

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
LEISURE SERVICES COMMITTEE
HELD IN ARDEN HALL,
CASTLE BROMWICH ON
WEDNESDAY, 4TH JULY 2012
AT 7.30 PM**

Those present:

- Chairman** Cllr Mrs. P Allen
- Councillors** Cllr M Hayes Cllr I Hiley Cllr Miss J Ward
Cllr E Hicks Cllr A Terry
- Officers:** Mrs. C Tibbles, Clerk to the Council/RFO
Mrs. T Kite, Hall Manager [Items 1-5 only]
- Public:** None.

1. Apologies.

The apologies from Cllr Mrs. A Haywood, Cllr E Knibb, Cllr J Riordan and Cllr Mrs. B Wilkins were noted for the reasons given. Cllr R Amos and Cllr M Rashid had sent apologies but the reason was not provided.

2. Declarations of pecuniary or other interests.

None declared.

3. Minutes of the previous Meeting.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Cllr Hiley, **SECONDED BY** Cllr Miss Ward, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 13th June, 2012, having been circulated, be signed as a true and correct record of the Meeting.

4. Manager's Report and Hire issues.

Members noted the tabled report and the increase in hire by dance schools. Although one other hirer was likely to move to a new venue, two firm enquiries were already asking for the vacant slot. The roof inspection was still waiting for a date to be agreed and one quote for UPVC cladding had been received with two or three others being chased up. The re-pointing of some of the main hall brickwork was virtually completed, although Cllr Hiley warned that other areas may require addressing in the future. The Hall Manager confirmed that the annual fire inspection had been completed in February 2012 and the gas boiler safety valves in November 2011. A meeting with a hirer had discussed council storage facilities and the need to tidy equipment and perhaps rationalise what was kept was identified. Cllr Hiley had been asked if the monthly charge was fair and, following consideration, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the monthly charge by the parish council was a very good deal as it equated to approximately half the pro rata charge levied by Solihull MBC for garage space. The cancellation for an event on 20th October 2012 would be eligible for a £25 refund.

5. Bar Stock Report.

Under confidential terms, members noted the satisfactory stock report and the trading figures for the latest period. A member queried the wastage level in comparison with previous periods but the Hall Manager said there was no specific issue that had caused her concern.

6. Arden Hall Frontage.

Cllr Hayes reported that it had not been possible to straighten the trip rail without pulling up the upright supports. **ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Hiley,

ACTION

Asst. Clerk
Update
Record 8/12

Admin.Asst.
asap

N.B. All Minutes are deemed as draft until formally approved and signed.
SECONDED BY Cllr Hicks, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the Cllrs Hicks and Hayes endeavour to repair the sections that they could manage.

EH/MH
4/8

7. Grounds Maintenance/Trees.

The Clerk was awaiting a reply from the contractor regarding the concerns raised at the last meeting but she had been pleased to see that during a brief dry period on Monday three groups of workmen had been cutting and strimming grass to try and rectify the problems. The new tree of peace had been planted at the Village Green, although within hours it was unfortunately being tampered with. Cllr Hicks and Cllr Hayes undertook to install three support posts. Signs had been put on the bench and additional monitoring would be undertaken. The quote for tree works had still not been received and the Chairman recalled that the site visit had taken place in August 2011.

EH/MH
4/8

8. Residents' Concerns.

Members noted the information circulated and an update on additional concerns which the Clerk would endeavour to address with the Wardens. Members noted the difficulty of the weather and the antisocial behavior which impinged on plans previously made. A serious problem raised by a resident of the Beechcroft Ward was discussed and **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Clerk arrange a meeting by Cllr Mrs. Allen and Cllr Miss Ward with the resident and a family member to see what possible solutions could be explored by the family.

Clerk
+ JW/PA
asap

9. Working Party Reports.

Members noted that the Open Spaces working party would need assistance when planting the Garden of Rest as plans had been delayed due to the excessive rain. Cllr Hiley led members through the Events and Marketing Working Party report that had been previously circulated and highlighted the proposed Breakfast Business Meeting which Cllr Mrs. Haywood would lead, supported by Cllr Mrs. Allen. He recommended exploring the potential profitability of holding council run entertainment events, the need for employing someone to do such events and who could update regularly and revise the website. Should a marketing database be created, then visitors to Arden Hall could be quickly told about events that were planned and income generated would fund part of the future refurbishment cost and the additional staff. Due to the absence of many members, a date was not set for the Pavilion working party.

10. Clerk's Report/Open Spaces Report.

The Clerk tabled copies of the North Area Update newsletter from SMBC, which she hoped would be regularly received in future. Several matters had been receiving her attention, with visits to inspect an excavation trench by Western Power, inappropriately parked vehicle by War Memorial, suspicious activities at the Green and elsewhere that were being reported frequently to the police. The advertising board at the small green had been removed and thankfully not re-appeared. Arrangements had been offered to a hirer to try and progress matters of joint concern. Since the last meeting, the Chairman had asked that entries be made into the Heart of England in Bloom competition, which she had investigated. Unfortunately the closing date was before tonight's agenda and in light of the substantial entrance fee it had been decided not to proceed. A site meeting had been provisionally agreed for the new slabs at the War Memorial and a draft application for funding the trim trail was nearly ready to submit. Support to staff on ASB matters continued to require much of her time with many ad-hoc visits taking place to as a result of stormy weather and stormy behaviour.