they had no objection to the residents requesting WCC and BDC to remove the flags.

- g) Barnt Green flag flying in Millennium Park update.

RESOLVED: The St Georges flag to be flown on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April, St Georges Day. A date to be confirmed for flagpole cleaning at the March meeting.

- h) Community Energy Initiatives. Cllr Cholmondeley and the EO met BDC Climate Change Manager, Matthew Eccles to discuss community led energy generation schemes. Funds are available to carry out an initial feasibility study.

RESOLVED: The presentation had been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllrs agreed to a meeting to discuss the options. The EO to contact Matthew Eccles, BDC Climate Change Manager to request a meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> March 7pm.

- i) Barnt Green community events:  
i) Community Walks. No current walks planned.  
ii) Fun Run.

RESOLVED: To confirm with West Mercia Police that event safety measures are satisfactory. Once confirmed progress idea with the Chuggers running group.

iii) Christmas Lights Switch on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2026. No update.

**25/528 Planning**

BDC ref	Site Address	Proposal
<b>26/00070/CUPRIO</b>	Brian Fox & Associates Limited, 87 Hewell Road, Barnt Green, Worcestershire,	Change of Use of existing first floor office to a two-bedroom flat.
BGPC Recommendation: BGPC recommend approval.		
<b>26/00089/FUL</b>	16 Blackwell Road, Barnt Green, Worcestershire, B45 8BU	First floor side extension. Single and double storey rear extension.
BGPC Recommendation: BGPC recommend approval.		

**25/529 Date and Venue of Next Meetings**

Next Parish Council Meeting, Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2026 7pm at 80 Hewell Road.

**25/530 Closed session – Private and Confidential – EO Appraisal**

The meeting ended at 20:53 hrs

Signed:..... Date.....  
Chairman, Barnt Green Parish Council                      09/03/2026

Agenda Item 25/526 (i) To approve the current financial position and bills paid.

February Payments Report

215	28.02.2026	£38.39	£1.92	£40.31	Office Energy	Positive Energy
214	28.02.2026	£41.74	£2.09	£43.83	Office Energy	Positive Energy
213	28.02.2026	£6.00	£0.00	£6.00	Bank Service Charge	Unity Bank
212	28.02.2026	£47.00	£0.00	£47.00	Data Protection Annual Fee	ICO
211	28.02.2026				Employers NI	HMRC
210	28.02.2026				PAYE	HMRC
209	28.02.2026				Salaries	Salaries
208	28.02.2026				Pension contributions	Pension contributions
207	28.02.2026	£5.50	£0.00	£5.50	Lloyds Multipay Card Charge	Lloyds Corporate Card
206	28.02.2026	£115.20	£0.00	£115.20	Lengthsman Work	Bromsgrove District Council
205	28.02.2026	£39.95	£7.99	£47.94	Office landline, broadband & calls	BT
204	28.02.2026	£148.95	£29.79	£178.74	Dog bags	JRB Enterprise Ltd
203	28.02.2026	£295.08	£59.02	£354.10	Grounds maintenance at playing field	Hosking Ground Maintenance
202	28.02.2026	£848.00	£169.60	£1,017.60	Street Lamp Repair	First Choice Electrical Solutions Ltd
201	28.02.2026	£612.00	£0.00	£612.00	Outdoor Parish Caretaker	Andlin Cleaning
200	28.02.2026	£264.86	£13.24	£278.10	Street Light Energy	YU Energy
199	28.02.2026	£1,500.00	£300.00	£1,800.00	Street Lamp Repair	First Choice Electrical Solutions Ltd

February Income Report

27	28.02.2026	£1,000.00	£0.00	£1,000.00	Electric Charging Point Rent	Equans EV Solution
----	------------	-----------	-------	-----------	------------------------------	--------------------

Agenda Item 25/526 (i) To approve the January Bank Reconciliation 2026

17 February 2026 (2025-2026)

**Barnt Green Parish Council**

Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Name and Role (Clerk/RFO etc)*

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Name and Role (RFO/Chair of Finance etc)*

	<b>Bank Reconciliation at 31/01/2026</b>		
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2025		102,274.94
	<b>ADD</b> Receipts 01/04/2025 - 31/01/2026		90,619.69
			192,894.63
	<b>SUBTRACT</b> Payments 01/04/2025 - 31/01/2026		94,011.23
<b>A</b>	<b>Cash in Hand 31/01/2026</b> (per Cash Book)		<b>98,883.40</b>
	Cash in hand per Bank Statements		
	Petty Cash 31/01/2026	0.00	
	Unity Bank Current Account 31/01/2026	571.05	
	Unity Bank Deposit Account 31/01/2026	11,834.33	
	Cambridge Building Society 31/01/2026	86,478.02	
			<b>98,883.40</b>
	Less unrepresented payments		
			98,883.40
	Plus unrepresented receipts		
<b>B</b>	<b>Adjusted Bank Balance</b>		<b>98,883.40</b>
	<b>A = B Checks out OK</b>		

Agenda Item 25/526 (ii) To be advised of any expenditure decisions taken by Executive Officer

February 2026 Lloyds Corporate Card Payments

Lloyds Corporate Card Reconciliation up to 28th February 2026					
Voucher	Date	Description	Supplier	Expenditure	Total
29	14.01.26	2 x Handwash	Tesco	2.50	
30	02.02.26	Monthly Fee	Lloyds Unity Bank	3.00	
			<b>Balance to pay</b>		<b>5.50</b>