

BARNT GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on

Monday 20th July 2026 at 7.00pm at 80 Hewell Road, Barnt Green, B45 8NF

Members present: Cllrs R Cholmondeley, C Hotham (arrived 7.08pm), P Perry, M Roberts, S Whitehand, S Tucker.

In attendance: Executive Officer, Eleanor Choudry

0 member of the public

26/593 Apologies Cllr L Williams, Cllr O Pardo-Roques, WCC Cllr Alan Bailes.

26/594 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. Cllr Hotham noted that he had previously lived at the property mentioned in agenda item 26/605 planning application reference 26/00783/FUL.

26/595 To consider any dispensations

No dispensation requests had been received.

26/596 Open Session – Participation to hear from:

- Members of the public. None present.
- Supporting organisations, e.g. Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT), Footpath Warden. West Mercia SNT PCSO Julie Garvey attended the meeting and commented on the previously circulated crime statistics for Barnt Green, see agenda item 26/602 a). Speed enforcement had been carried out on Twatling Road, and more checks are to take place at other locations. A crime prevention event will be held outside Tesco on Hewell Road on 27th September 2-3pm.
- Worcestershire County Councillor – Alan Bailes (Alvechurch division) Cllr Bailes had sent the following report:
Dropped kerbs at the top of Hewell Lane at its junction with Fiery Hill Road are in the programme for implementation; We are still awaiting a bollard to implement at the north side of the disabled dropped kerb on Hewell Road; We are still awaiting the progression of the parking survey for Barnt Green; Following discussions with the Health and Wellbeing staff we should be able to obtain some grant funding towards the cost of the Fun Run.

It was also noted that the Government has confirmed that Worcestershire will move to a North and South unitary council model. Council leaders have committed to working together to ensure a smooth transition, protect services, and

make sure communities across Worcestershire continue to have a strong voice. The next step is developing a business implementation plan, ahead of elections for shadow unitary authorities in May 2027, with the new councils expected to be formally established in 2028.

Bromsgrove District Councillor - Charles Hotham (Barnt Green & Hopwood). A street trading policy states that any event within 20 metres of a highway will require a street trading licence. This is just one of many issues at BDC. There will be a number of policy changes and Worcestershire Regulatory Services want to wait to change the policies all at the same time. It was felt that BDC should be the centre of the unitary authority but the equipment at the Sports Hall is not up to standard and no upgrade is planned. In March £2.5 million was costed for the future development of Windsor St, the old fire station, but the amount was not added in the accounts. Cllr Hotham is to meet the BDC Chief Executive tomorrow with a long list of issues that BDC do not appear to be dealing with.

26/597 To adopt previous minutes

To approve adoption of the minutes of the Ordinary parish council meeting held on 15th June 2026, previously circulated but also attached.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 15/06/2026 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

26/598 Meetings / Training Attended The EO attended a WALC Respectful and Positive Social Media course on 15/7/26.

26/599 Annual Business –

i. Agree representation arrangements:

a) St Andrews C of E First School

For 2025/26 BGPC representative was Cllr O Pardo Roques.

RESOLVED: Cllr Pardo-Roques had emailed prior to the meeting and confirmed her school governor status had changed. Cllr Tucker is happy to represent the parish council as a Governor. The EO will contact St Andrews First School to organise.

a) Review of council policy:

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

- a) Health and Safety
- b) Freedom of Information
- c) Home Working Policy

RESOLVED: That policies a) to c) are approved. Office door safety to be added to the September agenda for discussion.

26/600 Consultations-

**Birmingham Moor Street to Bordesley rail network enhancements
Consultation**

The Midlands Rail Hub Alliance is seeking views on their early proposals to enhance the rail network from Birmingham Moor Street station to Bordesley in central Birmingham. These proposals form part of the Midlands Rail Hub programme. The plans include building two new sections of railway track at Bordesley alongside capacity improvements at Birmingham Moor Street station and widening of sections of the existing Bordesley viaduct.

Together, these upgrades would link the Camp Hill route with the Chiltern Main Line into Birmingham, enabling more trains to use Moor Street station thereby helping reduce the current congestion seen at Birmingham New Street.

The consultation will run from Monday 6 July until Friday 28 August 2026. Information on the early proposals, in-person and online consultation events, and how to have your say can be found on the website: www.mrhalliance.co.uk.

BTO Birds in Greenspaces is a new citizen science project aiming to find out the importance of public-access greenspaces for UK bird populations.

By understanding which and how many birds use and rely on these spaces and habitat within them, we can inform future management that will benefit both the birds and people that use urban greenspaces. Your responses will help us to steer the project outputs, so we can provide evidence about birds and their habitats that will help those that manage greenspaces.

Questionnaire email and link circulated to Cllrs.

Help shape how your community is represented in the future

BDC are asking for your views on local governance. Local government is expected to change, tell BDC what matters to you.

Complete the survey online www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/local-features by 9th August 2026.

RESOLVED: Cllr Cholmondeley will complete the 3 consultations above on behalf of the parish council.

26/601 Chairman's Report – Nothing further to add.

26/602 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) West Mercia Police Crime Statistics	18 th June 2026 to 18 th July 2026 for Barnt Green and Hopwood 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.
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	RESOLVED: That the report be noted. PCSO Julie Garvey to clarify what are 'Other thefts'.																																																																																								
b) Parish Council Tree Survey	Tree survey of both Bittell Rd playing fields and Millennium Park have been completed. Awaiting quotes for recommended works.																																																																																								
c) Total Football Signage	Total Football are to source the banner. RESOLVED: To Be noted.																																																																																								
d) Parish council office lighting	The new office lights will be installed on Saturday 18 th July 2026. RESOLVED: The new lights have been installed in the office, meeting room, kitchen and toilet. The EO to ask the OPC to redecorate the ceiling surrounding the new lights.																																																																																								
e) WhatsApp groups for Cllrs / residents	Cllrs Pardo-Roques to confirm if an unused phone is available and a SIM card will then be purchased. RESOLVED: Cllr Pardo-Roques was unable to source a phone but Cllr Tucker has provided one. The EO to order a SIM card and set up the WhatsApp Group for residents and group for councillors.																																																																																								
f) Maintenance repairs	The OPC has repaired the posts that block a gap at the entrance gates in Bittell Rd playing fields. The grounds maintenance contractor has replaced the height barrier lock. The slabs from under the tiered planter have been placed in front of the shed in Millennium Park. RESOLVED: That the report be noted.																																																																																								

g) Bromsgrove Parish and Community Play Audit & Investment Strategy	Cllr Cholmondeley and the EO to meet Adrian Spray, Greenspace and Heritage Consultant onsite to carry out an assessment of the facilities and future plans. RESOLVED: An onsite meeting took place on 14/7/26. Following the meeting a Play Audit and Investment Plan was produced and circulated to Cllrs. Cllrs agreed to pursue the Option 2 Enhancement to make the roundabout and toddler multi-play unit in Millennium Park more inclusive. The EO to contact Adrian Spray regarding funding options. The EO has asked the OPC to carry out three tasks that were noted: a pothole; two small areas where the dry ground had shrunk back causing a trip hazard.
h) Rats in Millennium Park	The grounds maintenance contractor spotted a rat in Millennium Park. Pest Express are to attend. RESOLVED: That the report be noted.
i) St Andrews Church Grant Application	£500 request for towards the church roof repairs. RESOLVED: Cllrs unanimously approved the £500 grant. The EO to arrange payment.

26/603 Finance

- (i) To note the current financial position, income and bills for payment. See page 5 of the agenda.

RESOLVED: It was noted that the quarterly financial checks had been carried out by Cllr Williams at the Finance meeting on 13th July 2026. Cllr Cholmondeley and Cllr Hotham also attended the meeting, and the budget was checked with spend to date as expected. Cllr Cholmondeley has paid the cheque from the Cambridge Building Society for £60k into the Unity Trust Bank Account. The EO has reapplied for the 95-day savings account and is awaiting a reply.

- 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 Executive Officer. See page 7 of the agenda.

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 June payments. Cllr Hotham and Perry will authorise the July payments.

26/604 Environment & Community Wellbeing

- a) Departure screens and PA on Platform 1 at Barnt Green train station.

RESOLVED: The screen on Platform 1 is now working. The screens on Platform 2 and 3 have been reported by Cllr Cholmondeley as they are not working.

- b) Station car parking encroachment across Barnt Green.

RESOLVED: There are only about 10 cars parking at the station car park. Covid and the lifts installation meant commuters got used to parking elsewhere including Hewell Lane. It was also noted that the parking charges are expensive. The situation is causing acrimony with residents. Cllr Cholmondeley has spoken with the West Midlands Rail Stakeholder Manager who may be able to help. The points have been raised with WCC.

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

RESOLVED: The contractor said they would carry out the painting week commencing 22nd June. A response is awaited.

- d) Pollinator Site update.

RESOLVED: The volunteers strimmed at the end of June and also tidied around the coppice area and trimmed the hedge. Cllrs thanked the volunteers for their work. The EO to ask the OPC to fix a loose fence post at the site.

- e) Hanging baskets and planters.

RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed that the businesses that had not watered their hanging basket and therefore it had died would not be offered a basket next year as it was considered a waste of money. Cllr Perry is watering the new bed at the end of Fiery Hill Road and the EO is watering the planter opposite the parish council office that Cllr Pardo Roques kindly planted. The EO to email Cllrs for their Saturday availability to remove the dead plants from the planters. As the weather is so hot and it is late in the summer the winter planting will be done early in September.

- f) Biodiversity.

RESOLVED: It was noted that the trees were growing well.

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

RESOLVED: The PC had emailed WCC requesting the removal of the flags. WCC responded to say that no action will be taken during the World Cup. The PC to respond to give notice of their lighting authority obligations under S98 of the Highways Act. The PC wishes to engage with WCC in the interim.

h) Barnt Green flag flying in Millennium Park update.

RESOLVED: The flagpole maintenance will be carried out on the 28th July. Cllr Perry and Cllr Cholmondeley confirmed they will attend. The EO to email all Cllrs when the arrival time is known in case other Cllrs can attend to observe how to lower the flagpole.

i) Community Energy Initiatives Update.

RESOLVED: The details have been added to Facebook and the website. Details will be added to the next Bulletin.

j) Barnt Green Community Events.

i) Fun Run.

RESOLVED: An Events Team meeting will be held on 21st July.

ii) Christmas Lights switch On Saturday 29th November 2026.

RESOLVED: The bouncy Disco Dome and Portaloo are confirmed.

26/605 Planning

a) Responses to consultations.

BDC ref	Site Address	Proposal
26/00626/FUL	8 Cherry Hill Avenue, Barnt Green, Worcestershire, B45 8LA,	Two storey extension and addition of second floor
BGPC Recommendation: No comment submitted.		
BDC ref	Site Address	Proposal
26/00684/FUL	103 Hewell Road, Barnt Green, Worcestershire, B45 8NW	Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of 2No. semi-detached dwellings
BGPC Recommendation: Approval.		

BDC ref	Site Address	Proposal
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26/00783/FUL	4 Bittell Lane, Barnt Green, Worcestershire, B45 8NS	Proposed larger front porch, proposed two storey side extension and internal alterations.
BGPC Recommendation: Approval.		

26/606 Date and Venue of Next Meeting

Next Parish Council Meeting, Monday 21st September 2026 7pm at 80 Hewell Road.

The meeting ended at 20:35 hrs

Signed:..... Date.....

Chairman, Barnt Green Parish Council

21/09/2026

Agenda Item 26/603 (i) To approve the current financial position and bills paid.

June Income Report

7	30.06.2026	£177.56	£0.00	£177.56	Credit interest	Unity Bank
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June Payments Report

62	30.06.2026	£152.24	£7.61	£159.85	Street Light Energy	SSE
61	30.06.2026	£47.56	£2.38	£49.94	Office Energy	Positive Energy
60	30.06.2026	£39.59	£1.97	£41.56	Office Energy	Positive Energy

July Income Report

7	30.06.2026	£177.56	£0.00	£177.56	30.06.2026	Credit interest	Unity Bank
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July Payments Report

79	31.07.2026	£82.63	£0.00	£82.63	Lloyds Corp Card Charge	Unity Bank
78	31.07.2026	£7.00	£0.00	£7.00	Bank Service Charge	Unity Bank
77	31.07.2026	£10.49	£0.52	£11.01	Office Energy	Positive Energy
76	31.07.2026	£195.00	£0.00	£195.00	Grounds maintenance at Millennium Park	John S Bishop
75	31.07.2026	£1,175.00	£235.00	£1,410.00	Survey of trees in Millennium Park and Bittel	Eden Aboriculture Ltd
74	31.07.2026	£36.70	£1.83	£38.53	Office Energy	Positive Energy
73	31.07.2026	£134.54	£6.73	£141.27	Street Light Energy	SSE
72	31.07.2026	£424.00	£84.80	£508.80	Street Lamp Repair	First Choice Electrical Solutions Ltd
71	31.07.2026	£290.00	£58.00	£348.00	Lengthsman Work	Bromsgrove District Council
70	31.07.2026	£180.00	£36.00	£216.00	Annual Website Hosting	BWP Creative - Parish Council Websites
69	28.06.2026	£295.08	£59.02	£354.10	Grounds maintenance at playing field	Hosking Ground Maintenance
68	31.07.2026	£748.00	£0.00	£748.00	Outdoor Parish Caretaker	Andlin Cleaning
67	31.07.2026	£16.00	£3.20	£19.20	Training - Clerk	Worcs Calc
66	31.07.2026				Pension contributions	Pension contributions
65	31.07.2026				Employers NI	HMRC
64	31.07.2026				PAYE	HMRC
63	31.07.2026				Salaries	Salaries

Agenda Item 26/603 (i) To approve the June Bank Reconciliation 2026

8 July 2026 (2026-2027)

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 30/06/2026		
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2026		88,404.47
	ADD Receipts 01/04/2026 - 30/06/2026		42,542.58
	SUBTRACT Payments 01/04/2026 - 30/06/2026		130,947.05
			24,860.62
	Cash in Hand 30/06/2026 (per Cash Book)		106,086.43
B	Cash in hand per Bank Statements		
	Petty Cash 30/06/2026	0.00	
	Unity Bank Current Account 30/06/2026	29.86	
	Unity Bank Deposit Account 30/06/2026	24,600.74	
	Cambridge Building Society 30/06/2026	81,455.83	
			106,086.43
	Less unrepresented payments		
			106,086.43
	Plus unrepresented receipts		
	Adjusted Bank Balance		106,086.43
	A = B Checks out OK		

Agenda Item 26/603 (ii) To be advised of any expenditure decisions taken by Executive Officer

Lloyds Corporate Card Reconciliation up to 14th July 2026					
9	04.06.26	Stationery, toiletries, laptop stand	Amazon	41.63	
10	16.06.26	Bedding plants	Tesco	12.00	
11	16.06.26	Bedding plants	Barnclose Nurseries	26.00	
12	02.07.26	Monthly Fee	Lloyds Unity Bank	3.00	
		Balance to be paid by D/D 16/7/26			82.63

DRAFT