

BARNT GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on Monday 9th March 2026 at 7.00pm at 80 Hewell Road, Barnt Green, B45 8NF

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

In attendance: Executive Officer, Eleanor Choudry
1 member of the public

25/531 Apologies Cllr Hotham, Cllr Roberts, Cllr Pardo-Roques, Cllr Tucker, WCC Cllr Bailes.

25/532 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.

25/533 To consider any dispensations
No dispensation requests had been received.

25/534 Open Session – Participation to hear from:

- Members of the public. A resident volunteered his help for parish events and had ideas for future events. Further details including costings will be discussed at the April meeting.
- Supporting organisations, e.g. Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT), Footpath Warden. None present.
- Worcestershire County Councillor – Alan Bailes (Alvechurch division) Apologies received and the written report below.

At its meeting on 26 February 2026, Worcestershire County Council approved the 2026/27 budget, including a net Budget Requirement of £618.670 million and a Capital Programme totalling £644.816 million.

Following the 9-hour meeting, which at times resembled a political Punch and Judy show or pantomime, a significant Council Tax increase was also passed, with the authority approving a rise of 8.98% for 2026/27. This increase was enabled in part by the Government granting the council £59 million in emergency financial support, which allowed the Council to avoid issuing a Section 114 (bankruptcy) notice.

Despite political disagreement and a walkout by the Liberal Democrat and Labour groups, the budget, including the council tax rise, was approved by 24 votes to 19, with four abstentions.

To reiterate work has continued with reported problems and issues in the Parish:

1. The gullies as reported at the last council meeting have been emptied.
2. As requested, I raised the issue of dangerous parking along Hewell Road with our local Police (Stuart Head) and our enforcement team (via BDC). Teams were sent out to show a presence. Mixed reports on Facebook showed it had happened!!!
3. Matters regarding the issues around pavement parking and servicing/illegal parking on Sandhills Road and Hewell Road, following significant pressure, seem to have gained traction at last. I have a meeting with both BDC and WCC on taking options forward and more information will follow
 - d) Bromsgrove District Councillor - Charles Hotham (Barnt Green & Hopwood). Unavailable as attending a BDC meeting.

25/535 To adopt previous minutes

To approve adoption of the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on Monday 16th February 2026, previously circulated but also attached.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 16/02/2026 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

25/536 Meetings / Training Attended – EO attended a CALC Clerk Briefing on 24/2/26.

RESOLVED: CALC are producing an Emergency Planning template. That the report is noted.

24/537 Annual Business –

i. Governance arrangements:

a) Review of council policy:

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

- i) Data Protection Policy
- ii) Child, Young Adult and Vulnerable Person Protection Policy
- iii) Equal Opportunities Policy
- iv) Sickness Absence Policy

RESOLVED: Minor pagination amendments to be made then policies i) to iv) are approved.

25/538 Consultations

Worcestershire Waste Local Plan: Early baselining and engagement consultation

The new plan will replace the existing Waste Core Strategy Local Plan which dates from 2012, and it will then be used by the County Council to guide the location of waste management facilities and to make decisions on waste management planning applications in the county.

The questionnaire consultation closes on Wednesday 15th April. All responses must be in writing and will be in the public domain. **Take part on the WCC website worcestershire.gov.uk/wasteplanningpolicy**

RESOLVED: Cllrs to respond directly if they choose to the consultation.

25/539 Chairman's Report – Nothing to add that is not on the agenda.

25/540 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>An update was not received. It was noted that the Murphys compound was now clear.</p>
<p>b) West Mercia Police Crime Statistics</p>	<p>Cllr Cholmondeley, Cllr Hotham and the EO met with West Mercia Police Sergeant Jackson and PC Matthew Dunton. Monthly crime statistics will be supplied..</p> <p>WARD: BARNT GREEN Parameters: 01/02/2026 to 08/03/2026</p> <p>Crime Statistics from 01/02/2026:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criminal Damage (including domestics) -<u>THREE</u> • Burglary Residential – <u>ZERO</u> • Burglary Business – <u>ONE</u> • Burglary Non Dwelling (Sheds) – <u>ZERO</u> • Drugs Possession – <u>ZERO</u> • Drugs Trafficking – <u>ZERO</u> • Miscellaneous Crimes against Society (Victimless crimes) – <u>ZERO</u> • Possession of Weapons - <u>ZERO</u> • Public order offences – <u>ZERO</u> • Robbery – <u>ZERO</u> • Sexual Offences – <u>ZERO</u> • Theft from Persons – <u>ZERO</u> • Shop lifting - <u>ZERO</u> • Theft other – <u>TWO</u> • Theft of Bicycle – <u>ZERO</u> • Vehicles offences – <u>THREE</u> • Harassment and stalking - <u>ONE</u> • Violence with injury – <u>ONE</u> • Violence without injury – <u>ZERO</u> • Murders - <u>ZERO</u> <p>As we can see BARNT GREEN is a low crime area. Residents can report crimes and incidents through the appropriate channels; 999 in an emergency, 101 in a non-emergency and a crime can be reported online via West Mercia website.</p>
<p>c) Office laptop</p>	<p>Awaiting response regarding purchase via BDC.</p>
<p>d) Grant Application</p>	<p>Greenbank maintenance in the unowned 'coppice' area will be carried out on Friday 10th April.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 10px auto;"> <p>RESOLVED: To be noted.</p> </div>
<p>e) Abandoned car in the Commuter Car Park</p>	<p>A resident reported the SORN vehicle had been moved to Fiery Hill Road by the train station, West Mercia Police informed.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 10px auto;"> <p>RESOLVED: To be noted.</p> </div>

f) Millennium Park water tap	The OPC is carrying out a repair to the water tap in Millennium Park. RESOLVED: To be noted.
g) Parish Council Tree Survey	Date to be confirmed.
h) Total Football Signage	Total Football requested signage on the Bittell Rd playing fields gate. Awaiting a response from BCC.
i) KIWA Street lamp column survey	Two columns in Sandhills Green were unable to be tested due to unsafe access. The access will need to be made safe so they can be tested to coincide with the retest. RESOLVED: To be noted.

25/541 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 the Executive Officer. Page 7.

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 February payments.

- (iv) Transfer of funds from Cambridge Building Society to Unity Trust.

RESOLVED: Two signatories signed the letter and withdrawal form to Cambridge Building Society and the Unity Trust account application form. Cllr Hotham to sign.

25/542

Environment & Community Wellbeing

- a) The replaced streetlamp columns will be painted when the weather is warmer.

RESOLVED: To be noted.

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

RESOLVED: Cllr Cholmondeley had a meeting with West Midlands Trains last week and they have the departure screen and are awaiting an install date.

- c) Pollinator Site update. No update.
- d) Hanging baskets, planters and tiered planters.

RESOLVED: The tiered planters have been advertised for sale on the CALC newsletter distributed to parish councils. Cllr Perry has expanded the flower bed at the bottom of Kendal End Road using the soil from the tiered planter. The EO to order the hanging baskets in April.

- e) Biodiversity. No update.
- f) England Flags and Union Jacks in Barnt Green.

RESOLVED: Discussion took place regarding the flags and complaints received from residents requesting their removal. The item is to be on the April agenda for further discussion.

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

RESOLVED: The flagpole has two flags inappropriately attached rendering it useless. The flagpole was due to be cleaned ready to celebrate St Georges Day. The EO to contact a resident to highlight the issues now faced when trying to use the flagpole to celebrate official events.

- h) Community Energy Initiatives.

RESOLVED: Cllrs Cholmondeley, Whitehand, Williams and Perry are to attend the meeting with BDC Climate Change Manager, Matthew Eccles on the 23rd March.

- i) Barnt Green community events:
 - i) Fun Run. No update.
 - ii) Christmas Lights Switch on Saturday 28th November 2026. No update.

25/543 Planning

BDC ref	Site Address	Proposal
26/00132/FUL	20 Sandhills Lane, Barnt Green, Worcestershire, B45 8NX,	Single storey rear extension and new front porch
BGPC Recommendation: BGPC recommend approval.		
26/00115/FUL	25 Blackwell Road, Barnt Green, Worcestershire, B45 8BT	Proposed first floor extension over the existing garage, two storey extension to the rear and loft conversion
BGPC Recommendation: BGPC recommend approval.		

25/544 Date and Venue of Next Meetings
Next Parish Council Meeting, Monday 20th April 2026 7pm at 80 Hewell Road

25/545 Closed session – Private and Confidential – EO Job Evaluation

The meeting ended at 20:27 hrs

Signed:..... Date.....
Chairman, Barnt Green Parish Council 20/04/2026

Agenda Item 25/541 (i) To approve the current financial position and bills paid.

February Payments Report

216	23.02.2026	£22.19	£0.00	£22.19	Bank Service Charge	Cambridge Building Society
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March Payments Report

227	31.03.2026	£295.08	£59.02	£354.10	Grounds maintenance at playing field	Hosking Ground Maintenance
226	31.03.2026	£78.99	£3.95	£82.94	Street Light Energy	YU Energy
225	31.03.2026	£100.00	£0.00	£100.00	Grounds maintenance at Millennium Park	John S Bishop
224	31.03.2026				Salaries	Salaries
223	31.03.2026				PAYE	HMRC
222	31.03.2026				Employers NI	HMRC
221	31.03.2026				Pension contributions	Pension contributions
220	31.03.2026	£1,625.00	£0.00	£1,625.00	Office Rent	John Truslove
219	31.03.2026	£39.95	£7.99	£47.94	Office landline, broadband & calls	BT
218	31.03.2026	£612.00	£0.00	£612.00	Outdoor Parish Caretaker	Andlin Cleaning
217	31.03.2026	£268.80	£0.00	£268.80	Lengthsman Work	Bromsgrove District Council

February Income Report

30	28.02.2026	£60.00	£0.00	£60.00	28.02.2026	Office Hire	Kate Hall Counselling
29	28.02.2026	£20.00	£0.00	£20.00	28.02.2026	Office Hire	Wai Ling Bickerton
28	28.02.2026	£268.80	£0.00	£268.80	28.02.2026	Lengthsman refund	Worcestershire County Council

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 28/02/2026		
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2025		102,274.94
	ADD Receipts 01/04/2025 - 28/02/2026		91,968.49
			194,243.43
	SUBTRACT Payments 01/04/2025 - 28/02/2026		100,954.71
A	Cash in Hand 28/02/2026 (per Cash Book)		93,288.72
	Cash in hand per Bank Statements		
	Petty Cash 28/02/2026	0.00	
	Unity Bank Current Account 28/02/2026	1,418.56	
	Unity Bank Deposit Account 28/02/2026	5,414.33	
	Cambridge Building Society 28/02/2026	81,455.83	
			88,288.72
	Less unrepresented payments		
			88,288.72
	Plus unrepresented receipts		5,000.00
B	Adjusted Bank Balance		93,288.72
	A = B Checks out OK		

Agenda Item 25/541 (ii) To be advised of any expenditure decisions taken by Executive Officer

March 2026 Lloyds Corporate Card Payments

Lloyds Corporate Card Reconciliation up to 9th March 2026					
Voucher	Date	Description	Supplier	Expenditure	Total
31	17.02.26	Stamp for withdrawal letter to Cambridge BS	Post Office	1.70	
32	02.03.26	Monthly Fee	Lloyds Unity Bank	3.00	
			Balance to pay		4.70