

BARNT GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the **Ordinary Parish Council** meeting held on
Monday 21st July 2025 at 7.00pm at 80 Hewell Road, Barnt Green, B45 8NF

Members present: Cllrs R Cholmondeley, C Hotham, P Perry, S Tucker, L Williams.

In attendance: Executive Officer, Eleanor Choudry

WCC Cllr Alan Bailes (left at 8.09pm)

5 members of the public

25/441 Apologies Cllr Roberts, Cllr Whitehand.

25/442 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.

25/443 To consider any dispensations
No dispensation requests had been received.

25/444 Parish Councillor Vacancy
BDC to confirm that a request for an election has not been called prior to advertising the vacancy for co-option.

25/445 Open Session – Participation to hear from:

- Members of the public. Three residents from Green Bank asked whether the parish council would fund reducing the tree / shrubs on the land behind the two garages at Greenbank. The reduction would enable the Pollinator Site Volunteers to maintain the area going forward. The area is part of the Greenbank estate and there is not a management company. Cllr Cholmondeley explained that the parish council had no legal right to interfere with land that is not their responsibility and if the Volunteer Group were to disperse who would then maintain the area. A resident requested that the hanging baskets were not given to the businesses next year due to a number of them not being watered and suggested instead that the money was spent on improving the tiered planters.

Resident Danny Bromage had emailed plans for the Christmas Lights Switch On event. Danny will continue to investigate ideas and update Cllrs at the September meeting with the full details and costings. BDC Cllr Hotham and WCC Cllr Bailes have some funding available for the event.

b) Supporting organisations, e.g. Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT), Footpath Warden. None present.

c) Worcestershire County Councillor – Alan Bailes (Alvechurch division) - Since the last Parish Council meeting, there has been only one formal WCC meeting. A training session and briefing on local government reform was held, led by Price Waterhouse Coopers. The proposal, going out for consultation, has six existing districts in favour of two unitary authorities. Worcester supports the creation of a single unitary authority. Cllr Bailes met with the Public Transport Manager to discuss three types of services: community transport, the subsidised Diamond Bus service, and Worcester on Demand. Some promotional material is being distributed to raise awareness and encourage usage. A meeting is planned with Development Control to discuss speeding concerns; however, no specific budget commitments have been made at this stage. A new strategy is being developed moving forward, although there is ongoing debate around the impact of man-made climate change. Cllr Bailes is scheduled to meet with the Traffic Management Team to discuss Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs). If speeding issues are ranked among the top three community concerns, enforcement with TruCam speed detection may be implemented. Vegetation is due to be cut back along Blackwell Road and Lindhurst Road. Cllr Bailes will also request the TRO team to assess the potential for speed reduction measures between Blackwell Road and the new development at Lindhurst. The Traffic Management and Highways Liaison Officer will review the legal status of the dropped kerbs outside the shops on Hewell Road. There are discussions about establishing a designated service bay outside the butcher's to allow for safe loading and unloading. Although the dropped kerbs are legal vehicle access points to properties, the pavement gradient presents accessibility challenges for prams and scooters. Bollards will be installed on the southern side to prevent parked cars from blocking tactile paving. Regarding Sandhills Road, the TRO and Highways Liaison Officer will explore making it a no-parking zone. Cllr Bailes also has a meeting scheduled with the Police and Crime Commissioner at the end of the month to discuss spot checks on vehicles parked illegally on double yellow lines. In the long term, road narrowing along Bittell Road may be considered to discourage drivers from ignoring the mini roundabout.

d) Bromsgrove District Councillor - Charles Hotham (Barnt Green & Hopwood). Cllr Hotham explained that BDC have employed MV (Mutual Ventures) as their consultant and had met with members to form an opinion and report back in August regarding the local government reorganisation. An approximate analysis suggests that the public would prefer 2 tiers rather than 1 depending on cost savings and service provision. Parish councils need to consider whether they want to become larger by taking assets from district's which will offer dowries. BGPC could take on responsibility for the verges from WCC.

25/446 To adopt previous minutes

To approve adoption of the minutes of the Ordinary parish council meeting held on 16th June 2025, previously circulated but also attached.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 16/06/2025 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

25/447 Meetings / Training Attended – None.

24/448 Annual Business –

i. Governance arrangements:

a) Review of council policy:

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

- i) Health and Safety
- ii) Freedom of Information
- iii) Vexatious Requests and Complaints Policy
- iv) Home Working Policy

RESOLVED: Policies i) to iv) were approved subject to 3 spelling errors being corrected.

25/449 Consultations – None.

25/450 Chairman’s Report – Nothing further to add.

25/451 Bromsgrove District Council Strategic Plan The Bulletin had been delivered to all Barnt Green residents by Becky Waters and her team, thanks were given. Cllr Cholmondeley will attend the public meeting that Lickey and Blackwell Parish Council are hosting at Barnt Green Cricket Club on Sunday 27th July at 1pm.

25/452 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 update was circulated to Cllrs and added to the website. See Appendix 1.
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. The OPC has cleared the majority of the weeds, the Lengthsman has been asked to use weed killer on the grass that is growing through the pavement.</p> <div data-bbox="724 1888 1417 1989" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed that a polite letter should be sent to the businesses that have untidy frontages.</p> </div>

<p>c) Neighbourhood Plans</p>	<p>The Government is withdrawing funding for new neighbourhood plans and future funding for neighbourhood plan updates. CALC is lobbying for the reinstatement of this funding and encouraging parish councils to write to MPs and to central Government in support of its reinstatement. As BGPC doesn't have a neighbourhood plan it is confirmed that (a) it has no current intention to draft a neighbourhood plan; and (b) it agrees that it will not lobby for the reinstatement of funding for neighbourhood plans.</p> <p>RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed with the statement.</p>
<p>d) Rest benches.</p>	<p>A resident has requested that extra 'rest' benches are added to the junctions of Hewell Rd/Bittell Rd, Bittell Lane/Sandhills Lane and Sandhills Rd/Hewell Rd. This would enable elderly residents to exercise walking around the village blocks.</p> <p>RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed that there was no funding available for the benches.</p>
<p>e) Bittell Road playing fields car park hedge.</p>	<p>To agree a cutting schedule.</p> <p>RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed that quotes will be sought when the hedge begins to look overgrown.</p>
<p>f) Hanging baskets</p>	<p>Resident complaint regarding hanging baskets not being watered by businesses.</p> <p>RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed that they will discuss whether to order hanging baskets for the businesses next year prior to budget setting for 2026/27.</p>
<p>g) Land in Greenbank (behind garages)</p>	<p>Residents request for the PC to pay to cut back width and height of the tree and shrub so that the area is then able to be managed by volunteer residents.</p> <p>RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed that they could not interfere on land that does not belong to the parish council. See agenda item 25/445 a). Open Session.</p>

h) Parking complaints	<p>Complaints received about parking on Sandhills Road, Sandhills Lane and Hewell Lane. To be discussed.</p> <div data-bbox="730 315 1417 456" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>RESOLVED: See agenda item 25/445 c) WCC, Cllr Alan Bailes report detailing investigations to relieve problem parking.</p> </div>
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25/453 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 £219.59 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.

RESOLVED: The EO received an email on the 9th July to advise that the application was still with the processing team and they will notify her when the checks are complete.

- (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 June 2025.

- (v) Finance Committee members met on Monday 7th July to carry out the quarterly checks and budget monitoring. The budget aligns with projected figures to date. The Finance Committee recommends that the replacement streetlamp columns are funded using reserves.

RESOLVED: Cllr Hotham had carried out the quarterly checks. Cllrs agreed with the proposal to use reserves to pay for the replacement streetlamps and £10k will be transferred from reserves when the invoice is received.

25/454 Environment & Community Wellbeing

- a) Quotes for replacement streetlamp columns following KIWA structural survey to be discussed and circulated prior to meeting when received.

RESOLVED: Quotes had been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllrs agreed to the quote from Prysmian. The EO to action the replacement streetlamps.

- b) Lack of departure screens and PA on Platform 1 at Barnt Green train station. No update.
- c) Pollinator Site update. No update.
- d) Biodiversity. No update.
- e) Barnt Green flag flying update.

RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed to raise the flag if the England women’s football team won the UEFA Euro final on Sunday. Next year a Pride flag will be raised for Gay Pride. A Santa Claus flag may be raised over the Xmas period.

- f) Barnt Green Community Events.

RESOLVED: The Christmas lights switch on was discussed under agenda item 25/445 a) Open session.

25/455 Planning

- a) Responses to consultations.

BDC ref	Site Address	Proposal
25/00690/FUL	18 Sandhills Lane, Barnt Green, Worcestershire, B45 8NX	Ground Floor Rear Extension and adding partial pitched roof to existing flat roof garage
BGPC Recommendation: Recommends approval.		
BDC ref	Site Address	Proposal
25/00746/FUL	6 Fiery Hill Road, Barnt Green, Worcestershire, B45 8LF	Side extension to form garage and associated works
BGPC Recommendation: Barnt Green Parish Council recommends approval subject to there being minimal damage to the vegetation that forms the boundary between numbers 6 and 8. Where impossible to avoid we would recommend a planting scheme		
BDC ref	Site Address	Proposal
25/00724/FUL	14 Margesson Drive, Barnt Green, Worcestershire, B45 8LR	Front extension

BGPC Recommendation: Recommends approval.

25/456 Date and Venue of Next Meetings

Next Parish Council Meeting, Monday 15th September 2025 7pm at 80 Hewell Road.

The meeting ended at 20:58hrs

Signed:..... Date.....
Chairman, Barnt Green Parish Council 15/09/2025

DRAFT