
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
LEISURE SERVICES COMMITTEE
HELD IN ARDEN HALL,
CASTLE BROMWICH ON
WEDNESDAY, 4TH JULY 2007
AT 7.30 PM**

Those present:

Chairman Cllr J Riordan

Councillors

Cllr J Gibbins

Cllr Mrs. A Haywood

Cllr E Knibb

Cllr Mrs. B Wilkins

Guests: 4 members of Castle Bromwich Cricket & Sports Club (Items 1-4)
Officers: Mrs. C Tibbles, Clerk to the Council
Public: None.

1. Apologies.

The apologies from Cllr Mrs. J Smith and Cllr Miss J Ward were accepted for the reasons recorded. The Clerk reported that the time limit to accept office as a Parish Councillor had expired for Mr. Rashid and that a vacancy would need to be declared.

2. Declarations of pecuniary or other interests.

None declared.

3. Minutes of the previous Meeting.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Cllr Mrs. Haywood, **SECONDED** by Cllr Knibb, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 6th June, 2007, having been circulated, be signed as a true and correct record of the Meeting.

4. Castle Bromwich Cricket & Sports Club.

At the invitation of the Chairman, information and ideas for future development was tabled, explained by the Development Committee of the Club and discussed at length by members including: score box and porch extension; links with local schools and youth development/coaching; regeneration in north Solihull; midweek cricket; increased revenue potential for Parish Council; fencing off cricket pitch; additional extension possibilities; coffee shop and catering; new toilets and showers. After discussion **IT WAS RESOLVED** to support their ideas in principle to fundraise and pay to improve the Pavilion facilities, the Parish Council to investigate extending the current lease to run for ten years, being renewed and extended annually on a rolling basis; that Cllrs Riordan, Gibbins and Knibb join the Club's Development Committee. **ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Knibb, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Wilkins, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the drawings in principal be recommended for approval; that the Club seek advice on the design and enquire whether planning permission was required from the Borough Council; that (due to the August recess) the Club supply final information to the Parish Council prior to the July meeting or if that was not feasible that delegated powers be given to the Leisure Services Committee

for their September meeting to approve the details on this funding/improvement venture.

5. Manager's Report.

Members considered the report written by Mr. Witten and Miss Ratcliffe in the absence of the Hall Manager. Cllr Gibbins asked if the Birmingham Mail had been contacted to correct the quiz information. Cllr Mrs. Wilkins suggested Chris Beebee consider a chairman's raffle at his events. A discussion took place on arrangements for fish and chips at the forthcoming charity quiz and **IT WAS RESOLVED** that Cllr Mrs. Wilkins would dispatch Mr. Witten to negotiate a £2 deal. Cllr Gibbins **PROPOSED** that Mr. Witten buy and lay slabs to solve the muddy area that he wished to improve. Cleaning standards and complaints were discussed and **IT WAS RESOLVED** that Mr. Witten speak to his cleaning team and get the vital improvements that his report had stated would happen. The problems with breaching of hire regulations by customers was discussed and the new information that had been sent to 'birthday' customers considered. Cllr Gibbins questioned why the form would not be signed to prove receipt and the Clerk explained that the sheet expanded on existing hire regulations that the customers already undertook to abide to when they signed bookings forms. The meeting with police and managers deemed it to be sufficiently covered and the information sheet served as a useful reminder, giving additional clarification and advice. Cllr Gibbins stated the Clerk should check signed booking forms were in place for every future event but Cllr Mrs. Haywood thought this was not appropriate. Cllr Knibb felt this was clearly the Hall Manager's job and that Mr Witten and Miss Ratcliffe should bear the responsibility for ensuring booking procedures were being followed. The Clerk said that the green information form asked for a named responsible person when the full hire fee was paid. A menu was shown from an alternative caterer and Miss Ratcliffe to be asked to make enquiries.

6. Residents' Concerns.

Members noted the circulated information, making particular reference to the tree concern on Whateley Green; the complaint about grass cutting at Hob Farm was noted and the suggestion to ease ASB nuisance at the entrance to Hob Farm considered. The Clerk was instructed to investigate the cost of anti-scale barriers to existing fencing.

7. Communications.

Routine communications received since last meeting were noted as follows: BT request to pay by DD to avoid additional charges / Hallmark scheme for Village Halls / Information Commissioner research project / Opportunities bulletins / Pay negotiations update / WALC Newsletter / Regional Assembly Speaking Out Newsletter / NALC policy update on Burial Reform / Consultation – planning for a sustainable future / Vol-u-me Exchange Newsletter / Dispersal Order arrangements from 18th June 2007 / SMBC request to all Parish Councils for information on newsletters and communications / Letter to press from North Arden Local History Society on Bradford Arms opening by Birmingham Mayor / Ramblers' Association Walks Programme to December 07 / Sales Brochures / Thank you letter from Mayor for Civic Service / Castle Bromwich Gazette / DIS Bulletins / service booklet from funeral of Cllr Hughes / NALC report by Chief Executive / Public footpath – Laburnum Close to Chester Road (update from Solihull MBC on measures to combat ASB. Also received: Solihull MBC Draft Code of Conduct for adoption / Clerks & Councils Direct Journal / Centro consultation on changes for Marston Green Rail Station / Carlsberg charge in event of returned payments / LCR Journal / Scribe Information Centre details / SLCC National Conference in Coventry in October / letter of thanks to Chairman from St. Mary & St. Margaret School / request for charity tennis coaching (no objection raised) / Children's Centre minutes and request for signage at Arden Hall / SCVS request for ideas or support to voluntary groups.

8. Marketing of Arden Hall.

Members considered the opportunity to promote the Hall as a wedding venue and **IT WAS RESOLVED** to place a ½ page advertisement in the brochure being produced by Manor Park Brides at a cost of £700.00 for a 2 year campaign.

9. Car Boot Sales.

The Chairman invited views on the request from Nigel Fry for a series of 10 car boot sales on Saturday mornings. **ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Gibbins, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that this should not be allowed. **IT WAS RESOLVED** to suspend standing orders for a period of 15 minutes to allow the agenda to be completed.

10. Accounts.

The Clerk pointed out the total figure related to items on page 2 and **ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Gibbins, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the accounts as set out in the enclosure be approved.

11. Clerk's Report/Open Spaces Report.

The electrical inspection report had still not been received and was required for the insurers. Park Wardens were pursuing this, together with the outstanding playground maintenance work. Two incidents of fly tipping had occurred at Bradford Gardens and in the rear car park, with vehicle details being sought for one incident. Grateful assistance had been received from our contractor with clearing the bulky items (Midlands Landscape Gardening) but a disappointing response from Solihull MBC when requesting help. An alarm problem had occurred on 8th June at the Pavilion, which the Clerk had resolved. ASB problems were occurring at the front of Arden Hall and at Hob Farm, with fewer incidents currently in the park. The police had been called to assist her at Hob Farm on 12th June when dealing with a breach of byelaws but in future she would contact ACD Security for support prior to attending. She had replied to the complaint about Hob Farm being closed early. Complaints on other matters had been addressed including an apology for tennis court being unavailable to hirer, taken details of garden flooding from breach to the council gully. A resident had asked if the breach was legally done and did the Parish Council therefore have liability? Severn Trent were proving reluctant to attend a meeting but she had repeated her request and updated those people awaiting details. Background information was available in the office from previous investigations on this drainage matter.

As requested at the last meeting, assurances had been given by Waterloo about the sound level of music at the summer scheme, a copy of the insurance indemnity by Solihull MBC received (who covered the Fusion project). A request from Coleshill Town Band to know if the Marketing group had agreed a date, which Cllr Mrs Haywood volunteered to liaise. **IT WAS RESOLVED** to allow an external sign to be fitted to Arden Hall to show that Childrens' Centre activities took place. Allocation of football pitches was taking place with some teams failing to adhere to deadlines given, so facing the risk of not retaining their pitch. The schools cricket tournament (200-300 children from several local schools) had been postponed due to the weather and hopefully would take place in September. Approach received about possible girls coaching from college.

Members agreed to be alert to the cleaning complaints on their tour of inspection at Arden Hall and the Pavilion. Floor cleaning had been a problem but needed to be rectified and crockery to be sorted and re-ordered. Staff had been asked to compile a list of priority needs/equipment to discuss with members during the inspection. Confirmation had been sent to block bookers of Arden Hall for 08/09 and she thanked the Chairman for helping manager's check the bookings had been correctly entered.

12. Bar Stock Report.

Under confidential terms, members noted the bar trading analysis and stock information supplied. Software training had been given to all managers by the Stock Auditor but some input errors discovered at the last audit.