

BARNT GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

80 Hewell Road, Birmingham, B45 8NF

0121 447 9893

exec@barntgreenparishcouncil.gov.uk
www.barntgreenparishcouncil.gov.uk



Minutes of the **Ordinary Parish Council** meeting held on
Monday 16th June 2025 at 7.00pm at 80 Hewell Road, Barnt Green, B45 8NF

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

In attendance: Executive Officer, Eleanor Choudry

1 member of the public (left at 7.24pm)

25/425 Apologies Cllr Tucker, Cllr Whitehand, WCC Cllr Alan Bailes.

25/426 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.

25/427 To consider any dispensations

No dispensation requests had been received.

25/428 Open Session – Participation to hear from:

- a) Members of the public. A resident from Twatling Road was concerned about the planning proposals mentioned in BDC's draft Strategic Local Plan and the potential impact development would have on infrastructure. It was stressed that the plans were in draft form currently and once the draft plan was agreed BDC will hold a drop-in session for residents. BDC are meeting on Thursday 19th June to discuss the draft Plan and the meeting will be live streamed on You Tube. Once agreed the consultation will be advertised with details of the sites and the reasons they have been selected. The parish council will be contacting residents and encouraging and supporting them to comment effectively. Details will be on the parish council Facebook page and website. Cllr Hotham advised the resident to contact Bakul Kumar at Lickey and Blackwell parish council for any information regarding the future use of Hunters Hill. The resident stated that she was happy to help the parish council in any way she can.
- b) Supporting organisations, e.g. Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT), Footpath Warden. None present. Cllr Cholmondeley had met with the Footpath Warden and cleared moss etc from the footpath railway bridge.
- c) Worcestershire County Councillor – Alan Bailes (Alvechurch division)
Apologies received.

Bromsgrove District Councillor - Charles Hotham (Barnt Green & Hopwood). The government is continuing to examine options for both north and south authorities as part of the reorganisation of local government. A Community Committee has been employed to investigate in conjunction with 5 other district councils, excluding Wyre Forest that want a single unitary authority. The government do not believe that parish councils should be increased as part of the restructure but instead should

have a Community Committee which sits between the parish council and the district council. The draft Strategic Plan has been released. West Mercia Police are having financial difficulties, and they are reducing Community Support Officers hours and will only attend significant emergencies after 8pm.

25/429 To adopt previous minutes

To approve adoption of the minutes of the Annual parish council meeting held on 19th May 2025, previously circulated but also attached.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 19/05/2025 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

25/430 Meetings / Training Attended – None.

24/431 Annual Business –

i. Governance arrangements:

a) Confirm insurance arrangements and adequacy of cover

The new 3-year deal was agreed with Ecclesiastical Office plc. A competitive comparison quote was unobtainable. Cyber security insurance is available for an additional £196 p.a. To be discussed.

RESOLVED: Cllrs decided against the additional insurance due to the size of the parish council and amount of data held.

b) Review of council policy:

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

- i) Appraisal
- ii) Member-Officer Protocol Dignity at Work
- iii) Community Engagement Strategy
- iv) Co-option Procedure
- v) Protocol on Pre-Application

RESOLVED: Policies i) to v) were approved.

25/432 Consultations-

Shape Worcestershire: Reorganising your council

<https://shapeworcestershire.org/>

Major changes are planned to councils across Worcestershire as part of the biggest shake-up of local government in more than 50 years.

The Government is requiring 21 areas of England to restructure their system of local government before 2029.

There are two parts to the Government's proposed changes:

Local government reorganisation – where the Government is looking to replace borough/district/city and county councils with fewer councils.

Devolution – where the Government is looking to transfer powers and funding to new Strategic Authorities (also called Combined Authorities) that cover a number of new council areas and are responsible for large projects such as transport, infrastructure and economic development.

The consultation runs from 1st to 29th June 2025.

RESOLVED: It was agreed that it was up to individual parish councillors to respond if they wish rather than the parish council.

25/433 Chairman's Report – Nothing further to add.

25/434 Bromsgrove District Council Strategic Plan – The consultation period is long, until mid-September. The parish council needs to gain evidence from residents to support their response and encourage parishioners to respond.

RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed to create a working party which will:

- Meet to draw up a letter to be hand delivered to residents informing them of the proposed sites, how to respond to the consultation and the survey
- Create an online survey / paper copies available from the PC office
- Arrange a public meeting – the EO to confirm a date and order a banner
- The EO to post an announcement on the website and Facebook page to inform residents of the parish councils actions

25/435 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

On site progress is continuing well. We have got the DNO power supply installed now and awaiting National Grid to connect it in the next month with an anticipated power up of it in mid-July. Various risks have materialised across the project, but we have been able to mitigate and resolve each of these so far – so we still plan to enter into service later this calendar year.

In the coming weeks we will see continued works, the next 8 weeks are probably the most important from the projects perspective.

In terms of some milestones we have upcoming in the next month;

- Piling works commencing
- Delivery of lift shafts into the car park compound for assembly
- Power up of DNO power supply
- Ongoing pit extraction on platform 2/3.

After this in August we should then see the works coming up and out the ground as the lift shafts get installed.

We will continue to deliver this at pace and appreciate the patience of the local residents as we undertake the works.

	<p>RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed that, once the lift installation is complete, former parish councillors, Clerks, and residents will be invited to attend a small event. A photo will be published in the Village Magazine and Bulletin, thanking all those who supported the Parish Council in making the installation possible.</p>
b) Removal of weeds along Hewell Road, not including shop fronts	<p>From Barnt Green Dentist on one side of Hewell Road and from the PC office on the other side, past the shops to the school removing all weeds. 2 personnel £250.00 to include disposal of the waste. To be agreed.</p> <p>RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed to the weed clearance. The EO to contact the contractor.</p>
c) Parking spaces	<p>The EO is awaiting a response from the Social Club regarding public use of their car park.</p> <p>RESOLVED: The Social Club decided not to provide temporary parking in their car park.</p>

25/436 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 Monzo expenditure list page 6 of the agenda. A top up of £39.98 is requested to top up the Monzo card to £500.

RESOLVED: That the top up be approved.

- (iii) The EO is awaiting an update regarding the progress of the Unity MultiPay Card application. To be noted.
- (iv) The two councillors that authorise the online monthly payments are to be named in the minutes.

RESOLVED: Cllrs Cholmondeley and Hotham approved the payments in May 2025.

- (v) Finance Committee members to confirm preferred dates / times for quarterly meetings.

RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed to the dates that had been circulated.

25/437 Environment & Community Wellbeing

- a) Quotes for replacement streetlamp columns following KIWA structural

survey to be discussed and circulated prior to meeting when received.

RESOLVED: Only 1 quote had been received so the item will be on the July agenda for discussion.

- b) Lack of departure screens and PA on Platform 1 at Barnt Green train station. No update.
- c) Pollinator Site update. Thanks were given to Cllr Perry for weeding around the pear trees. More plug seeds have been planted. The volunteer group had requested some new blades for the strimmer and a hedge trimmer.

RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed to purchase the new strimmer blades. Cllr Cholmondeley offered to trim back the hedge if the strimmer could not be used for the task. The EO to inform the volunteer group.

- d) Biodiversity. Cllr Roberts advised that there is fruit on the apple trees. Cllr Perry said that Apple Moth had affected one of the trees eating the leaves but this should not affect the tree. Cllr Roberts said that biodiversity needs to be included in any planning responses to the BDC Local Plan consultation.
- e) Remus maintains the balancing pond at the Cala home development on behalf of Foxhills Management Ltd, and sent the following update: The team has removed some of the self-set trees. No other issues were identified, and the pond continues to be maintained in accordance with the agreed specification. The reported “weeds” are in fact wildflowers, which, as outlined in the maintenance schedule, are only cut once annually. However, we typically carry out two cuts per year depending on the growing season. To be noted.
- f) Barnt Green flag flying update.

RESOLVED: Thanks were given to Cllr Williams who flew the flag for the King Charles III official birthday on the 14th June. Cllr Roberts will fly the flag on Remembrance Sunday on 9/11. St Andrews School are interested in flying the flag on Remembrance Day 11/11. The EO to confirm the details with the school.

- g) Barnt Green Community Events.

RESOLVED: St Andrews School confirmed that they are interested in having a choir perform at the Xmas lights switch on. Cllrs agreed a non-refundable deposit would be requested for any future event hirings of Bittell Road playing fields. It was agreed that there was no appetite for a community walk.

25/438 Planning

- a) Responses to consultations. None received.

25/439 Date and Venue of Next Meetings

Next Parish Council Meeting, Monday 21st July 2025 7pm at 80 Hewell Road.

25/440 Closed session – Private and Confidential

The meeting ended at 20:57hrs

Signed:..... Date.....
Chairman, Barnt Green Parish Council 21/07/2025

Agenda Item 25/436 (i) To approve the current financial position and bills paid.

May Income Report

5	31.05.2025	£211.20	£0.00	£211.20	Lengthsman refund	Worcestershire County Council
4	31.05.2025	£220.00	£0.00	£220.00	Term 1 of hire of playing field	Total Football

May Payments Report

45	31.05.2025	£49.98	£0.00	£49.98	Petty cash top up	Eleanor Choudry
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June Income Report

7	30.06.2025	£0.00	£1,144.57	£1,144.57	Vat Reclaim 1.1.25 to 30.4.25	HMRC
6	30.06.2025	£30.00	£0.00	£30.00	Office Hire	Wai Ling Bickerton

June Payments Report

61	30.06.2025	£148.95	£29.79	£178.74	Dog bags	JRB Enterprise Ltd
60	30.06.2025	£39.98	£0.00	£39.98	Petty cash top up	Eleanor Choudry
59	30.06.2025				Employers NI	HMRC
58	30.06.2025				Salaries	Salaries
57	30.06.2025				PAYE	HMRC
56	30.06.2025	£25.13	£1.26	£26.39	Office Energy	Pozitive Energy
55	30.06.2025	£81.65	£4.08	£85.73	Office Energy	Pozitive Energy
54	30.06.2025	£235.00	£0.00	£235.00	Grounds maintenance at Millennium Park and L	John S Bishop
53	30.06.2025				Pension contributions	Pension contributions
52	30.06.2025	£1,625.00	£0.00	£1,625.00	Office Rent	John Truslove
51	30.06.2025	£1,116.67	£223.33	£1,340.00	Summer planting - planters	Oasis Flowers
50	31.05.2025	£295.08	£59.02	£354.10	Grounds maintenance at playing field	Hosking Ground Maintenance
49	30.06.2025	£148.16	£7.41	£155.57	Street Light Energy	YU Energy
48	01.06.2025	£24.70	£1.24	£25.94	Street Light Energy	YU Energy
47	30.06.2025	£612.00	£0.00	£612.00	Outdoor Parish Caretaker	Andlin Cleaning
46	30.06.2025	£49.36	£9.87	£59.23	Office landline, broadband & calls	BT
38	31.05.2025	£152.94	£7.65	£160.59	Street Light Energy	YU Energy
37	31.05.2025	£24.51	£1.23	£25.74	Street Light Energy	YU Energy
21	31.05.2025	£1,189.11	£0.00	£1,189.11	Annual insurance	Clear Councils

Agenda Item 25/436 (i) To approve the May Bank Reconciliation 2025

Bart 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 31/05/2025		
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2025		102,274.94
	ADD Receipts 01/04/2025 - 31/05/2025		40,006.20
			142,281.14
	SUBTRACT Payments 01/04/2025 - 31/05/2025		18,774.88
A	Cash in Hand 31/05/2025 (per Cash Book)		123,506.26
	Cash in hand per Bank Statements		
	Petty Cash 31/05/2025	0.00	
	Unity Bank Current Account 31/05/2025	2,244.43	
	Unity Bank Deposit Account 31/05/2025	26,274.96	
	Cambridge Building Society 31/05/2025	96,175.98	
			124,695.37
	Less unrepresented payments		1,189.11
			123,506.26
	Plus unrepresented receipts		
B	Adjusted Bank Balance		123,506.26
	A = B Checks out OK		

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Agenda Item 25/436 (ii) To be advised of any expenditure decisions taken by Executive Officer

May 2025 Monzo Payments

Monzo Reconciliation up to 5th June 2025					
Voucher	Date	Description	Supplier	Expenditure	Deposit
		Opening Balance			500.00
6	19.05.25	Internet security	ESET	39.98	
					39.98
			Balance		460.02
			Topup Request		39.98