

BARNT GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on Monday 20th April 2026 at 7.00pm at 80 Hewell Road, Barnt Green, B45 8NF

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

In attendance: Executive Officer, Eleanor Choudry
WCC Cllr Alan Bailes (left at 7.59pm)

1 member of the public (left at 8.28pm)

26/546 Apologies Cllr Whitehand, Cllr Pardo-Roques, Cllr Tucker.

26/547 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. Cllr Hotham advised that he lives on the same road as agenda item 26/558 planning application 26/00312/FUL.

26/548 To consider any dispensations

Written requests for the council to grant a dispensation to a councillor (as per Localism Act 2011, s33) must be with the Executive Officer before the meeting starts.

26/549 Open Session – Participation to hear from:

- a) Members of the public. Resident Danny Bromage said that he is very keen to help at community events. Following discussion, he will send estimated costs to the parish council to hold a cinema night in Millennium Park. Ideally this would be held on the weekend prior to the schools breaking up for summer. He also suggested a larger event in Bittell Road playing fields in 2027.
- b) Supporting organisations, e.g. Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT), Footpath Warden. None present.
- c) Worcestershire County Councillor – Alan Bailes (Alvechurch division) Cllr Bailes will meet Elli Bruce, Highways Liaison Officer, to discuss issues in Barnt Green including parking/service road on Hewell Road. A parking survey needs to be carried out to provide evidence. BDC has funding for the survey, and the parish council could facilitate it by contacting the businesses etc. WCC is set to get a new leader in May following a vote by county councillors. Station Approach has been resurfaced by Network Rail. Cllr Bailes to ask whether it is up to the

standard required by WCC to be adopted.

- d) Bromsgrove District Councillor - Charles Hotham (Barnt Green & Hopwood). A Strategic Plan working group has been created and the group met to understand the legal position. The Terms of Reference have yet to be agreed. Cllr Sue Baxter is now Portfolio Holder for Planning, replacing Kit Taylor. Cllr Baxter is very experienced and is a Wythall Cllr, Wythall are receiving numerous development applications. The responses from the Strategic Plan are to be released shortly, the responses are as expected. Local Government Reform (LGR) is in process. The government has suggested that smaller unitary authorities are acceptable. Market Hall has been delayed due to Highways issues. Windsor Street has been delayed due to contaminated land relating to the use of fire extinguishers. BDC will meet on the 20th May to review last year's progress. A Community Fund of £1.25 million will be available for projects, this could be used for improvements on Hewell Road. The fund could also be used for events. The accounts are not yet signed off due to the previous problems, but a new Chief Financial Officer is now in place. ICT problems with .gov.uk email addresses and the planning portal are now resolved.

26/550 To adopt previous minutes

To approve adoption of the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on Monday 9th March 2026, previously circulated but also attached.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 9/03/2026 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

26/551 Meetings / Training Attended – None.

26/552 Annual Business – None.

26/553 Consultations – None.

26/554 Chairman's Report – Nothing to add that is not on the agenda.

26/555 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	The lifts should now be registered on the system to show faults and breakdowns prior to passengers booking tickets. I am awaiting confirmation this has been tested and will let you know.
b) West Mercia Police Crime Statistics	See appendix 1.
c) Office laptop	Awaiting purchase. See agenda item 26/556 (iv).
d) Grant Application	Greenbank maintenance in the unowned 'coppice' area was carried out Monday 13 th April. <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;">RESOLVED: To be noted.</div>

e) Millennium Park water tap	The OPC has repaired the leaking joint. Severn Trent are to switch the water back on. RESOLVED: The water tap is now working.
f) Parish Council Tree Survey	To be carried out on the 20 th April. RESOLVED: To be noted.
g) Total Football Signage	Total Football requested signage on the Bittell Rd playing fields gate. Awaiting a response from BCC. RESOLVED: Birmingham City Council has requested exact details of the required sign. Total Football is to send the EO the measurements and an image to forward to BCC.
h) Complaint re speeding	A resident has complained about constant speeding and quad bikes on Kendal End Road/Bittell Road/Fiery Hill Road towards bridge. RESOLVED: Details to be sent to Cllr Bailes.
i) Parish council office	The fluorescent tubes in the office lights are obsolete. Quotes for replacement lighting are attached. RESOLVED: Cllrs considered the quotes and agreed to replace the office lights with the LED antiglare option.
j) Parish council office door lock	The lock has been replaced due to the key snapping off inside the lock. RESOLVED: To be noted.
k) Barnt Green Annual Parish Meeting.	To be held on Monday 27 th April at 7pm at Barnt Green Baptist Church. Reports from local representatives will be presented. RESOLVED: To be noted. Copies of reports to be available at the meeting.

26/556 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. See page 6.

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 March payments.

- (iv) The Finance Committee met on the 13th April 2026. The quarterly financial checks to 31st March 2026 were carried out by Cllr Perry. The budget to 31st March 2025/26 (attached) was inspected. Due to corporate card and Financial Regulations restrictions the purchase of a new laptop has been impossible. The Finance Committee recommends that the corporate card expenditure limit is increased to £1,000 and the Financial Regulations amended to allow the EO to spend £1,000 in a single transaction. To be agreed.

RESOLVED: There was only one significant variance in the budget due to the purchase of 5 replacement street light columns. Cllrs agreed to increase the limit of the Corporate Card to £1,000 and Cllr Cholmondeley and Cllr Hotham signed the letter to Unity Trust Bank. The EO to send the updated Financial regulations to Cllr Cholmondeley to sign. Once the credit limit has been increased the EO will purchase the laptop. The EO to investigate a single purchase of the Microsoft Licence.

26/557

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: A new departure screen has been installed on platform 1 but it is not working yet. On platform 3 the screen is working.

- c) Pollinator Site update. The first tidy and strim took place and the area looks positive with plants coming through. The posts are to be painted and then it will just be maintenance.

RESOLVED: To be noted.

- d) Hanging baskets, planters and tiered planters.

RESOLVED: The tiered planters are for sale.

- e) Biodiversity.

RESOLVED: Cllr Roberts confirmed the Community Orchard was doing well.

f) Rospa Play Safety Inspection Reports.

RESOLVED: The EO to send the reports to Cllrs.

g) England Flags and Union Jacks in Barnt Green.

RESOLVED: Discussion took place regarding the flags and the item will be discussed at the May meeting.

h) Barnt Green flag flying in Millennium Park update.

RESOLVED: As flags have been attached inappropriately to the flagpole in Millennium Park the parish council will not be able to celebrate St Georges Day with a flag at full mast this year.

i) Community Energy Initiatives. Agreement to generating local interest and undertaking a feasibility study.

RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed to go ahead with the first stage of the feasibility study. The EO to contact Matthew Eccles Climate Change Manager, BDC.

j) Barnt Green community events:

i) Fun Run.

RESOLVED: Resident Danny Bromage is keen to help at future community events. Cllr Hotham will send resident Danny Bromage the Chuggers details regarding the Fun Run.

ii) Christmas Lights Switch on Saturday 28th November 2026.

RESOLVED: Details to be finalised nearer the time.

26/558 Planning

BDC ref	Site Address	Proposal
26/00312/FUL	37 Blackwell Road, Barnt Green, Worcestershire, B45 8BT	Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement dwelling
BGPC Recommendation: BGPC recommend approval.		
26/00201/FUL	20A Fiery Hill Road, Barnt Green, Worcestershire, B45 8LG	Proposed two storey front extension, single storey rear extension, ridge height increase with new pitched roof to main house and the garage with dormers to facilitate first and second floor extensions, with associated render/cladding and photovoltaic panels,
BGPC Recommendation: BGPC recommend approval.		

26/559 Date and Venue of Next Meetings

Barnt Green Annual Parish Meeting, Monday 27th April 2026 7pm at Barnt Green Baptist Church.

26/560 Next Parish Council Meeting, Monday 18th May 2026 7pm at 80 Hewell Road.

26/561 Closed session – Private and Confidential – EO Job Evaluation

The meeting ended at 20:33 hrs

Signed:..... Date.....
Chairman, Barnt Green Parish Council 18/05/2026

Agenda Item 26/556 (i) To approve the current financial position and bills paid.

March Payments Report

232	31.03.2026	£7.00	£0.00	£7.00	31.03.2026	Bank Service Charge	Unity Bank
231	31.03.2026	£132.54	£6.63	£139.17	31.03.2026	Street Light Energy	SSE
230	31.03.2026	£184.20	£0.00	£184.20	31.03.2026	Transfer to card to enable laptop purchase	Lloyds Corporate Card
229	31.03.2026	£23.30	£1.17	£24.47	31.03.2026	Office Energy	Positive Energy
228	31.03.2026	£35.22	£1.76	£36.98	31.03.2026	Office Energy	Positive Energy

March Income Report

34	31.03.2026	£460.80	£0.00	£460.80	31.03.2026	Lengthsman refund	Worcestershire County Council
33	31.03.2026	£128.00	£0.00	£128.00	31.03.2026	Hire of Bittell Road playing fields	Total Football
32	31.03.2026	£34.52	£0.00	£34.52	31.03.2026	Credit interest	Unity Bank
31	31.03.2026	£350.00	£0.00	£350.00	31.03.2026	WDC Cllr Fund towards Xmas Lights switch on event	Bromsgrove District Council

April Payments Report

16	30.04.2026	£75.00	£0.00	£75.00		Reimbursement to Branded for U for defibrillator electricity costs	Branded-4U
15	30.04.2026					Salaries	Salaries
14	30.04.2026					PAYE	HMRC
13	30.04.2026					Employers NI	HMRC
12	30.04.2026					Pension contributions	Pension contributions
11	30.04.2026	£105.00	£0.00	£105.00		Grounds maintenance at Millennium Park	John S Bishop
10	30.04.2026	£148.95	£29.79	£178.74		Dog bags	JRB Enterprise Ltd
9	30.04.2026	£192.00	£0.00	£192.00		Lengthsman Work	Bromsgrove District Council
8	30.04.2026	£1,272.00	£254.40	£1,526.40		Street Lamp Repair	First Choice Electrical Solutions Ltd
7	30.04.2026	£39.95	£7.99	£47.94		Office landline, broadband & calls	BT
6	30.04.2026	£295.08	£59.02	£354.10		Grounds maintenance at playing field	Hosking Ground Maintenance
5	30.04.2026	£612.00	£0.00	£612.00		Outdoor Parish Caretaker	Andlin Cleaning
4	30.04.2026	£202.00	£40.40	£242.40		Annual playground inspection - Playing Field	ROSPA
3	30.04.2026	£40.00	£0.00	£40.00		Hire of meeting room for Annual Assembly	Barnt Green Baptist Church
2	30.04.2026	£278.40	£0.00	£278.40		Lengthsman Work	Bromsgrove District Council
1	30.04.2026	£50.00	£10.00	£60.00		Online subscription Parish Online	GeoXplore - Parish Online

April Income Report

1	30.04.2026	£42,000.00	£0.00	£42,000.00	Precept first instalment	Bromsgrove District Council	Unity Bank Deposit Account
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Barnt Green Parish Council

Prepared by: _____ Date: _____
Name and Role (Clerk/RFO etc)

Approved by: _____ Date: _____
Name and Role (RFO/Chair of Finance etc)

A	Bank Reconciliation at 31/03/2026		
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2025		102,274.94
	ADD Receipts 01/04/2025 - 31/03/2026		92,941.81
	SUBTRACT Payments 01/04/2025 - 31/03/2026		195,216.75 106,812.28
	Cash in Hand 31/03/2026 (per Cash Book)		88,404.47
B	Cash in hand per Bank Statements		
	Petty Cash 31/03/2026	0.00	
	Unity Bank Current Account 31/03/2026	4,371.79	
	Unity Bank Deposit Account 31/03/2026	2,576.85	
	Cambridge Building Society 31/03/2026	81,455.83	
			88,404.47
Less unrepresented payments			
		88,404.47	
Plus unrepresented receipts			
Adjusted Bank Balance		88,404.47	
	A = B Checks out OK		

Agenda Item 26/556 (ii) To be advised of any expenditure decisions taken by Executive Officer

March 2026 Lloyds Corporate Card Payments

Lloyds Corporate Card Reconciliation up to 16th April 2026					
		Balance b/f		4.70	
1	05.03.26	Toilet rolls / cleaner	Tesco	5.35	
2	08.03.26	Adobe subscription	Adobe	178.85	
3	10.03.26	Payment attempt to allow laptop purchase			184.20
4	16.03.26	Microsoft subscription	Microsoft	104.99	
5	02.04.26	Monthly Fee	Lloyds Unity Bank	3.00	
		Balance to be paid by D/D 16/4/26			112.69

Appendix 1.

Please see below crime statistics between 16th February 2026 until today 20th April 2026 for Barnt Green. Please be aware that figures shown below may differ slightly compared to other source of information due to the boundaries/wards set by West Mercia Police.

Key Crime Figures

		2026	2026	2026	Grand Total
		Feb	Mar	Apr	
ARSON AND CRIMINAL DAMAGE	CRIMINAL DAMAGE	3	1	1	5
BURGLARY	BURGLARY - BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY		3		3
	RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY-HOME	1			1
DRUG OFFENCES	POSSESSION OF DRUGS		1		1
MISCELLANEOUS CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY	MISC CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY			1	1
POSSESSION OF WEAPONS	POSSESSION OF WEAPONS		1		1
PUBLIC ORDER OFFENCES	OTHER OFFENCES PUBLIC ORDER		1		1
	PUBLIC FEAR, ALARM OR DISTRESS			1	1
ROBBERY	ROBBERY OF PERSONAL PROPERTY		1		1
THEFT	BICYCLE THEFT			1	1
	OTHER THEFT		5	3	8
	SHOPLIFTING		1	2	3
VEHICLE OFFENCES	THEFT FROM A VEHICLE	1	1		2
	THEFT OR UNAUTH TAKING OF A MOTOR VEH		3		3
Grand Total		5	18	9	32